

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND

England & Wales · Charity number 1122972

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06266972
Registered	2008-02-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	107 & 109 Station Road Ashington Northumberland NE63 8RS
Phone	01670320025
Email	info@carersnorthumberland.org.uk
Website	www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF THE SICK, ELDERLY, INFIRM AND DISABLED IN NORTHUMBERLAND THE 'AREA OF BENEFIT') BY THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO THEIR CARERS.

Activities: Provide services, support and information to all unpaid carers in Northumberland.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NORTHUMBERLAND
- Northumberland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£414,052	£469,206	-	-
2024-03-31	£459,497	£404,470	-	-
2023-03-31	£406,795	£393,695	-	-
2022-03-31	£330,061	£293,894	-	-
2021-03-31	£289,048	£234,846	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Julie Danskin	Chair	2022-04-14
DORINDA ANNE JACK		2012-01-24
Harriet Victoria Shambrook		2026-03-11
Kelly Anne Burton		2024-08-20
Paula Robertson		2022-12-08
STAN COOKE		
Susan Ola Tiplady		2025-08-20
VAL HODGSON		2017-06-12

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1122972

Accounts

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

CHARITY NUMBER 1122972

COMPANY NUMBER 06266972

TRUSTEES REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

NAME OF CHARITY: Carers Northumberland Limited

INCORPORATION: The company was originally incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008.

OFFICERS:
(Directors and Trustees) J Danskin - Chair
S Cooke
D Jack
V Hodgson
P Robertson
S Cleave (resigned 2nd June 2025)
K Burton (appointed 20th August 2024)
V Braithwaite (app. 29th August 2024, res. 15th May 2025)
P Walton (app. 30th September 2024, res. 9th June 2025)
P Stonell (died 15th August 2024)
A Moore (resigned 15th November 2024)

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mrs D Blakey

REGISTERED OFFICE: 107 &109 Station Road
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8RS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

BANKERS: CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

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CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Introduction

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The trustees have prepared the annual report and financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in January 2019.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Carers Northumberland Ltd is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It was incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008 and its principal activity is providing support for carers throughout Northumberland.

Trustees

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and are Directors of the company. One third of the Trustees retire from office together and are eligible for re-election at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) by rotation, so that each and every trustee so retires and is eligible for re-election at every third AGM from the date of their initial election. As between trustees who have been members the same length of time, those due to retire are chosen by lot. The officers of the trustee board for the ensuing year are nominated to and elected (by ballot if necessary) at every AGM.

Trustee Induction and Training

A Trustee Information Pack is available to potential and new Trustees. Potential Trustees are invited to attend a Trustee meeting to find out more about the workings of the Board and the governance of the charity, after which they may feel better informed to make the decision to become a Trustee.

New Trustees are introduced to the charity, their legal obligations under charity law, the content of the governing document, the Trustees and the decision-making process, the business plan and financial performance of the charity during an induction period soon after appointment. Trustees are also encouraged to attend appropriate training events that will support effective conduct in their role.

Risk Management

Where appropriate, policies and procedures or systems have been put in place to mitigate the risks the charity might face. Significant external risks to funding, and the nature of funding across the Community and Voluntary Sector, have led to the development of a long term strategic plan including the identification of priority activities in relation to income generation.

Policies and procedures exist to ensure compliance with health and safety of all staff, volunteers and beneficiaries of the charity. This includes the provision of adequate insurance cover. These policies and procedures are reviewed annually or more frequently, on change of circumstances, to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Carers Northumberland provides information, advice and support for carers, seeking to ensure equality of opportunity for all sections of the community in its own affairs and in access to facilities provided by the charity. In doing so, the activities adopted by Carers Northumberland to meet those objects include the following:

- Seeking the views of carers to influence service provision
- Provision of opportunities for carers to take a break from caring by attending support groups, leisure and skills events
- Signposting carers to sources of condition-specific or specialist support
- Provision of an Information Service and dedicated information line for carer enquiries
- Administration of the Carer Support Fund
- Working in partnership with other agencies and organisations to support carers
- Supporting the development and delivery of a voice for carers in consultation, policy and service development and delivery in the county

Achievement and performance – Operational Review 2024-2025

As of 31 March 2025, there were 8,959 carers registered with Carers Northumberland (this includes 879 parent carers and 656 young carers), this is an increase of 21% based on the number of carers registered at the end of March 2024. The number of contacts and actions have increased year on year since 2019-20. The number of contacts have increased by 25% from 8,108 in 2023-24 to 10,152 in 2024-25. In 2024-25, 3792 individual carers were supported, and increase of 17% from 3,242 in 2023-24. The number of actions from those contacts have increased by 32% from 13,004 in 2023-24 to 17,149 in 2024-25.

The Information Service deal with a varied range of queries, the majority this year has been around finance, issues related to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and accessing suitable respite to enable carers to take a break.

Carers who register are asked to complete a baseline assessment of their needs at the point of registration to ensure that any immediate concerns can be addressed. Carers who register but do not have an immediate concern or query are contacted by a member of the Information Team after two months to check that they are receiving the newsletter and that they know how to get in contact should they have a query. All carers who register with us and complete the initial baseline are contacted after six months and asked to complete a follow-up evaluation so we can measure how being registered with Carers Northumberland has (or has not) had an impact on their caring role. 107 baseline reviews have been completed up to 31 March 2025 with positive increases shown for taking a break/time of myself, employment, education and training, and accessing support. 204 evaluations have been returned for the same period. As a result of being supported by Carers Northumberland:

- 97% of carers agreed they know more about their rights as a carer now
- 97% of carers agreed they feel more confident
- 95% of carers agreed they feel more in control
- 98% of carers agreed they feel less lonely/isolated
- 100% of carers agreed they know where to go for advice and support

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Our social media presence is also key and continues to be a source of information dissemination sought by carers and professionals in many different ways. Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 our Facebook posts have reached an average of 12,814 people per month an increase of 42% compared with the average for 2023-24.

Carers Northumberland continues to administer the Carer Support Fund (CSF) on behalf of the local authority which provides adult carers of adults with an individual grant to enable them to take a break from their caring role. At the end of March 2025 186 carers had applied for CSF and £19,215 had been awarded. Main uses for the fund have been day trips, short breaks, therapies, leisure and exercise activities, crafts and ongoing hobbies and interests.

Carers have also been supported by the Information Service to access other one-off grants. These have been mainly from Carers Trust, a national network for carer organisation, and have supported carers to access breaks, driving lessons, and white goods. Since July 2023, Carers Northumberland have also been supporting Northumberland County Council to distribute some of the funding from the Household Support Fund. The funds are from the UK Government via the Department of Work and Pensions and is to aid households with essential support for food, fuel, energy, and other essential living costs. Unpaid carers have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to financial hardship in the current high cost of living climate. One-off grants from these funding streams have totalled £41,032 in 2024-25 an increase of 31% from 2023-24. Carers Northumberland have also supported carers with benefit checks, and subsequent applications, which has resulted in £799,628 in annual benefit gains for carers (mainly Attendance Allowance and Carers Allowance). This is an increase of 94% on the amount of annual benefit gains from 2023-24 of £413,072 and the increase has been possible due to some additional capacity within the Information Team and administration.

Regular monthly peer support groups continue in Ponteland, Cramlington, Berwick, Alnwick, Blyth, Ashington, Prudhoe, Morpeth, Wooler and Hexham. In addition to the regular monthly groups at fixed venues, the Information Team have also had carer catch-ups at different venues across the county, these are usually a meal, and regular carer walks have also taken place at different venues. We also had trips to Beamish Open Air Museum, York and Edinburgh Christmas markets, and the pantomime at Whitley Bay Playhouse. There have been 1,420 attendances at groups, activities, and events during 2024-25, and increase of 4% from 2023-24. The closed Facebook Group now has 555 members, an increase of 18% from 2023-24.

There are currently 17 active volunteers, which includes 9 trustees. From 1 April 24 – 31 March 2025 volunteers have provided 401.5 hours of volunteering to support the organisation. Blyth, Morpeth, Berwick, Ashington, Alnwick and Ponteland groups are currently supported by one of our volunteer Group Hosts. We were saddened by the sudden death of our treasurer, Peter Stonell, in August 2024. Peter was a founding member of the Carers Northumberland Board and has been key in ensuring the charity has gone from strength to strength, he will be sadly missed. Three new board members have joined the charity this year, Kelly Burton, Vivienne Braithwaite, and Paul Walton.

Carers Northumberland are currently contracted by Northumberland County Council's Children's Service to deliver a Young Carer Service. There were 656 young carers registered with the service to 31 March 2025, with 144 new registrations since 1 April 24.

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This is an increase of 28% compared with 2023-24. Support for young carers is a mixture of intensive one to one support for those young carers who are struggling with their caring role as well as opportunities for young carers to access other means of support to take a break. Young carer activities have continued thanks to a generous individual donation. Young carers have enjoyed a programme of activities, events, and trips throughout the year with a mix of online and in-person sessions including, craft, cookery, ice skating, golf, cinema, bowling, outdoor adventures and much more. There have been 416 young carer attendances at events and activities throughout the year, an increase of 28% from 2023-24. A programme of work to support schools to identify young carers is also continuing with young carer-themed assemblies delivered to over 7,000 pupils this year.

The Working for Carers Project is a partnership between Carers Northumberland, Newcastle Carers and North Tyneside Carers' Centre to offer intensive support to carers who want to move towards employment, as well as carer who are in work to sustain their employment and achieve career progression. The project is funded by the North East Combined Authority until 31 March 2026.

Carers Northumberland is working with other carer support providers across the north-east region to strengthen the voice for carers and influence funding and future opportunities. It is hoped that some of this partnership work will help to improve the consistency of support for unpaid carers across the region.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity remains grateful for the help and support given by government agencies, charitable trusts, private donations, and other sources. For the year ended 31 March 2025, the Charity is pleased to report overall total income of £414,052 (2024: £459,497). The slight decrease in total income was mainly due to the fact that the Household Support fund (£75,000) was received in 2023/24, and was therefore included in the overall income for that year. Other income, including core grants, donations and bank interest all increased in the year, contributing to the overall increase in funding for core activities.

The charity continued to effectively monitor and control all costs. Total costs did increase in the year to £469,206 (2024: £404,470), this increase being largely due to the increases in staff costs (adding required additional capacity to the Information Service), and also due to restricted expenditure (distribution of funds managed on behalf of Northumberland CC). The additional Information Service expenditure was funded by the Charity's own core reserves. The Charity therefore reports a deficit for the year of £55,154 (2024: £55,027 surplus). Of this deficit, the core/unrestricted funds deficit was £30,667, with a further deficit of £24,487 representing the distribution of restricted funds.

Cash balances as at 31st March 2025 were £264,543 (2024: £316,780), representing a reduction in cash funds in the year. This was as a result of the deficits referred to above. Of this cash balance, £42,481 was held in respect of restricted funds, including the Household Support Fund balance of £38,114. Deferred income at 31st March 2025 was £31,343, representing funds received or applied for in 2024/25, but with the money to be applied to activities in the 2025/26 year.

Overall reserves decreased to £241,418 at the year end, of which £42,481 was restricted, leaving £198,937 for core unrestricted activities.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

Grant Making Policy

The Charity does not make grants but administers the Household Support Fund on behalf of NCC, Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumberland County Council – Adult Services, and the Young Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumberland County Council – Children’s Services.

Investment Policy

The charity holds no investments and as such has no investment policy.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to have a combined unrestricted reserve of a minimum of 3 months’ operating costs, plus closure costs. This figure has been identified following consideration of the main financial risks to the charity. The strategy is to continue to build reserves through economies of scale wherever possible. The Trustees have supported expansion of operations, supported by a sound business case and regular review and in line with our aim to maintain healthy reserves. This policy is currently met.

Risk Management

As part of the charity’s business plan development, an assessment was undertaken as to the risks the Trust is exposed to. The charity has taken a proactive stance to reduce its overall reliance on external funding and to develop a portfolio of funders to further reduce the impact any one funding stream may incur. A major part of the charity’s partnership working is to keep the charity abreast of any strategic, political or legal changes that could impact upon it.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year; in preparing those financial statements, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees 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.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out under Legal and Administrative Information. In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant information of which the company's accountants are unaware; and
- as the directors of the company, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounts information and to establish that the charity's accountants are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in January 2019) and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees on 14th August 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



J Danskin, Director and Chair of Trustees

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED.**

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The trustees, who are also the directors of Carers Northumberland Limited ('the Company') for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

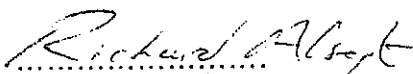
Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than the requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination; and
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Richard Alsept A.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

14th August 2025

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2025	Total y/e 31 March 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Donations/fundraising	3	8,857	30,000	38,857	33,022
Charitable activities	3	298,452	64,298	362,750	417,335
<i>Investment income:</i>					
Interest received		12,445	-	12,445	9,140
Total Income		319,754	94,298	414,052	459,497
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	350,421	118,785	469,206	404,470
Total Expenditure		350,421	118,785	469,206	404,470
Net Income/(expenditure)		<u>(30,667)</u>	<u>(24,487)</u>	<u>(55,154)</u>	<u>55,027</u>
Net Movement in Funds		(30,667)	(24,487)	(55,154)	55,027
Reconciliation in funds: Fund balances brought forward		<u>229,604</u>	<u>66,968</u>	<u>296,572</u>	<u>296,572</u>
Fund balances carried forward		198,937	42,481	241,418	296,572

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year / period.
All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing charitable activities.

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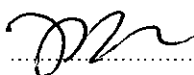
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2025

	Notes	March 2025 £	£	March 2024 £	£
FIXED ASSETS	2		-		-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	16,343		16,280	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>264,543</u>		<u>316,780</u>	
		280,886		333,060	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(39,468)		(36,488)	
Net Current Assets			241,418		296,572
NET ASSETS			<u>241,418</u>		<u>296,572</u>
Restricted Funds	10		42,481		66,968
Unrestricted Funds			198,937		229,604
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			<u>241,418</u>		<u>296,572</u>

For the financial year ended 31 March 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476(1) requesting an audit. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and which otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2006, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime under the Companies Act 2006 and with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a for Small Entities (effective January 2015).

Approved by the Board on 14th August 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


.....

J Danskin, Director


.....

S Cooke, Director

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

a. Basis of accounting

The company is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The address of the registered office is:
107 & 109 Station Road,
Ashington
Northumberland NE63 8RS

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 14th August 2025.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a Small Entities, and the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice, (Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2019), as well as the Charities Act 2011.

b. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose as defined within their objects.

c. Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income which is received by way of grants, donations and gifts to the charity is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities upon receipt. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Bank interest and other investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable activities are derived from contracts and service agreements and are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

d. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes unrecoverable VAT.

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2025

- Operation and development of the charity includes all costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include accountancy fees.

e. Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All items with a useful life of more than one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office Equipment	-	25% reducing balance
Office Fixtures and Fittings	-	25% reducing balance

f. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

g. Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from funders for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

h. Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

i. Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

j. Pensions

The Project operates a defined contributions pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2025

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Website	Office	Fixtures &	Total
	£	Equipment	Fittings	£
		£	£	
Cost				
As at 1 April 2023	6,000	30,011	6,584	42,595
Additions	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	<u>6,000</u>	<u>30,011</u>	<u>6,584</u>	<u>42,595</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2023	6,000	30,011	6,584	42,595
Charge for year	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	<u>6,000</u>	<u>30,011</u>	<u>6,584</u>	<u>42,595</u>
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2025

3. Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2025	Total y/e 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Donations and Fundraising</i>	8,857	30,000	38,857	33,022
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Local Authority core grants	182,552	-	182,552	172,690
Other care grants	106,730	64,298	171,028	228,107
Other income	5,500	-	5,500	13,398
Projects / small grants	3,670	-	3,670	3,140
	<u>307,309</u>	<u>94,298</u>	<u>401,607</u>	<u>450,357</u>
<i>Interest receivable</i>				
Bank interest receivable	12,445	-	12,445	9,140
	<u>12,445</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,445</u>	<u>9,140</u>
Total	<u>319,754</u>	<u>94,298</u>	<u>414,052</u>	<u>459,497</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2025

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2025	Total y/e 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Charitable Activities:</i>				
Service Delivery Manager	40,259	4,831	45,090	41,581
CNTW (Information Service)	15,573	-	15,573	17,159
Central Office	102,653	6,768	109,421	94,942
Carers Support Fund	-	19,215	19,215	19,145
Young Carers Support	54,855	1,909	56,764	55,281
Young Carers Activity	-	28,091	28,091	28,445
Information Service	131,510	3,844	135,354	104,626
Parent Carer Support	-	9,725	9,725	-
Carers Trust Grants	-	7,665	7,665	6,180
Household Support Fund	-	23,144	23,144	13,742
Young Carer Support Fund	-	13,593	13,593	20,166
Projects / (Other)	3,670	-	3,670	640
Depreciation	-	-	-	-
	348,520	118,785	467,305	401,907
<i>Governance</i>				
Trustee meetings and charity management	1,101	-	1,101	1,763
Professional fees	800	-	800	800
	1,901	-	1,901	2,563
Total	350,421	118,785	469,206	404,470

5. Debtors

	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
Trade Debtors	16,343	16,310
Prepayments	-	(30)
Total	16,343	16,280

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2025

6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
PAYE and NIC	5,724	5,622
Creditors & accruals	2,401	2,056
Deferred grants	31,343	28,810
Total	<u>39,468</u>	<u>36,488</u>

7. Staff costs and numbers

During the financial period the company had an average of 10 FTE employees, and their remuneration was made up as follows:

	2025 £
Salary and wages	274,669
National insurance costs	24,398
Employer pension costs	10,039
Total	<u>309,106</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	238,405	42,481	280,886
Creditors / deferred income	(39,468)	-	(39,468)
Total	<u>298,937</u>	<u>42,481</u>	<u>241,418</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2025

9. Remuneration of management committee

Trustees received expenses payments of £81 (2024: £67) associated with the cost of attending meetings of the charity in the financial year ended 31 March 2025.

10. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1 April 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended and transfers	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Carers Trust Grants	-	7,665	7,665	-
Young Carer Activity	-	30,000	30,000	-
Working for Carers	-	15,443	15,443	-
Household Support Fund	61,258	-	23,144	38,114
Carers Support Fund	2,076	21,190	19,215	4,051
Young Carers Support Fund	3,634	10,000	13,593	41
Parent Carers Support	-	10,000	9,725	275
	-	-	-	-
	66,968	94,298	118,785	42,481

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1122972

Accounts

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

CHARITY NUMBER 1122972

COMPANY NUMBER 06266972

**TRUSTEES REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

NAME OF CHARITY: Carers Northumberland Limited

INCORPORATION: The company was originally incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008.

OFFICERS:
(Directors and Trustees) J Danskin - Chair
S Cooke
A C Arter (resigned 20th July 2023)
Countess A De'Travernent (resigned 20th July 2023)
D Jack
J Birkin-Nicholl (resigned 20th July 2023)
V Hodgson
P Stonell
A Moore
P Robertson
S Cleave

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mrs D Blakey

REGISTERED OFFICE: 107 & 109 Station Road
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8RS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

BANKERS: CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

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CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Introduction

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees have prepared the annual report and financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in January 2019.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Carers Northumberland Ltd is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It was incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008 and its principal activity is providing support for carers throughout Northumberland.

Trustees

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and are Directors of the company. One third of the Trustees retire from office together and are eligible for re-election at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) by rotation, so that each and every trustee so retires and is eligible for re-election at every third AGM from the date of their initial election. As between trustees who have been members the same length of time, those due to retire are chosen by lot. The officers of the trustee board for the ensuing year are nominated to and elected (by ballot if necessary) at every AGM.

Trustee Induction and Training

A Trustee Information Pack is available to potential and new Trustees. Potential Trustees are invited to attend a Trustee meeting to find out more about the workings of the Board and the governance of the charity, after which they may feel better informed to make the decision to become a Trustee.

New Trustees are introduced to the charity, their legal obligations under charity law, the content of the governing document, the Trustees and the decision-making process, the business plan and financial performance of the charity during an induction period soon after appointment. Trustees are also encouraged to attend appropriate training events that will support effective conduct in their role.

Risk Management

Where appropriate, policies and procedures or systems have been put in place to mitigate the risks the charity might face. Significant external risks to funding, and the nature of funding across the Community and Voluntary Sector, have led to the development of a long term strategic plan including the identification of priority activities in relation to income generation.

Policies and procedures exist to ensure compliance with health and safety of all staff, volunteers and beneficiaries of the charity. This includes the provision of adequate insurance cover. These policies and procedures are reviewed annually or more frequently, on change of circumstances, to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Carers Northumberland provides information, advice and support for carers, seeking to ensure equality of opportunity for all sections of the community in its own affairs and in access to facilities provided by the charity. In doing so, the activities adopted by Carers Northumberland to meet those objects include the following:

- Seeking the views of carers to influence service provision
- Provision of opportunities for carers to take a break from caring by attending support groups, leisure and skills events
- Signposting carers to sources of condition-specific or specialist support
- Provision of an Information Service and dedicated information line for carer enquiries
- Administration of the Carer Support Fund
- Working in partnership with other agencies and organisations to support carers
- Supporting the development and delivery of a voice for carers in consultation, policy and service development and delivery in the county

Achievement and performance – Operational Review 2023-2024

As of 31 March 2024, there were 7430 carers registered with Carers Northumberland (this includes 690 parent carers and 512 young carers), this is an increase of 27% based on the number of carers registered at the end of March 2023. 1118 new adult carers have registered in the period 1 April 23 to 31 March 24, this too is an increase of 8% when compared with the number of new registrations in the same period last year. In 2023-24, 3242 individual carers were supported, an increase of 12% from 2885 in 2022-23. Contacts with carers have also increased with 8108 contacts and 13004 actions carried out between 1 April 23 and 31 March 24 compared with 7244 contacts and 11355 actions based on the same period for 2022-23. The average number of registrations per month continues to increase year on year. In 2022-23 the monthly average for new adult carer registrations was 89. In 2023-24 this has increased to an average of 93 new adult carer registrations each month.

The Information Service deal with a varied range of queries, the majority this year has been around finance, issues related to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and accessing suitable respite to enable carers to take a break.

Carers who register are asked to complete a baseline assessment of their needs at the point of registration to ensure that any immediate concerns can be addressed. Carers who register but do not have an immediate concern or query are contacted by a member of the Information Team after two-months to check that they are receiving the newsletter and that they know how to get in contact should they have a query. All carers who register with us and complete the initial baseline are contacted after six months and asked to complete a follow-up evaluation so we can measure how being registered with Carers Northumberland has (or has not) had an impact on their caring role. Where carers have had contact with a member of staff and have been supported with a particular issue a separate feedback form will be completed. 82 baseline reviews have been completed up to 31 March 2024 with positive increases shown for taking a break/time of myself, employment, education and training, accessing support and finance, money and benefits. 159 evaluations have been returned for the same period. As a result of being supported by Carers Northumberland:

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

- 97% of carers agreed they know more about their rights as a carer now
- 96% of carers agreed they feel more confident
- 96% of carers agreed they feel more in control
- 92% of carers agreed they feel less lonely/isolated
- 99% of carers agreed they know where to go for advice and support

Our social media presence is also key and continues to be a source of information dissemination sought by carers and professionals in many different ways. Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 our Facebook posts have reached an average of 9000 people per month. Unique visits to the Carers Northumberland website averages 7190 per month which is an increase of 74% from the average of 4121 visits in 2022-23.

Carers Northumberland continues to administer the Carer Support Fund (CSF) on behalf of the local authority which provides adult carers of adults with an individual grant to enable them to take a break from their caring role. At the end of March 2024 191 carers had applied for CSF and £19,645 had been awarded. Main uses for the fund have been day trips, short breaks, therapies, leisure and exercise activities, crafts and ongoing hobbies and interests. Carers have also been supported by the Information Service to access other one-off grants. These have been via Carers Trust, Northumberland Communities Together, Turn 2 Us and the Family Breaks Fund and have supported carers to access breaks, furniture, driving lessons, moving costs, and white goods. Since July 2023, Carers Northumberland have also been supporting Northumberland County Council to distribute some of the Household Support Fund budget for 2023-24. The funds are from the UK Government via the Department of Work and Pensions and is to aid households with essential support for food, fuel, energy, and other essential living costs. Unpaid carers have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to financial hardship in the current high cost of living climate. One off grants from these funding streams have totalled £31,228 in 2023-24, which is an increase of 16% in the amount of one-off grants secured for carers compared with 2022-23.

From 1 April 23 – 31 March 24, Carers Northumberland have supported carers with benefit checks, and subsequent applications, which has resulted in £413,071.78 in annual benefit gains for carers (mainly Attendance Allowance and Carers Allowance). This is an increase of 83% on the amount of annual benefit gains from 2022-23 of £225,395 and the increase has been possible due to some additional capacity within the Information Team and administration.

Following a successful pilot scheme in 2020-21 the Information Service continues to offer carers support to complete Lasting Power of Attorney paperwork as part of the Advanced Planning Service. Carers Northumberland have also supported carers to complete an Emergency Care Plan which will help them document important information about the person they care and their usual routine and medication requirements.

Regular monthly peer support groups continue in Ponteland, Cramlington, Berwick, Alnwick, Blyth, Ashington, Prudhoe, Morpeth and Hexham, and from April 2023 there has been a monthly online Welcome Group, specifically aimed at newly registered carers to find out what Carers Northumberland can offer and to ask questions. In addition to the regular monthly groups at fixed venues, the Information Team have also had carer catch-ups at different venues across the county, these are usually a meal, and regular carer walks have also taken place at different venues. In August 23, Carers Northumberland organised a trip to Beamish Open Air Museum, for carers of all ages and their families, this

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

was so successful that it will become an annual trip. There have been 1363 attendances at groups, activities, and events during 2023-24. This is an increase of 11% from 2022-23. The closed Facebook Group now has 470 members, an increase of 28% from 2022-23.

There are currently 17 active volunteers which includes 8 trustees. Since 1 April 23 – 31 March 2024 volunteers have provided 537 hours of volunteering to support the organisation. Blyth, Morpeth, Berwick, Ashington, Alnwick and Ponteland groups are currently supported by one of our volunteer Group Hosts. At the AGM in July 2023, three long-standing trustees stepped down, Julie Birkin-Nicholl, Angela De'Travernent and Anne Arter. Julie Danskin was elected as Chair for a second year.

Training for carers – there has been a programme of regular carer workshops through the year being delivered both remotely via Zoom and in-person. 164 carers have attended training sessions this year, on Carer Resources, Managing Guilt, Journalling, Mindfulness, and Planning for the Future Training for professionals – Carers Northumberland offer training to professionals around carer awareness and identification. This is delivered remotely and in-person. CNTW have an ongoing commitment to offer carer awareness and identification training to all their staff. This training is co-delivered with CNTW staff and carers. An ongoing programme of carer awareness and identification training is also available to social care and primary health care professionals. 599 professionals have attended carer awareness training since April 2023, a significant increase in comparison with 238 attendances in 2022-23.

Carers Northumberland are currently contracted by Northumberland County Council's Children's Service to deliver a Young Carer Service. There are 512 young carers registered with the service to 31 March 2024 with 189 new registrations since 1 April 23. This is an increase of 46.5% compared with 2022-23. Support for young carers is a mixture of intensive one to one support for those young carers who are struggling with their caring role as well as opportunities for young carers to access other means of support to take a break and get involved in other activities such as an annual Active Northumberland Leisure Pass and the Young Carer Support Fund to provide financial support to access a break from their caring role. Young carer activities have continued thanks to a generous individual donation. Young carers have enjoyed a programme of activities, events and trip throughout the year with a mix of online and in-person sessions including, craft, cookery, ice skating, golf, cinema, bowling and much more.

A comprehensive School Offer has been put together which offers schools the support needed to implement the recommendations made in the Supporting Young Carers in Schools Toolkit which was rolled out to all schools in Northumberland in March 2022. The aim of the School Offer is to provide schools with support to identify and support young carers. The overall aim is to encourage schools to implement useful changes to support young carers in education and this will be rewarded with a Recognition of Excellence in Supporting Young Carers Award from Carers Northumberland which is split into gold, silver and bronze categories. There are 54 schools taking part in the offer as of 31 March 2024. 5 schools have achieved the gold award, with a further 13 schools who are at bronze or silver level. Young Carer Awareness training has been delivered throughout the year to both local authority staff and school staff, with 561 professionals receiving this training during 2023-24. During 2023-24, over 6,000 pupils have benefited from dedicated Young Carer Awareness assemblies at schools across the county.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

Carers Northumberland are also supporting parent carers (caring for a child under 18 with additional needs) as the number registering has continued to increase. There are 690 parent carers currently registered, and as a result of the rising numbers, additional funding for parent carer work has been agreed by Northumberland County Council via the current Children's Services contract.

Ongoing work with CNTW, the mental health foundation trust that covers the county, has enabled Carers Northumberland to secure some additional core funding to support the Older People's Pathway. Since April 2022 there have been 508 referrals directly from this pathway. CNTW have confirmed that funding will continue for this until 31 March 2025. In May 2023, Carers Northumberland successfully achieved the Improving Quality Foundation Level Standard. This was a requirement of Carer Trust membership and is also an opportunity to be recognised for the quality of service that is provided. The award lasts for three years.

In October 2023, the Trustee Board, staff, and volunteers, held an away day where they reviewed and refreshed the charity's Business Plan. The result was a new Strategic Plan for 2024-2029 which focuses on more carer identification, more carer awareness, and increasing the capacity of the team to respond to increased demand for services.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity remains grateful for the help and support given by government agencies, charitable trusts, private donations, and other sources. For the year ended 31 March 2024, the Charity is pleased to report an increase in overall total income to £459,497 (2023: £406,795). The increased income was mainly due to increased funding for Care Projects including the Information Service and support & activities for Young Carers. Income also includes the Household Support Fund (£75,000) which the charity manages on behalf of Northumberland County Council.

The charity continued to effectively monitor and control all costs. Total costs did increase in the year to £404,470 (2023: £393,695), this increase being largely due to the increases in staff costs. The Charity was able to report a surplus for the year of £55,027 (2023: £13,100). Of this surplus, the core/unrestricted funds surplus was £6,780, representing an overall position of slightly better than break-even with respect to the charity's core budget. The balance relates to funds held in restricted reserves.

Cash balances as at 31st March 2024 were £316,780 (2023: £300,697), representing a small increase in the year. Of this balance, £66,968 was held in respect of restricted funds, including the Household Support Fund balance of £61,258. Deferred income at 31st March 2024 was £28,810, representing funds received or applied for in 2023/24, but with the money to be applied to activities in the 2024/25 year.

Overall reserves increased to £296,572 at the year end, of which £66,968 was restricted, leaving £229,604 for core unrestricted activities.

Grant Making Policy

The Charity does not make grants but administers the Household Support Fund on behalf of NCC, Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumberland County Council – Adult Services,

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

and the Young Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumberland County Council – Children's Services.

Investment Policy

The charity holds no investments and as such has no investment policy.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to have a combined unrestricted reserve of a minimum of 3 months' operating costs, plus closure costs. This figure has been identified following consideration of the main financial risks to the charity. The strategy is to continue to build reserves through economies of scale wherever possible. The Trustees have supported expansion of operations, supported by a sound business case and regular review and in line with our aim to maintain healthy reserves. This policy is currently met.

Risk Management

As part of the charity's business plan development, an assessment was undertaken as to the risks the Trust is exposed to. The charity has taken a proactive stance to reduce its overall reliance on external funding and to develop a portfolio of funders to further reduce the impact any one funding stream may incur. A major part of the charity's partnership working is to keep the charity abreast of any strategic, political or legal changes that could impact upon it.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year; in preparing those financial statements, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining 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. The Trustees 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.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out under Legal and Administrative Information. In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant information of which the company's accountants are unaware; and
- as the directors of the company, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounts information and to establish that the charity's accountants are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in January 2019) and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees on 15th August 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



J Danskin, Director and Chair of Trustees

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED.**

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The trustees, who are also the directors of Carers Northumberland Limited ('the Company') for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.


Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than the requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination; and
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Richard Alsept A.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

15th August 2024

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2024	Total y/e 31 March 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Donations/fundraising	3	33,022	-	33,022	21,899
Charitable activities	3	288,715	128,620	417,335	382,178
<i>Investment income:</i>					
Interest received		9,140	-	9,140	2,718
Total Income		<u>330,877</u>	<u>128,620</u>	<u>459,497</u>	<u>406,795</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	324,097	80,373	404,470	393,695
Total Expenditure		<u>324,097</u>	<u>80,373</u>	<u>404,470</u>	<u>393,695</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)		<u>6,780</u>	<u>48,247</u>	<u>55,027</u>	<u>13,100</u>
Net Movement in Funds		6,780	48,247	55,027	13,100
Reconciliation in funds: Fund balances brought forward		<u>222,824</u>	<u>18,721</u>	<u>241,545</u>	<u>228,445</u>
Fund balances carried forward		<u>229,604</u>	<u>66,968</u>	<u>296,572</u>	<u>241,545</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year / period.
All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing charitable activities.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

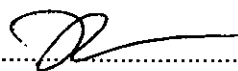
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2024

	Notes	March 2024 £	£	March 2023 £	£
FIXED ASSETS	2		-		-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	16,280		5,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>316,780</u>		<u>300,697</u>	
		333,060		305,697	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(36,488)		(64,152)	
Net Current Assets			296,572		241,545
NET ASSETS			<u>296,572</u>		<u>241,545</u>
Restricted Funds	10		66,968		18,721
Unrestricted Funds			229,604		222,824
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			<u>296,572</u>		<u>241,545</u>

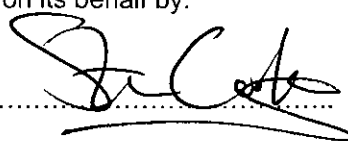
For the financial year ended 31 March 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476(1) requesting an audit. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and which otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2006, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime under the Companies Act 2006 and with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a for Small Entities (effective January 2015).

Approved by the Board on 15th August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



J Danskin, Director



S Cooke, Director

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

a. Basis of accounting

The company is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The address of the registered office is:
107 & 109 Station Road,
Ashington
Northumberland NE63 8RS

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 15th August 2024.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a Small Entities, and the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice, (Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2019), as well as the Charities Act 2011.

b. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose as defined within their objects.

c. Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income which is received by way of grants, donations and gifts to the charity is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities upon receipt. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Bank interest and other investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable activities are derived from contracts and service agreements and are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

d. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes unrecoverable VAT.

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2024

- Operation and development of the charity includes all costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include accountancy fees.

e. Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All items with a useful life of more than one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office Equipment	-	25% reducing balance
Office Fixtures and Fittings	-	25% reducing balance

f. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

g. Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from funders for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

h. Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

i. Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

j. Pensions

The Project operates a defined contributions pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2024

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Website £	Office Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1 April 2023	6,000	30,011	6,584	42,595
Additions	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	<u>6,000</u>	<u>30,011</u>	<u>6,584</u>	<u>42,595</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2023	6,000	30,011	6,584	42,595
Charge for year	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	<u>6,000</u>	<u>30,011</u>	<u>6,584</u>	<u>42,595</u>
Net book value				
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2024

3. Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2024	Total y/e 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Donations and Fundraising</i>	33,022	-	33,022	21,899
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Local Authority grants	172,690	-	172,690	172,300
Other care grants	99,487	128,620	228,107	67,040
Other income	13,398	-	13,398	8,297
Grants repaid/repayable	-	-	-	(21,625)
Project income	3,140	-	3,140	156,166
	<u>321,737</u>	<u>128,620</u>	<u>450,357</u>	<u>404,077</u>
<i>Interest receivable</i>				
Bank interest receivable	9,140	-	9,140	2,718
	<u>9,140</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,140</u>	<u>2,718</u>
Total	<u>330,877</u>	<u>128,620</u>	<u>459,497</u>	<u>406,795</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2024

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2024	Total y/e 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Charitable Activities:</i>				
Service Delivery Manager	41,581	-	41,581	34,080
Training Co-ordinator	-	-	-	12,372
CNTW (Information Service)	-	17,159	17,159	58,841
Central Office	94,942	-	94,942	80,103
Carers Support Fund	-	19,145	19,145	20,870
Carers Return to Work	-	-	-	25,179
Young Carers Support	53,507	1,774	55,281	57,132
Young Carers Activity	26,678	1,767	28,445	30,289
Information Service	104,626	-	104,626	58,841
Parent Carer Support	-	-	-	1,644
Carers Trust Grants	-	6,180	6,180	3,765
Household Support Fund	-	13,742	13,742	-
Young Carer Support Fund	-	20,166	20,166	-
Projects / (Other)	200	440	640	8,483
Depreciation	-	-	-	28
	321,534	80,373	401,907	391,627
<i>Governance</i>				
Trustee meetings and charity management	1,763	-	1,763	1,268
Professional fees	800	-	800	800
	2,563	-	2,563	2,068
Total	324,097	80,373	404,470	393,695

5. Debtors

	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Trade Debtors	16,310	5,000
Prepayments	(30)	-
Total	16,280	5,000

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2024

6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
PAYE and NIC	5,622	4,612
Creditors & accruals	2,056	29,959
Deferred grants	28,810	29,581
Total	<u>36,488</u>	<u>64,152</u>

7. Staff costs and numbers

During the financial period the company had an average of 10 FTE employees, and their remuneration was made up as follows:

	2024 £
Salary and wages	245,877
National insurance costs	21,782
Employer pension costs	9,078
Total	<u>276,737</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	266,092	66,968	333,060
Creditors / deferred income	(36,488)	-	(36,488)
Total	<u>229,604</u>	<u>66,968</u>	<u>296,572</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2024

9. Remuneration of management committee

Trustees received expenses payments of £67 (2023: £216) associated with the cost of attending meetings of the charity in the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

10. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1 April 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended and transfers	Balance 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Carers Trust Grants	-	6,180	6,180	-
Carer Information Service	159	17,000	17,159	-
Household Support Fund	-	75,000	13,742	61,258
Eat, Sleep, Play, Learn Fund	-	440	440	-
Carers Support Fund	1,221	20,000	19,145	2,076
Young Carers Support Fund	13,800	10,000	20,166	3,634
Young Carers Support	1,774	-	1,774	-
Young Carers Activity	1,767	-	1,767	-
	18,721	128,620	80,373	66,968

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1122972

Accounts

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

CHARITY NUMBER 1122972

COMPANY NUMBER 06266972

TRUSTEES REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2023

Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

NAME OF CHARITY: Carers Northumberland Limited

INCORPORATION: The company was originally incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008.

OFFICERS:
(Directors and Trustees)

S Cooke
A C Arter
Countess A De'Travernent
D Jack
J Birkin-Nicholl
V Hodgson
P Stonell
A Moore (appointed 14th April 2022)
J Danskin – Chair (appointed 14th April 2022)
P Robertson (appointed 8th December 2022)
S Cleave (appointed 9th February 2023)

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mrs D Blakey

REGISTERED OFFICE: 107 &109 Station Road
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8RS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

BANKERS: CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

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TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Introduction

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The trustees have prepared the annual report and financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in January 2019.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Carers Northumberland Ltd is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It was incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008 and its principal activity is providing support for carers throughout Northumberland.

Trustees

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and are Directors of the company. One third of the Trustees retire from office together and are eligible for re-election at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) by rotation, so that each and every trustee so retires and is eligible for re-election at every third AGM from the date of their initial election. As between trustees who have been members the same length of time, those due to retire are chosen by lot. The officers of the trustee board for the ensuing year are nominated to and elected (by ballot if necessary) at every AGM.

Trustee Induction and Training

A Trustee Information Pack is available to potential and new Trustees. Potential Trustees are invited to attend a Trustee meeting to find out more about the workings of the Board and the governance of the charity, after which they may feel better informed to make the decision to become a Trustee.

New Trustees are introduced to the charity, their legal obligations under charity law, the content of the governing document, the Trustees and the decision-making process, the business plan and financial performance of the charity during an induction period soon after appointment. Trustees are also encouraged to attend appropriate training events that will support effective conduct in their role.

Risk Management

Where appropriate, policies and procedures or systems have been put in place to mitigate the risks the charity might face. Significant external risks to funding, and the nature of funding across the Community and Voluntary Sector, have led to the development of a long term strategic plan including the identification of priority activities in relation to income generation.

Policies and procedures exist to ensure compliance with health and safety of all staff, volunteers and beneficiaries of the charity. This includes the provision of adequate insurance cover. These policies and procedures are reviewed annually or more frequently, on change of circumstances, to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Carers Northumberland provides information, advice and support for carers, seeking to ensure equality of opportunity for all sections of the community in its own affairs and in access to facilities provided by the charity. In doing so, the activities adopted by Carers Northumberland to meet those objects include the following:

- Seeking the views of carers to influence service provision
- Provision of opportunities for carers to take a break from caring by attending support groups, leisure and skills events
- Signposting carers to sources of condition-specific or specialist support
- Provision of an Information Service and dedicated information line for carer enquiries
- Administration of the Carer Support Fund
- Working in partnership with other agencies and organisations to support carers
- Supporting the development and delivery of a voice for carers in consultation, policy and service development and delivery in the county

Achievement and performance – Operational Review 2022-2023

Early 2022 saw the majority of Covid-19 restrictions lifted which enabled the team to plan for in-person groups, events and activities as well as being able to get back out to community events and things have definitely returned to the new 'normal'.

There were some changes to the staff team throughout the year, with the Kickstart scheme ending on 31 March 2022 resulting in our Project Assistant leaving to go on to a new job and securing a place at university. We also welcomed two new Carer Information and Advice Workers, funded by CNTW to increase our capacity, however, one of these posts left in December 2022. The uncertainty with the future of the Carers into Work Project resulted in the Carers into Work Advisor leaving her role in November 2022. Our Training Coordinator retired in April 2022, but continues to be involved as a volunteer Group Host. Going into the end of the current year the staff team consists of the Chief Executive Officer, Service Delivery Manager, three Carer Information and Advice Workers, Finance and Administration Officer, Young Carers Service Coordinator, Young Carers Activity and Link Worker and Business Admin Apprentice.

The Information Service continues to be the first point of contact for most carers via the Information Line, website and social media. As of 31 March 2023, there were 5,862 carers registered with Carers Northumberland (this includes 522 parent carers and 342 young carers), this is an increase of 36% based on the number of carers registered at the end of March 2022. 1,035 new adult carers have registered in the period 1 April 22 to 31 March 23, this too is an increase of 24.5% when compared with the number of new registrations in the same period last year. Contacts with carers have also increased with 7,244 contacts and 11,335 actions carried out between 1 April 22 and 31 January 2023 compared with 6,232 contacts and 10,465 actions based on the same period for 2021-22. The average number of registrations per month continues to increase year on year. In 2021-22 the 6-month average for new adult carer registrations was 65. In 2022-23 this has increased to an average of 89 new carer registrations each month.

The Information Service deal with a varied range of queries, the majority this year has been around finance and issues related to the cost-of-living crisis. The main issues are

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

around finance and benefits, as well as care and support, how to access services, grants, health and wellbeing, form filling, and planning for the future.

Carers who register are asked to complete a baseline assessment of their needs at the point of registration to ensure that any immediate concerns can be addressed. Carers who register but do not have an immediate concern or query are contacted by a member of the Information Team after two months to check that they are receiving the newsletter and that they know how to get in contact should they have a query. All carers who register with us and complete the initial baseline are contacted after six months and asked to complete a follow-up evaluation so we can measure how being registered with Carers Northumberland has (or has not) had an impact on their caring role. Where carers have had contact with a member of staff and have been supported with a particular issue a separate feedback form will be completed. 90 baseline reviews have been completed up to 31 January 2023 with positive increases shown for taking a break/time off myself and finance, money and benefits. 116 evaluations have been returned for the same period. As a result of being supported by Carers Northumberland:

- 100% of carers agreed they know more about their rights as a carer now
- 99% of carers agreed they feel more confident
- 99% of carers agreed they feel more in control
- 97% of carers agreed they feel less lonely/isolated
- 100% of carers agreed they know where to go for advice and support

The newsletter is one of the main ways that Carers Northumberland communicates with carers who are registered. The majority of carers receive the newsletter bi-monthly by email, but there are around 750 carers who prefer a printed copy to be posted. Our social media presence is also key and continues to be a source of information dissemination sought by carers and professionals in many different ways. Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 our Facebook posts have reached an average of 9,917 people, our tweets have reached an average of 476 people, and our Instagram (which is still fairly new) has reached an average of 147 people. Unique visits to the Carers Northumberland website averages 4,121 per month which is a vast increase on the average unique visit throughout 2021-22 of 650. The new website, which was launched in March 2021 is considerably more user friendly and allows greater interaction.

Carers Northumberland continues to administer the Carer Support Fund (CSF) on behalf of the local authority which provides adult carers of adults with an individual grant to enable them to take a break from their caring role. At the end of March 2023 202 carers had applied for CSF and £20,725 had been awarded. Main uses for the fund have been day trips, short breaks, therapies, leisure and exercise activities, crafts and ongoing hobbies and interests. Carers have also been supported by the Information Service to access larger amounts with £26,902 in grants from Carers Trust, Turn 2 Us, Northumberland Communities Together and the Family Holiday Fund secured for essential household items such as washing machines, beds, fridge-freezers, moving costs, flooring as well as short breaks, holidays and driving lessons. Since April 2022, Carers Northumberland have supported carers with benefit checks, and subsequent applications, which has resulted in £225,395 in annual benefit gains for carers so far (mainly Attendance Allowance and Carers Allowance). These amounts gained for carers are

significantly higher this year, due in part to the cost-of-living crisis and the need for carers to maximise their income.

Following a successful pilot scheme in 2020-21 the Information Service has offered carers support to complete Lasting Power of Attorney paperwork as part of the Advanced Planning Service. Since April 2022, 25 carers have accessed this service and are at various stages in the procedure. Carers Northumberland have also produced a Bereavement Guide for carers which can be accessed at any time. The guide has both practical information and emotional coping tools to support carers and 9 guides have been sent out since 1 April 2022.

Carers Northumberland have supported carers to complete an Emergency Care Plan which will help them document important information about the person they care and their usual routine and medication requirements. 56 forms have been sent to carers since April 2022, with 157 having been sent since starting the offer in May 2021. 47 carers currently have their Emergency Care Plans attached to their Charity Log record.

Regular monthly peer support groups are currently running in Ponteland, Cramlington, Berwick, Alnwick, Blyth, Ashington, Prudhoe, Morpeth and Amble. The weekly online Zoom group was moved to monthly in February 2023 and from April 2023 there will be a monthly online Welcome Group, specifically aimed at newly registered carers to find out what Carers Northumberland can offer and to ask questions. The weekly online Zoom group has been continuing every Tuesday afternoon; however, this has moved to monthly from February 2023. There will be new introductory groups each month from April 2023. In addition to the regular monthly groups at fixed venues, the Information Team have also had carer catch-ups at different venues across the county, these have been in Hexham, Amble, Belford, Rothbury, Bellingham and Seahouses. Carer walks have continued to be popular throughout the year and have taken place at QEII country park, Plessey Woods, Warkworth, Ponteland, Berwick, Cambois and Hauxley Nature Reserve. Carers Northumberland also publicise other support groups for carers which are run by individual carers such as the Hexham Mental Health Carers Group and the Wooler group. Carers have also enjoyed meals out at Sambuca in Blyth and Cramlington and a trip to Alnwick Garden. In partnership with Community Action Northumberland's Slow Cooking Communities Project, we facilitated two slow cooker demonstration sessions in November which were attended by 23 carers with each participant receiving a free slow cooker and recipe book at the end of each session. In the run up to Christmas there were Festive Afternoon Tea events for carers in Bedlington, Hexham and Berwick which included a festive afternoon tea, Christmas crafts and a quiz. 186 Christmas gifts boxes were delivered to adult and young carers in December, and Alnwick Garden also offered tickets to the Alnwick Garden Light Trail with 88 being allocated to unpaid carers and their families via Carers Northumberland.

Carers Week ran from 6 – 12 June 2022 with the theme 'Making Carers Visible, Valued and Supported'. Events and activities were held across the county to encourage carers to come together and take some time for themselves including:

- Afternoon tea events at Cramlington, Wooler, Blyth and Corbridge
- Carer walks in Craster, Newbiggin promenade, Whitley Bay sea front, Morpeth Carlisle Park and Bolam Lake.
- Fire station tours at West Hartford, Berwick and Alnwick – courtesy of Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

- Online cookery workshop – hosted by Rea, our Carers into Work Advisor

In addition, 300 tickets were distributed to carers and their families for Alnwick Garden on 11 June 2022 – with thanks to Alnwick Garden for supplying the free tickets. 180 letterbox gifts were sent to carers who couldn't attend events in person, these were supplied by Northumbrian Gifts and contained tea, coffee, shortbread and fudge.

Carers Rights Day took place on 24 November 2022, and we held an information event in Alnwick which was attended by 56 carers. Carers who attended were able to get information from Carers Northumberland and a whole host of other organisations such as Northumberland Communities Together, Escape Family Support, Alzheimer's Society, Healthwatch Northumberland and many others. Carers Northumberland's patron, her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland opened the event and shared some of her own experiences with caring. Evaluations of the day indicated that attendees enjoyed the event with the average rating for the venue and the information on the day being 4.85/5. There have been 36 evaluations returned with lots of positive comments on the good variety of services and organisations in attendance:

- *“Good variety of organisations represented at the event”.*
- *“The set-up of the whole thing was great and the refreshments”.*
- *“Lovely atmosphere and friendly”.*

There have been 1,231 attendances at groups and events since the 1 April 2022. This is an increase of 54% from 2021-22. The closed Facebook group now has 367 members as of 31 March 2023, an increase of 102 since 31 March 2022.

There are currently 20 active volunteers which includes 11 trustees. In the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023, volunteers have provided 386 hours of volunteering to support the organisation. Blyth, Morpeth, Amble, Berwick, Ashington, Alnwick and Ponteland groups are currently supported by one of our volunteer Group Hosts. In late 2022 we also welcomed our first young carer volunteer to the team, who will be helping with young carer activities, trips and events. Carers Northumberland have also welcomed four new trustees to the board this year. At the AGM in July 2022, the Board welcomed a new Chair of Trustees, Julie Danskin, who took over the role from Anne Arter.

Training for carers – there has been a programme of regular carer workshops through the year being delivered both remotely via Zoom and in-person. 42 carers have attended training sessions so far this year on How to Say No, Carer Resources, Managing Guilt, Planning Ahead and Stress Awareness. 46 carers have attended Memory group sessions in person so far this year (this is part of our CNTW Older Person's Pathway work). The Information Service are working on some new workshop content for next year which will be delivered as a mix of online sessions and a face-to-face sessions in venues across the county.

Training for professionals – Carers Northumberland are able to offer training to professionals around carer awareness and identification. This has mainly been delivered remotely. CNTW have an ongoing commitment to offer carer awareness and identification training to all their staff. This training is co-delivered with CNTW staff and carers. An ongoing programme of carer awareness and identification training is also available to social care and primary health care professionals. 238 professionals have received Carer

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

Awareness and Identification training so far this year. There is now a regular Professional Update being sent which details what services are offered which goes out monthly to all professionals registered on the mailing list. In addition to formal training, the Information Service has provided information and updates on the services available for carers in a range of settings and organisations. Carers Northumberland were also pleased to be named as the Charity of the Year for 2022 by Rothbury Women's Institute.

Carers Northumberland successfully re-tendered for the Young Carer Support Contract from NCC Children's Services and were awarded the contract initially up to 31 March 2025, but with the potential for extension to 31 March 2027. This has enabled Carers Northumberland to build on the success of the Young Carer Service which began on 1 August 2020. The service has grown, and as a result now has two full time members of staff, a Young Carer Service Coordinator and Young Carer Activity and Link Worker. The additional funding which was secured for one year from the Masonic Charitable Foundation for young carer activities came to an end in July 2022, however, funding has been secured from a private donor to allow this work to continue up to 31 March 2025 alongside the main contract. As a result of the renewed funding, the Young Carer Service is now part of the overall carer offer from Carers Northumberland as no longer being referred to as a project.

There are 342 young carers registered with the service up to 31 March 2023. Support for young carers is a mixture of intensive one to one support for those young carers who are struggling with their caring role as well as opportunities for young carers to access other means of support to take a break and get involved in other activities such as an annual Active Northumberland Leisure Pass and the Young Carer Support Fund to provide financial support to access a break from their caring role. Young carers have enjoyed a programme of activities, events and trips throughout the year with a mix of online and in-person sessions including, craft, cookery, paddleboarding, ice skating, pony riding, book club, golf and much more.

A comprehensive School Offer has been put together which offers schools the support needed to implement the recommendations made in the Supporting Young Carers in Schools Toolkit which was rolled out to all schools in Northumberland in March 2022. The aim of the School Offer is to provide schools with support to identify and support young carers. The overall aim is to encourage schools to implement useful changes to support young carers in education and this will be rewarded with a Recognition of Excellence in Supporting Young Carers Award from Carers Northumberland. The school offer has been distributed to schools via the school safeguarding lead who is a member of the Young Carer Steering Group. The Young Carer Team have been in contact with 13 individual schools so far, and although this work is still in the early stages, it is expected that the first schools could have their award in place by the end of March 2023.

Carers Northumberland are also supporting parent carers (caring for a child under 18 with additional needs) as the number registering has continued to increase. There are 522 parent carers currently registered. Although no specific funding is received to support parent carers, the Trustee's took the decision following the successful pilot in 2021-22 with funding from the Edward Gostling Foundation, that the support to access grants, information and support would continue. Since April 2022 we have secured individual grants totalling £10,888 for parent carers for short breaks, white goods, furniture and general household costs. Parent carers are able to attend any of our current carer groups, and any of our other events, trips or workshops. Support for parent carers (who do not

meet the local authority criteria for support) has been debated at the Northumberland Carers Partnership Board which has resulted potential funding being identified enable this support to continue from 1 April 2023 in recognition of the work already being done. The North of Tyne Carers into Work Project began on 1 April 2020 and funding was due to end on 31 March 2023. The initial project aims were to support carers who wanted to return to work and is a collaboration between the North of Tyne Combined Authority (the funder), Carers Northumberland, Newcastle Carers and North Tyneside Carers Centre. The project was available to unpaid carers aged 16 and over to support them into employment, education or training, or to maintain their current employment with support to implement strategies to balance their work and caring responsibilities and to assist carers who wanted to look for a change of employment which better suits their caring needs. By January 2023, 63 carers had registered on the project in Northumberland, with the Carer into Work Advisor supporting them in a variety of ways including, supporting with CV updates, application forms, and interview techniques as well as advising on job searches, volunteering opportunities and education and skills training. The project overall has had 247 participants across the North of Tyne partnership. The Carers into Work Project Steering Group have secured an extension of funding by the North of Tyne Combined Authority until 31 March 2024, however the way the project is delivered will change slightly. From 1 April 2023 North Tyneside Carers' Centre will employ all three Carers into Work Advisors directly, although each advisor will still have a main responsibility for each locality.

Ongoing work with CNTW, the mental health foundation trust that covers the county, has enabled Carers Northumberland to secure some additional core funding to support the Older People's Pathway. Since April 2022 there have been 236 referrals directly from this pathway. CNTW have confirmed that funding will continue for this until 31 March 2025. CNTW have also funded two additional Carer Information and Advice Worker posts throughout 2022-23 which had added much needed resilience and capacity to the Information Team.

Carers Northumberland has also completed the self-assessment process for the Improving Quality Foundation Level Standard. This is a requirement of Carer Trust membership and is also an opportunity to be recognised for the quality of service that is provided. The external assessment will take place in May 2023. As part of the work gathering the evidence for the quality standard, the Trustee Board have completed a Board Effectiveness Survey. The results indicated that some development work would be advantageous, and this will be followed up later in the year.

The first high-level publication of the 2021 Census data for unpaid care was published in January 2023. The data for England and Wales shows a decrease in the number of people carrying out unpaid care, with the number for Northumberland having decreased from just under 36,000 to 31,116. Both Carers UK and Carers Trust have issued statements with concern about the accuracy of the data, with caveats that as people responded to the 2021 census amid the pandemic in circumstances that were far from normal, therefore many unpaid carers may not have identified as carers because they were unable to visit the homes of relatives for whom they were caring at the time they completed the census form. The definition of used in the question in 2021 was also different from that used in 2011. However, the figures and increase in carers seen this year indicates that carer services are more needed now than ever before.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity remains grateful for the help and support given by government agencies, charitable trusts, private donations, and other sources. For the year ended 31 March 2023, the Charity is pleased to report an increase in overall total income to £406,795 (2022: £330,061). The increased income was mainly due to increased funding for Care Projects including Carers Return to Work, Information Service and support & activities for Young Carers.

The charity continued to effectively monitor and control all costs. Total costs did increase in the year to £393,695 (2022: £293,894), but this increase was largely due to the additional project activity in the year, together with increases in staff costs. The Charity was able to report a surplus for the year of £13,100 (2022: £36,167). Cash balances as at 31 March 2023 were £300,697 (2022: £355,879), the decrease in the cash balances reflecting the release of deferred income which had been received in 2021/22, but which related to projects delivered in 2022/23. At 31st March 2023, the charity still held an amount of £29,581 shown in the balance sheet as deferred income, to be released in 2023/24 when the balance related projects will be finished.

Overall reserves increased to £241,545 at the year end, of which £18,721 was restricted, this amount relating to specific projects.

Grant Making Policy

The Charity does not make grants but administers the Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumbria Healthcare Trust – Adult Services, and the Young Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumberland County Council – Children’s Services.

Investment Policy

The charity holds no investments and as such has no investment policy.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to have a combined unrestricted reserve of a minimum of 4 months’ operating costs, plus closure costs. This figure has been identified following consideration of the main financial risks to the charity. The strategy is to continue to build reserves through economies of scale wherever possible. The Trustees have supported expansion of operations, supported by a sound business case and regular review and in line with our aim to maintain healthy reserves.

Risk Management

As part of the charity’s business plan development, an assessment was undertaken as to the risks the Trust is exposed to. The charity has taken a proactive stance to reduce its overall reliance on external funding and to develop a portfolio of funders to further reduce the impact any one funding stream may incur. A major part of the charity’s partnership working is to keep the charity abreast of any strategic, political or legal changes that could impact upon it.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year; in preparing those financial statements, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining 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. The Trustees 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.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out under Legal and Administrative Information. In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant information of which the company's accountants are unaware; and
- as the directors of the company, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounts information and to establish that the charity's accountants are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in January 2019) and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees on 8th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



J Danskin, Director and Chair of Trustees

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED.**

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 11 to 19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The trustees, who are also the directors of Carers Northumberland Limited ('the Company') for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than the requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination; and
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Richard Alsept A.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

8th June 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2023	Total y/e 31 March 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Donations/fundraising	3	4,480	17,419	21,899	3,922
Charitable activities	3	212,592	169,586	382,178	325,599
<i>Investment income:</i>					
Interest received		2,718	-	2,718	540
Total Income		<u>219,790</u>	<u>187,005</u>	<u>406,795</u>	<u>330,061</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	193,862	199,833	393,695	293,894
Total Expenditure		<u>193,862</u>	<u>199,833</u>	<u>393,695</u>	<u>293,894</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)		<u>25,928</u>	<u>(12,828)</u>	<u>13,100</u>	<u>36,167</u>
Net Movement in Funds		25,928	(12,828)	13,100	36,167
Reconciliation in funds: Fund balances brought forward		<u>196,896</u>	<u>31,549</u>	<u>228,445</u>	<u>192,278</u>
Fund balances carried forward		<u>222,824</u>	<u>18,721</u>	<u>241,545</u>	<u>228,445</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year / period.
All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing charitable activities.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

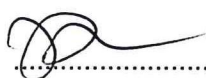
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2023

	Notes	March 2023 £	£	March 2022 £	£
FIXED ASSETS	2		-		28
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	5,000		1,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>300,697</u>		<u>355,879</u>	
		305,697		356,879	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(64,152)		(128,462)	
Net Current Assets			241,545		228,417
NET ASSETS			<u>241,545</u>		<u>228,445</u>
<hr/>					
Restricted Funds	10		18,721		31,549
Unrestricted Funds			222,824		196,896
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			<u>241,545</u>		<u>228,445</u>

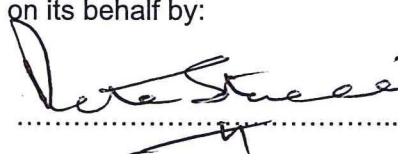
For the financial year ended 31 March 2023, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476(1) requesting an audit. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and which otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2006, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime under the Companies Act 2006 and with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a for Small Entities (effective January 2015).

Approved by the Board on 8th June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



J Danskin, Director



P Stonell, Director

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

a. Basis of accounting

The company is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The address of the registered office is:

107 & 109 Station Road,
Ashington
Northumberland NE63 8RS

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 8th June 2023.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a Small Entities, and the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice, (Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2019), as well as the Charities Act 2011.

b. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose as defined within their objects.

c. Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income which is received by way of grants, donations and gifts to the charity is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities upon receipt. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Bank interest and other investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable activities are derived from contracts and service agreements and are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

d. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes unrecoverable VAT.

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

- Operation and development of the charity includes all costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include accountancy fees.

e. Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All items with a useful life of more than one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office Equipment	-	25% reducing balance
Office Fixtures and Fittings	-	25% reducing balance

f. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

g. Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from funders for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

h. Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

i. Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

j. Pensions

The Project operates a defined contributions pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Website	Office	Fixtures &	Total
	£	Equipment	Fittings	£
		£	£	
Cost				
As at 1 April 2022	6,000	30,011	6,584	42,595
Additions	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2023	<u>6,000</u>	<u>30,011</u>	<u>6,584</u>	<u>42,595</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2022	6,000	30,011	6,556	42,567
Charge for year	-	-	28	28
As at 31 March 2023	<u>6,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,584</u>	<u>42,595</u>
Net book value				
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2023

3. Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2023	Total y/e 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
<i>Donations and Fundraising</i>	4,480	17,419	21,899	3,922
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Local Authority grants	172,300	-	172,300	172,300
Other care grants	31,995	35,045	67,040	73,745
Other income	8,297	-	8,297	9,082
Grants repaid/repayable	-	(21,625)	(21,625)	(16,602)
Project income	-	156,166	156,166	87,074
	<u>217,072</u>	<u>187,005</u>	<u>404,077</u>	<u>329,521</u>
<i>Interest receivable</i>				
Bank interest receivable	2,718	-	2,718	540
	<u>2,718</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,718</u>	<u>540</u>
Total	<u>219,790</u>	<u>187,005</u>	<u>406,795</u>	<u>330,061</u>

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2023	Total y/e 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
<i>Charitable Activities:</i>				
Service Delivery Manager	34,080	-	34,080	29,423
Training Co-ordinator	12,372	-	12,372	21,714
CNTW	58,841	-	58,841	-
Central Office	80,103	-	80,103	60,152
Carers Support Fund	-	20,870	20,870	20,800
Carers Return to Work	-	25,179	25,179	31,312
Young Carers Support	-	57,132	57,132	45,206
Young Carers Activity	-	30,289	30,289	12,363
Information Service	-	58,841	58,841	55,299
Parent Carer Support	-	1,644	1,644	6,601
Carers Trust Grants	220	3,545	3,765	4,581
Projects / (Other)	6,150	2,333	8,483	4,181
Depreciation	28	-	28	380
	191,794	199,833	391,627	292,012
<i>Governance</i>				
Trustee meetings and charity management	1,268	-	1,268	1,082
Professional fees	800	-	800	800
	2,068	-	2,068	1,882
Total	193,862	199,833	393,695	293,894

5. Debtors

	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Trade Debtors	5,000	1,000
Prepayments	-	-
Total	5,000	1,000

6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
PAYE and NIC	4,612	4,127
Creditors & accruals	29,959	7,027
Deferred grants	29,581	117,308
Total	<u>64,152</u>	<u>128,462</u>

Included within creditors and accruals is an amount of £78 (2022: £78) owed to Northumberland Care Trust, and £21,625 owed as a repayable grant as part of the Carers Return to Work project. These amounts are repayable on demand.

7. Staff costs and numbers

During the financial period the company had an average of 10 FTE employees and their remuneration was made up as follows:

	2023 £
Salary and wages	243,457
National insurance costs	22,262
Employer pension costs	7,896
Total	<u>273,615</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	235,770	69,927	305,697
Creditors / deferred income	(12,946)	(29,581)	(42,527)
Total	<u>222,824</u>	<u>40,346</u>	<u>263,170</u>

9. Remuneration of management committee

Trustees received expenses payments of £216 (2022: £232) associated with the cost of attending meetings of the charity in the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

10. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1 April 2022	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended and transfers	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Carers Week	2,333	-	2,333	-
Carers Trust	-	3,545	3,545	-
Carers into Work	3,894	21,285	25,179	-
Carer Information Service	-	59,000	58,841	159
Parent Carer Support	1,644	-	1,644	-
Carers Support Fund	591	21,500	20,870	1,221
Young Carers Support	14,906	57,800	57,132	15,574
Young Carers Activity	8,181	23,875	30,289	1,767
	31,549	187,005	199,833	18,721

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1122972

Accounts

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

CHARITY NUMBER 1122972

COMPANY NUMBER 06266972

**TRUSTEES REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2022

Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

NAME OF CHARITY: Carers Northumberland Limited

INCORPORATION: The company was originally incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008.

OFFICERS:
(Directors and Trustees) Mr S Cooke
Mrs A C Arter (Chair)
Countess A De'Travernent
Mrs D Jack
Mrs J Birkin-Nicholl
Mrs V Hodgson
Mrs L Nelson
Mr P Stonell
Mrs Anne Moore (appointed 14th April 2022)
Mrs Julie Danskin (appointed 14th April 2022)

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mrs D Blakey

REGISTERED OFFICE: 107 &109 Station Road
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8RS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

BANKERS: CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

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TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Introduction

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The trustees have prepared the annual report and financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in January 2019.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Carers Northumberland Ltd is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It was incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008 and its principal activity is providing support for carers throughout Northumberland.

Trustees

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and are Directors of the company. One third of the Trustees retire from office together and are eligible for re-election at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) by rotation, so that each and every trustee so retires and is eligible for re-election at every third AGM from the date of their initial election. As between trustees who have been members the same length of time, those due to retire are chosen by lot. The officers of the trustee board for the ensuing year are nominated to and elected (by ballot if necessary) at every AGM.

Trustee Induction and Training

A Trustee Information Pack is available to potential and new Trustees. Potential Trustees are invited to attend a Trustee meeting to find out more about the workings of the Board and the governance of the charity, after which they may feel better informed to make the decision to become a Trustee.

New Trustees are introduced to the charity, their legal obligations under charity law, the content of the governing document, the Trustees and the decision-making process, the business plan and financial performance of the charity during an induction period soon after appointment. Trustees are also encouraged to attend appropriate training events that will support effective conduct in their role.

Risk Management

Where appropriate, policies and procedures or systems have been put in place to mitigate the risks the charity might face. Significant external risks to funding, and the nature of funding across the Community and Voluntary Sector, have led to the development of a long term strategic plan including the identification of priority activities in relation to income generation.

Policies and procedures exist to ensure compliance with health and safety of all staff, volunteers and beneficiaries of the charity. This includes the provision of adequate insurance cover. These policies and procedures are reviewed annually or more frequently, on change of circumstances, to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Carers Northumberland provides information, advice and support for carers, seeking to ensure equality of opportunity for all sections of the community in its own affairs and in access to facilities provided by the charity. In doing so, the activities adopted by Carers Northumberland to meet those objects include the following:

- Seeking the views of carers to influence service provision
- Provision of opportunities for carers to take a break from caring by attending support groups, leisure and skills events
- Signposting carers to sources of condition-specific or specialist support
- Provision of an Information Service and dedicated information line for carer enquiries
- Administration of the Carer Support Fund
- Working in partnership with other agencies and organisations to support carers
- Supporting the development and delivery of a voice for carers in consultation, policy and service development and delivery in the county

Achievement and performance

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a huge effect on the delivery of services throughout 2021 and into early 2022. For most of the year the staff have been working a blended model of home working and spending allocated time working from the office on a rota basis. It quickly became clear that delivery plans would have to change as the pandemic continued and the most important thing operationally was that carers still had access to information, advice and support. The easing of restrictions in July 2021 enabled face to face work to restart, with some of the peer support groups moving back into the community rather than online.

There were some changes to the staff team early in year, with the Carers into Work Advisor and one of the Carer Information and Advice Workers roles being replaced by new members of staff. Later in the year, as a result of additional funding, a Young Carers Activity Worker joined the team, and as part of the DWP's Kickstart initiative, a new Project Assistant role was created which would give an employment opportunity to a young person for six months. The staff team for the year consisted of the Chief Executive Officer, Service Delivery Manager, two Carer Information and Advice Workers, Training Coordinator, Finance and Administration Officer, Young Carers Support Coordinator, Young Carers Activity Worker, Carers into Work Advisor and Project Assistant.

The Information Service continues to be the first point of contact for most carers via the Information Line, website and social media. As of 31 March 2022, there were 4311 carers registered with Carers Northumberland, this is an increase of 31.5% based on the number of carers registered at the end of April 2021. Contacts with carers have increased with 6232 contacts and 10465 actions carried out between 1 April 21 and 31 March 2022, an increase of 37% and 30% respectively based on the same data for 2020-21. 831 new adult carers have registered in the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (including 107 parent carers) and 117 new young carers. This overall figure is lower than 2020-21, due to January, February and March 2021 seeing unprecedented numbers of carers registering as a result of carers being recognised as a priority group for the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme. Carers Northumberland worked with the GP practices across Northumberland to ensure that as many carers as possible were identified and

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

offered the vaccine. This prompted a significant rise in the number of carers registering with Carers Northumberland, between January 2021 to April 2021 where 858 new carers were registered. The average registration pre-pandemic was approximately 40 per month, however, for the current year the average is now 70 per month. The Information Service deal with a varied range of queries, the majority early in the year were around vaccination access and other Covid-related restrictions and guidance, however, as restrictions started to ease more enquiries around finance and benefits, how to access services, grants, health and wellbeing, form filling, and planning for the future were coming through.

Carers who register are also asked to complete a baseline assessment of their needs to ensure that any immediate needs can be addressed. Carers who register but do not have an immediate concern or query are contacted by a member of the Information Team after two-months to check that they are receiving the newsletter and that they know how to get in contact should they have a query. All carers who register with us and complete the initial baseline are contacted after six months and asked to complete a follow-up evaluation so we can measure how being registered with Carers Northumberland has (or has not) had an impact on their caring role. Where carers have had contact with a member of staff and have been supported with a particular issue a separate feedback form will be completed. 99 baseline reviews have been completed up to 31 March 2022 with positive increases shown for taking a break/time off, myself and finance, money and benefits. 132 evaluations have been returned for the same period. As a result of being supported by Carers Northumberland:

- 68% of carers agreed they know more about their rights as a carer now
- 72% of carers agreed they feel more confident
- 70% of carers agreed they feel more in control
- 71% of carers agreed they feel less lonely/isolated
- 89% of carers agreed they know where to go for advice and support

The newsletter is one of the main ways that Carers Northumberland communicates with carers who are registered. The majority of carers receive the newsletter bi-monthly by email, but there are around 500 carers who prefer a printed copy to be posted. Our social media presence also continues to grow as information is sought by carers and professionals in many different ways. Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 our Facebook posts have reached an average of 5900 people and our tweets have reached an average of 1074 people. Carers Northumberland added an Instagram account in November 2021, and this is now reaching an average of 153 people with 162 followers. The Carers Northumberland website was updated in early 2021 and went live in March 2021 and now has a more modern, user-friendly look with increased capabilities such as a blog section and the ability to book onto groups and events online. Unique visits to the website average around 669 per month.

Carers Northumberland continues to administer the Carer Support Fund (CSF) on behalf of the local authority which provides adult carers of adults with an individual grant to enable them to take a break from their caring role. At the end of March 2022, 203 carers had applied for CSF and £20,725 had been awarded. This amount is now back to the pre-pandemic level as there are more opportunities for carers to access things which give them a break now that leisure providers have reopened. Main uses for the fund have been day trips, short breaks, therapies, leisure and exercise activities, crafts and ongoing

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

hobbies and interests. Carers have also been supported by the Information Service to access larger grants with £12,561 in grants from Carers Trust and Turn 2 Us secured for essential household items such as washing machines, beds, fridge-freezers, moving costs, flooring and driving lessons.

Following a successful pilot scheme in 2020-21 the Information Service has offered carers support to complete Lasting Power of Attorney paperwork as part of the Advanced Planning Service. Since April 2021, 16 carers have accessed this service and are at various stages in the procedure. Carers Northumberland have also produced a Bereavement Guide for carers which can be accessed at any time. The guide has both practical information and emotional coping tools to support carers and 14 guides have been sent out since 1 April 2021.

At the start of the current year, April 2021, we were informed that the British Red Cross were no longer able to offer the Carers Emergency Card service to carers in Northumberland. The British Red Cross made the strategic decision to close the service based on their current priorities and capacity and evidence that the service has not been utilised in the past 24 months. Naturally, this was disappointing to hear, as carers regularly tell us that the card gives them peace of mind that if they were unable to get to the person, they care for they knew they, or someone else, could ring the number on the card and the British Red Cross would be able to alert another family member or send out a volunteer to wait with the cared for until alternative arrangements could be made. As an alternative, Carers Northumberland are offering to support carers to complete an Emergency Care Plan which will help them document important information about the person they care and their usual routine and medication requirements. 69 forms have been sent to carers, 15 forms have been returned completed by carers and 15 forms have been completed with the carer supported by staff.

Groups remained online at the start of the year as lockdown restrictions were still in place. Online groups were provided for Berwick, Ponteland, Cramlington with Alnwick/Amble as a joint group and Morpeth/Blyth as a joint group. A standalone generic remote drop-in group also runs every Tuesday, facilitated by one of the staff team. Remote group attendances have been lower than expected and in preparation, a survey was sent out to all carers on the database to find out what their preferences would be once face-to-face groups could start again in the summer. The survey was completed by 78 carers with 73% stating that they would like to attend a face-to-face peer support group if they were able to resume later in the year; 79% said they would prefer to meet in a community venue with a private room; 59% would prefer a morning meeting, 37.5% an afternoon meeting and 3.5% would prefer to meet in the evening. Interestingly, 86% said they would not want to meet online once restrictions are lifted, and face-to-face groups could resume. The survey also asked carers to indicate where they would like to see a group based with the highest numbers coming back from those groups where there is already a good group attendance (Cramlington, Berwick, Blyth, Morpeth, Alnwick, Ponteland, Bedlington and Ashington – where there wasn't currently a group). Face-to-face groups resumed in September in Berwick, Ponteland, Cramlington and Blyth with groups in Bedlington, Alnwick and Ashington in October. The weekly online generic group continues every Tuesday. Attendances have been varied, with Cramlington, Berwick, Blyth and Ponteland being the most attended while Ashington, despite coming out as the top location request for a group in the recent survey, has not attracted many attendees. Due to the rising cases of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 and the government guidance in December 2021 all face-to-face groups were cancelled for December and January but resumed in February. In

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addition to the regular monthly groups at fixed venues, the Information Team are also offering carer catch-ups each month at different venues across the county from March 2022.

As well as the regular online and face-to-face groups, there have also been opportunities for carers to attend events this year. Trips to Cragside, Paxton House, Seaton Delaval Hall and Prudhoe Forest School took place in October, and a visit to the Alnwick Garden Light trail in November 2021. Over the course of the year there have been 569 attendances at groups and events. The closed Facebook group also continues to grow with 265 members as of 31 March 2022. One of the casualties of the pandemic has been our team of volunteers. While some of the support group volunteers have continued to support their usual groups whilst online and now that they are back face-to-face, some of our volunteers have re-evaluated their time and priorities and have decided not to return. In anticipation of the ending of restrictions, a volunteer recruitment campaign will begin in March 2022 with Group Hosts and Carer Ambassador volunteer roles being offered. Carer workshops and training sessions have been offered online throughout the year. Carer Awareness and Identification training for health and social care professionals has made the transition to remote learning fairly easy, and early feedback suggests it is easier for staff to commit the time when there is no travelling involved. The Training Coordinator has provided training for professionals from Northumberland County Council, Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust, Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Trust and GP practices across the county. Northumberland CCG continue to fund ongoing work with GP practices around identifying and support carers in primary care, it was hoped that this work would be further enhanced by utilising GP surgeries to hold information sessions to encourage carers to register and ask questions, but this has still not been possible yet. There has been a marked reduction in engagement with carer awareness training and practice reviews due to the changing priorities for GP practices as the pandemic continues. 108 professionals have accessed training throughout the year. Carer workshops have moved online, and different topics have been offered throughout the year, including, How to Say No, Building Resilience, Stress Busting, Planning Ahead, Caring Day to Day, and Jump into January. 84 carers have attended training workshops throughout the year. There has been less engagement online, despite support being available to assist with access to technology and support to use it. Carers who have engaged have valued the sessions, but many carers have indicated that they prefer face-to-face delivery as it's difficult to speak freely in the presence of the person they care for and some carers take the training as an opportunity for a break. As the easing of restrictions continues then the opportunity to hold carer workshops and training sessions face-to-face will be explored. Carers Northumberland purchased the Digital Resource for Carers (DRC) online learning platform from Carers UK again for 12 months, however, there has been little engagement and as the platform is to be rolled out in all GP practices this will not be renewed from June 2022.

Carers Week took place from 7 – 13 June 2021, and while there were still some restrictions in place, carers were invited to attend a number of outdoor walks across the county with 16 attendees across the five events. 2 carers attended the online Creative Writing workshop, 3 carers attended the book folding craft session and 7 carers attended the Stress Busting workshop. Building on the success of the walks, these continued into the later summer/autumn and will begin again in spring 2022.

Carers Rights Day took place 25 November 2021, and we were able to hold an in-person event at Cramlington Hub, the event consisted of a carers rights and assessment

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workshop in the morning, followed by an information marketplace in the afternoon. The event was attended by 61 carers throughout the day and initial feedback has been very positive. Other stallholders included, the Alzheimer's Society, PALS, Age UK, CAB, Northumberland County Blind Association, Healthwatch Northumberland, NCC Health Trainers, Northumberland Recovery College, Anxious Minds, Northumberland Fire Service, Escape Family Support and both the support planners and locality coordinators from NCC's Communities Together Team.

170 carers received a Christmas Gift Bag following direct requests or nominations. These were distributed across the county by the staff team in December 2021.

We were successful in securing 100 free mobile phone SIM Cards from Vodafone as part of their offer to charities, 53 have been distributed so far, 40 to adult carers and 13 to young carers.

The increase in registrations from parent carers (caring for a child under 18 with additional needs), enabled us to access a grant from the Edward Gostling Foundation which provided additional capacity to the Information Service to support the growing number of enquiries from parent carers. There are now 386 parent carers registered which is an increase from 104 prior to the Covid vaccination programme rollout. The funding was initially to support a pilot into how parent carers could be better supported. So far, parent carers have been supported to access grants totalling £8,141 to provide funds for flooring, white goods, gym membership, yoga classes, moving costs and household items. The parent carer online Zoom peer support group continues monthly, but numbers remain low. Parent carers have contacted the service on a range of issues, but the most frequent issues are finance and benefits, carer support and social services. Parent carer enquiries are often complex and relate to issues surrounding support for the child/children they care for, and this has impacted on the Information Service capacity and highlighted a gap in knowledge mainly around the procedures and referral routes within Children's Services. This has been considered by the Northumberland Carers Partnership Board and parent carers have been added as a priority within the draft Commitment to Carers Strategy which is expected to be approved in April 2022.

The North of Tyne Carers into Work Project which began on 1 April 2020. The initial project aims were to support carers who wanted to return to work and is a collaboration between the North of Tyne Combined Authority (the funder), Carers Northumberland, Newcastle Carers and North Tyneside Carers Centre. The project had initially set out to offer returnships with local employers as a way of supporting carers into work with employers who were mindful and supportive of those with caring responsibilities, however, the early effects of the pandemic on employers meant that many that had been identified by the North of Tyne Combined Authority were unable to proceed with their original offer. Following lower than expected numbers of carers engaging with project across the three carers' centres, the project steering group took the decision to widen the criteria of the project. The project is now able to support carers who are already in employment, and carers who are aged 16 and over into employment, education or training, or to maintain their current employment with support to implement strategies to balance their work and caring responsibilities and to assist carer who want to look for a change of employment which better suits their caring needs. Each carers centre has a dedicated Carers into Work Advisor (CIWA) who will work with carers on an individual basis to explore their needs and the barriers to achieving those objectives. The project has also been extended to 31 March 2023. There are now 37 carers registered on the project in Northumberland, with the CIWA actively working with 23 on 31 March 2022, in a variety of ways including,

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supporting with CV updates, application forms, and interview techniques as well as advising on job searches, volunteering opportunities and education and skills training. This project has now also been able to link in with the Young Carer Project as a way of offering additional support for young carers aged 16 plus to think about their future opportunities. The project overall has 147 participants across the North of Tyne partnership and is on track to achieve the target of 300 by March 2023. The steering group will be considering the future of the project beyond March 2023 in due course. The Young Carer Support Project began on 1 August 2020 after a successful tender process and began with the appointment of a Young Carer Service Coordinator (YCSC) to support young carers and work closely with the Youth Service and Early Help and Prevention teams. The aim is to work with young carers up to 18 years both individually and in group settings to support them to have the same opportunities as other children and young people. Referrals come either via the local authority's Early Help Team or direct into the Young Carer Service and young carers will be offered tailored support with their families to ensure that their caring role is not having a negative impact on their aspirations and opportunities. The project is funded until 31 July 2022 and there will be a new contract tender process in early 2022 which Carers Northumberland will take part in and hopefully be able to retain the service. There are 213 young carers registered with 117 new young carers registered in the year. Support for young carers is a mixture of intensive one to one support for those young carers who are struggling with their caring role as well as opportunities for young carers to access other means of support to take a break and get involved in other activities such as an annual Active Northumberland Leisure Pass, funding for organised activities and the Young Carer Support Fund to provide financial support to access a break from their caring role. The YCSC is currently supporting 17 young carers individually who have more complex issues. Carers Northumberland works closely with NCC's Youth Service and has brought together a Young Carer Steering Group which consists of representatives from education, youth participation, primary and secondary health and educational psychology. This group has helped to shape a Young Carers in Schools Toolkit for Northumberland which was piloted by a selection of schools in late 2021 and then rolled out across all schools in the county in March 2022. We were also successful in receiving a grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation after being nominated by Northumberland Freemasons. This has enabled us to employ a Young Carers Activity Worker and provide opportunities for young carers to meet each other and enjoy time away from caring. Activities so far have included trampolining, Halloween make-up workshop, yoga, cinema trip, pantomime trip, Alnwick Garden Light Trail and online events such as cake jar making, t-shirt designing and calendar making, Pirate Escape rooms, ice skating and graffiti art.

Throughout the year, Carers Northumberland has maintained and secured new links and partnerships with other organisations, both statutory and voluntary. The Northumberland Carers Partnership Board, which brings together statutory and voluntary organisations across the county who have an interest in supporting carers, have developed a Commitment to Carers Strategy which is currently in draft and expected to be approved in April 2022.

Carers Northumberland is now fully embedded in the Community Mental Health Transformation Funding agenda as a member of the Leadership Group and the VCSE Alliance and Asset Mapping working group. The aim of the group is to transform community mental health provision for severe mental health issues by working collaboratively across statutory health and social care services and voluntary and community organisations. CNTW and larger mental health charities, Mental Health

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Concern and Mental Health Matters are taking the lead with the programme, but it is expected that some financial support will come through to smaller organisations as the work continues.

Organisational membership of the Healthwatch Northumberland Board has strengthened partnership working and has enabled Carers Northumberland to support with Healthwatch's Home Care Report as well as providing carer focus groups to gather views for the CCG around End-of-Life Care and GP Access.

Ongoing work with CNTW, the mental health foundation trust that covers the county, has enabled Carers Northumberland to secure some additional core funding to support the Older People's Pathway. The referral pathway will see carers being automatically referred to Carers Northumberland by CNTW staff at the point of diagnosis on the Dementia Pathway. It is expected that this could be up to 900 carers per year offered a referral to Carers Northumberland. CNTW have also approved funding to Carers Northumberland for two additional Carer Information and Advice Worker posts, one of which will have a mental health remit. This will add capacity to do more outreach and community work as well as additional resilience to the Information Service. It is expected that these posts will be filled in April 2022. The funding is initially for 12 months; however, it is hoped that evidence and impact will enable this to be extended. CNTW have also included Carers Northumberland in their focus group work for the review of their Carer's Charter in 2022.

The staff and trustees had an Away Day in November 2021 which was an opportunity to discuss future development opportunities and ways to add value and strengthen the Carers Northumberland offer. This followed a staff development session, where all staff were invited to put forward ideas, both big and small, for future development of the service. At the Away Day, it was agreed that Carers Northumberland would strive to become a service which supported all carers regardless of who they were caring for. At present the core service is mainly funded by NCC Adult Service and Northumberland CCG to support adult carers of adults. In the past year, the service has brought in time-limited project funding to support young carer and parent carers. Both staff and trustees felt that Carers Northumberland should be providing a service to all carers and as such have started work to plot out a Carer Journey. It is hoped that this will identify where there are gaps and where funding could be sought to address those gaps and add value to the current service.

While the current Business Plan, 2020 – 2024, remains valid and was created based on the core delivery of the service and the known budget amount for that core delivery, it is clear that with added funding from other sources, Carers Northumberland can achieve a service which supports all carers. While funding for the core from NCC Adult Service has been confirmed for 2022-23, there is an expectation that this will become a contracted service from 1 April 2023 which Carers Northumberland will have to tender for. In addition, Northumberland CCG have also confirmed their funding for 2022-23, however, CCGs are being replaced by Integrated Care Systems (ICS) from mid-2022 and the commissioning arrangements from April 2023 are not yet clear.

The Operational Plan for 2022-23 will focus on core delivery and opportunities to add value to the service through additional funding. Preparation will also be made for the tender processes for both adult and young carers services. The ongoing work on the Carer Journey and some of the other development ideas from the Away Day, will continue and be reviewed throughout the coming year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity remains grateful for the help and support given by government agencies, charitable trusts and other sources. For the year ended 31 March 2022, despite the continuing uncertainties and disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, the Charity is pleased to report an increase in overall total income to £330,061 (2021: £289,048). The increased income was mainly due to increased funding for Care Projects including Carers Return to Work, and support & activities for Young Carers.

The charity continued to effectively monitor and control all costs. Total costs did increase in the year to £293,894 (2021: £234,846), but this increase was largely due to the additional project activity in the year. The Charity was able to report a surplus for the year of £36,167 (2021: £54,202). Cash balances at 31 March 2022 were £355,879 (2021: £251,680), the increase in the cash balances reflecting the surplus generated in the year; the increase also due to the receipt of £117,308 of income at the end of 2021/22 which related to projects to be undertaken in 2022/23. These receipts have been shown in the balance sheet as deferred income, to be released in 2022/23 when the related projects will be undertaken.

Grant Making Policy

The Charity does not make grants but administers the Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumbria Healthcare Trust – Adult Services, and the Young Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumberland County Council – Children’s Services.

Investment Policy

The charity holds no investments and as such has no investment policy.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to have a reserve of a minimum of 4 months’ operating costs. This figure has been identified following consideration of the main financial risks to the charity. The strategy is to continue to build reserves through economies of scale wherever possible. The Trustees have supported expansion of operations, supported by a sound business case and regular review and in line with our aim to maintain healthy reserves.

Risk Management

As part of the charity’s business plan development, an assessment was undertaken as to the risks the Trust is exposed to. The charity has taken a proactive stance to reduce its overall reliance on external funding and to develop a portfolio of funders to further reduce the impact any one funding stream may incur. A major part of the charity’s partnership working is to keep the charity abreast of any strategic, political or legal changes that could impact upon it.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year; in preparing those financial statements, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining 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. The Trustees 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.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out under Legal and Administrative Information. In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant information of which the company's accountants are unaware; and
- as the directors of the company, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounts information and to establish that the charity's accountants are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in January 2019) and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees on 9th June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



A Arter, Director and Chair of Trustees

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED.**

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 12 to 20.

Respective and basis of report

The trustees, who are also the directors of Carers Northumberland Limited ('the Company') for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

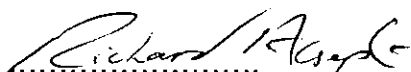
Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than the requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination; and
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Richard Alsept
Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

9th June 2022

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2022	Total y/e 31 March 2021
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Donations	3	3,922	-	3,922	3,623
Charitable activities	3	182,440	143,159	325,599	284,988
<i>Investment income:</i>					
Interest received		540	-	540	437
Total Income		<u>186,902</u>	<u>143,159</u>	<u>330,061</u>	<u>289,048</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	172,364	121,530	293,894	234,846
Total Expenditure		<u>172,364</u>	<u>121,530</u>	<u>293,894</u>	<u>234,846</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)		<u>14,538</u>	<u>21,629</u>	<u>36,167</u>	<u>54,202</u>
Net Movement in Funds		14,538	21,629	36,167	54,202
Reconciliation in funds: Fund balances brought forward		<u>182,358</u>	<u>9,920</u>	<u>192,278</u>	<u>192,278</u>
Fund balances carried forward		<u>196,896</u>	<u>31,549</u>	<u>228,445</u>	<u>192,278</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year / period.
All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing charitable activities.

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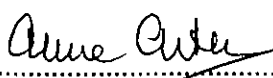
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2022

	Notes	March 2022 £	£	March 2021 £	£
FIXED ASSETS	2		28		408
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	1,000		228	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>355,879</u>		<u>251,680</u>	
		356,879		251,908	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(128,462)		(60,038)	
Net Current Assets			228,417		191,870
NET ASSETS			<u>228,445</u>		<u>192,278</u>
Restricted Funds	10		31,549		9,920
Unrestricted Funds			196,896		182,358
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			<u>228,445</u>		<u>192,278</u>

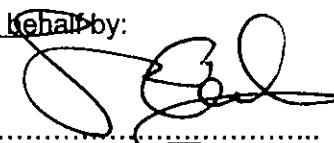
For the financial year ended 31 March 2022, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476(1) requesting an audit. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and which otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2006, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime under the Companies Act 2006 and with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a for Small Entities (effective January 2015).

Approved by the Board on 9th June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



 A Arter, Director



 S Cooke, Director

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principle accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

a. Basis of accounting

The company is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The address of the registered office is:

107 & 109 Station Road,
Ashington
Northumberland NE63 8RS

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 9th June 2022.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a Small Entities, and the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice, (Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2019), as well as the Charities Act 2011.

b. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose as defined within their objects.

c. Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income which is received by way of grants, donations and gifts to the charity is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities upon receipt. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Bank interest and other investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable activities are derived from contracts and service agreements and are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

d. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes unrecoverable VAT.

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

- Operation and development of the charity includes all costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include accountancy fees.

e. Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All items with a useful life of more than one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office Equipment	-	25% reducing balance
Office Fixtures and Fittings	-	25% reducing balance

f. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

g. Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from funders for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

h. Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

i. Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

j. Pensions

The Project operates a defined contributions pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2022

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Website	Office Equipment	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
As at 1 April 2021	6,000	30,011	6,584	42,595
Additions	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2022	<u>6,000</u>	<u>30,011</u>	<u>6,584</u>	<u>42,595</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2021	6,000	29,651	6,536	42,187
Charge for year	-	360	20	380
As at 31 March 2022	<u>6,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,556</u>	<u>42,567</u>
Net book value				
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>408</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2022

3. Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2022	Total y/e 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
<i>Donations and Fundraising</i>	3,922	-	3,922	3,623
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Local Authority grants	172,300	-	172,300	172,300
Other care grants	17,660	56,085	73,745	95,440
Covid related grant	-	-	-	10,000
Other income	9,082	-	9,082	4,248
NCC grant refund	(16,602)		(16,602)	
Project income	-	87,074	87,074	3,000
	<u>186,362</u>	<u>143,159</u>	<u>329,521</u>	<u>288,611</u>
<i>Interest receivable</i>				
Bank interest receivable	540	-	540	437
	<u>540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>437</u>
Total	<u>186,902</u>	<u>143,159</u>	<u>330,061</u>	<u>289,048</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2022

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2022	Total y/e 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
<i>Charitable Activities:</i>				
Service Delivery Manager	29,423	-	29,423	29,863
Training Co-ordinator	21,714	-	21,714	19,391
Central Office	60,152	-	60,152	54,760
Carers Support Fund	-	20,800	20,800	15,410
Carers Return to Work	-	31,312	31,312	35,845
Young Carers Support	-	45,206	45,206	24,265
Young Carers Activity	-	12,363	12,363	
Information Service	55,299	-	55,299	51,318
Parent Carer Support	-	6,601	6,601	-
Carers Trust Grants	-	4,581	4,581	1,808
Projects (Other)	3,514	667	4,181	-
Depreciation	380	-	380	1,373
	170,482	121,530	292,012	234,033
<i>Governance</i>				
Trustee meetings and charity management	1,082	-	1,082	-
Professional fees	800	-	800	813
	1,882	-	1,882	813
Total	172,364	121,530	293,894	234,846

5. Debtors

	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
Trade Debtors	1,000	228
Prepayments	-	-
Total	1,000	228

6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
PAYE and NIC	4,127	4,017
Creditors & accruals	7,027	7,633
Deferred grants	117,308	48,388
Total	<u>128,462</u>	<u>60,038</u>

Included within creditors and accruals is an amount of £78 (2021: £1,338) owed to Northumberland Care Trust. This amount is repayable on demand.

7. Staff costs and numbers

During the financial period the company had a maximum of 10 FTE employees and their remuneration was made up as follows:

	2022 £
Salary and wages	187,408
National insurance costs	14,459
Employer pension costs	5,050
Total	<u>206,917</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets	28	-	28
Current Assets	325,330	31,549	356,879
Creditors	(128,462)	-	(128,462)
Total	<u>196,896</u>	<u>31,549</u>	<u>228,445</u>

9. Remuneration of management committee

Two trustees received expenses payments of £232 (2021: £nil) associated with the cost of attending meetings of the charity in the financial year ended 31 March 2022.

10. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1 April 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended and transfers	Balance 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Carers Week	3,000	-	667	2,333
Carers Trust	-	4,581	4,581	-
Carers into Work	3,702	31,504	31,312	3,894
Parent Carer Support	-	8,245	6,601	1,644
Carers Support Fund	1,391	20,000	20,800	591
Young Carers Support	1,827	58,285	45,206	14,906
Young Carers Activity	-	20,544	12,363	8,181
	9,920	143,159	121,530	31,549

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1122972

Accounts

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

CHARITY NUMBER 1122972

COMPANY NUMBER 06266972

**TRUSTEES REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2021

Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

NAME OF CHARITY: Carers Northumberland Limited

INCORPORATION: The company was originally incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008.

OFFICERS:
(Directors and Trustees)

Mr S Cooke
Mrs A C Arter (Chair)
Countess A De'Travement
Mrs D Jack
Mrs J Birkin-Nicholl
Mrs V Hodgson
Mrs L Nelson
Mr P Stonell (appointed 11th June 2020)

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mrs D Blakey

REGISTERED OFFICE: 107 &109 Station Road
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8RS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Richard Alsept Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

BANKERS: CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

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TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Introduction

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The trustees have prepared the annual report and financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in January 2015.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Carers Northumberland Ltd is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It was incorporated on 4th June 2007 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2008 and its principal activity is providing support for carers throughout Northumberland.

Trustees

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and are Directors of the company. One third of the Trustees retire from office together and are eligible for re-election at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) by rotation, so that each and every trustee so retires and is eligible for re-election at every third AGM from the date of their initial election. As between trustees who have been members the same length of time, those due to retire are chosen by lot. The officers of the trustee board for the ensuing year are nominated to and elected (by ballot if necessary) at every AGM.

Trustee Induction and Training

A Trustee Information Pack is available to potential and new Trustees. Potential Trustees are invited to attend a Trustee meeting to find out more about the workings of the Board and the governance of the charity, after which they may feel better informed to make the decision to become a Trustee.

New Trustees are introduced to the charity, their legal obligations under charity law, the content of the governing document, the Trustees and the decision-making process, the business plan and financial performance of the charity during an induction period soon after appointment. Trustees are also encouraged to attend appropriate training events that will support effective conduct in their role.

Risk Management

Where appropriate, policies and procedures or systems have been put in place to mitigate the risks the charity might face. Significant external risks to funding, and the nature of funding across the Community and Voluntary Sector, have led to the development of a long term strategic plan including the identification of priority activities in relation to income generation.

Policies and procedures exist to ensure compliance with health and safety of all staff, volunteers and beneficiaries of the charity. This includes the provision of adequate insurance cover. These policies and procedures are reviewed annually or more frequently, on change of circumstances, to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Carers Northumberland provides information, advice and support for carers, seeking to ensure equality of opportunity for all sections of the community in its own affairs and in access to facilities provided by the charity. In doing so, the activities adopted by Carers Northumberland to meet those objects include the following:

- Seeking the views of carers to influence service provision
- Provision of opportunities for carers to take a break from caring by attending support groups, leisure and skills events
- Signposting carers to sources of condition-specific or specialist support
- Provision of an Information Service and dedicated information line for carer enquiries
- Administration of the Carers Emergency Card Scheme and Carer Support Fund
- Working in partnership with other agencies and organisations to support carers
- Supporting the development and delivery of a voice for carers in consultation, policy and service development and delivery in the county

Achievement and performance

Following a restructure at the end of 2019 and early 2020, Carers Northumberland was set to go into the new financial year beginning on 1 April 2020 with a structure which supported the core delivery within the restraints of the known funding from Northumberland County Council Adult Service and Northumberland CCG. The new structure consists of Chief Executive Officer, Service Delivery Manager, Training Coordinator and two Carer Information and Advice Workers. In addition, the core delivery team, an additional member of staff would be joining the team from 1 April 2020 in the role of Carers into Work Advisor. This post was funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority to deliver the Carers Return to Work Project, in partnership with Newcastle Carers and North Tyneside Carers Centre. The project would support carers who have been out of work for some time and were keen to get back into employment. In February 2020 Carers Northumberland were invited to tender for a 12 month contract for a project to support young carers. The tender was successful, and the project started in August 2020 with another member of staff joining the team in the role of Young Carer Support Worker. Finally, in October 2020, Carers Northumberland added the role of Finance and Administration Assistant to the team to support the CEO with finance and the team as a whole with administrative support.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge effect on the kind of work that could be delivered in 2020 and so much of what was originally planned has had to be postponed or changed to online and remote delivery. For most of the year the staff have either worked from fully from home (during lockdown) or a blended model of home working and spending allocated time working from the office on a rota basis. It quickly became clear that delivery plans would have to change as the pandemic continued and the most important thing operationally was that carers still had access to information, advice and support especially during the first national lockdown and as restrictions and guidance changed throughout the year.

Information Service

The Information Service has been key throughout the year to maintaining contact with carers and continues to be the first point of contact for many carers via the Information Line, website and social media. As of 31 March 2021, there were 3,278 carers registered with Carers Northumberland with 1,143 new adult carers having registered in the period 1 April 20 to 31 March 21, this is a huge increase of 88% when compared with the number of new registrations in the same period last year. The average number of new registrations was around 47 per month, however, the new registrations for January 21 – March 21 came to 719. This figure reflects fact that unpaid carers were included in the Priority 6 group for the Covid-19 vaccination programme. In order to reduce contact with GP's a very busy point in the vaccination programme, Carers Northumberland supported them to collate numbers of unpaid carers for each GP's respective registers.

The Information Service deal with a varied range of queries, the majority early in the year were around coronavirus and the restrictions and guidance, but also finance and benefits, how to access services and planning for emergencies and the future. During the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021, 2,057 individual carers were supported by the service resulting in 8,033 contacts/actions on their behalf. These figures are increases of 63% and 40% respectively, compared to the same data for the previous year. At the beginning of the pandemic the Information Team identified carers who were particularly vulnerable and/or isolated and made check-in calls with the help of other members of staff. It was also identified that carers were concerned about visiting the homes of those they supported, if they did not live with them, as lockdown restrictions were very clear about staying at home. To help give carers confidence to go out in their role supporting others, a small registration card was produced and sent to carers who were already registered. These cards are now sent out to all new carers who register as a matter of course. The cards also helped carers gain priority access to supermarkets at the height of the pandemic when stores were giving prioritised shopping times to NHS staff and other key workers. The staff team rang the majority of supermarkets and convenience stores in Northumberland to ensure that carers would be included in this priority group. Carers who register are also asked to complete a baseline assessment of their needs to ensure that any immediate needs can be addressed. Carers who register but do not have an immediate concern or query are contacted by a member of the Information Team after two-months to check that they are receiving the newsletter and that they know how to get in contact should they have a query. All carers who register with us and complete the initial baseline are contacted after six months and asked to complete a follow-up evaluation so we can measure how being registered with Carers Northumberland has (or has not) had an impact on their caring role. Where carers have had contact with a member of staff and have been supported with a particular issue a separate feedback form will be completed.

The newsletter is one of the main ways that Carers Northumberland communicates with carers who are registered. The majority of carers receive the newsletter by email, but there are also around 400 carers who prefer a printed copy to be posted. The newsletter is bi-monthly but as information about the pandemic, guidelines and restrictions was changing so rapidly at the start of the year the newsletter was produced monthly up to August 20 when it reverted back to bi-monthly production. This year has also seen an increase in the use of social media to circulate information. As of 31 March 2021, we have 1,085 likes on Facebook and 1,143 followers on Twitter. Between 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 our Facebook posts had reached an average of 11,477 people and our tweets

had reached an average of 1,318 people. Unique visits to the Carers Northumberland website were an average of 711 each month for the year.

Carer Support Fund and Carers Grants

153 carers have benefited from the Carers Support Fund (CSF) enabling them to take a break from their caring role. The cost of supporting carers via the fund for 2020-21 was £15,410. Carers have used the fund to pay for the cost of short breaks, day trips, access to sport/leisure activities and personal care (haircuts etc.), however, the pandemic has meant that these activities have not been available to carers all year round. Carers have also been able to spend their CSF award on garden furniture, technology (laptops, tablets, smartphones), craft materials, photography equipment and books to enable them to take a break while staying close to home.

Carers have also been supported by the Information Service to access larger grants with over £4,600 in grants from Carers Trust and Turn 2 Us secured for essential household items such as washing machines, replacement cooker, carpets, beds and fridge-freezers. Carers Northumberland also continues to support the British Red Cross Carers Emergency Card scheme and encourages carers to register with the scheme so they can have peace of mind should they be unable to return to the person they care for due to unforeseen circumstances, up to the end of March 2021 192 new cards had been issued.

Peer Support Groups and Events

Following the restructure, the office at Hexham closed at the end of March 2020 as it was felt that reducing to such a small staff team it was not practical to operate from two sites. All staff would be working from the current head office base in Ashington from April 2020. In order to provide a visible presence in all areas of the county the organisation the plan was to continue to run peer support groups; engage with and attend relevant partner events and implement a rolling programme of carer information events across the county utilising community venues and GP surgeries where appropriate; however, the effects of the pandemic has meant that all of the face-to-face community interaction has been suspended and there is no firm date for when any of this can start again. Once face-to-face activities can restart is likely they will be on a reduced capacity with smaller groups to begin with. Once it was established that the restrictions would not be a short-term measure, the peer support groups were moved online using Zoom. Rather than have all the groups running online, in consultation with the volunteer support group facilitators it was agreed that Berwick and Ponteland would run as separate groups and Morpeth/Blyth would be combined. Cramlington would also run as its usual group with a staff member to facilitate and Alnwick/Amble would also be combined. A standalone generic remote drop-in group also runs every Tuesday, facilitated by one of the staff team. Remote group attendances have been slow to increase, and many efforts have been made to support carers to join the online groups. Additional sessions for craft and specific information (Energy Awareness and Scam Awareness) have also taken place remotely. The average monthly group attendance throughout the year has been 23. Membership of the Facebook group has more than doubled since the start of the year from 70 members to 174 members at the end of March 2021. The Facebook group gives carers the opportunity to post and chat amongst themselves as well as asking questions and sharing tips and advice. Without our team of volunteers Carers Northumberland would not be able to facilitate all the groups or attend as many partner events as possible, and while community

engagement has taken a back seat this year, it is hopeful that the team, both staff and volunteers, will be able to get back into the community later in 2021.

Training and Carer Workshops

Carers Northumberland provide training workshops for carers as well as carer awareness and identification training for health and social care professionals.

Carer workshops and training sessions have also been moved online. Carer Awareness and Identification training for health and social care professionals has made the transition to remote learning fairly easily and early feedback suggests it is easier for staff to commit the time when there is no travelling involved. The Training Coordinator has provided training for professionals from Northumberland County Council, Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust, Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Trust and GP practices across the county. Northumberland CCG continue to fund ongoing work with GP practices around identifying and support carers in primary care, it was hoped that this work would be further enhanced by utilising GP surgeries to hold information sessions to encourage carers to register and ask questions, but this has not been possible this year. Indeed, the Training Coordinator has seen a reduction in engagement with carer awareness training and practice reviews due to the changing priorities for GP practices as the pandemic continues. Carers Northumberland are supporting GP's with the roll out of the vaccination programme by encouraging carers to register their carer status for priority group 6.

Carer workshops have also moved online, and different topics have been offered throughout the year, including, stress busting, contingency planning and carers rights. There has been less engagement online, despite support being available to assist with access to technology and support to use it. Carers who have engaged have valued the sessions, but many carers have indicated that they prefer face-to-face delivery as it's difficult to speak freely in the presence of the person they care for and some carers take the training as an opportunity for a break. Carers Northumberland were able to purchase the Digital Resource for Carers (DRC) online learning platform from Carers UK for 12 months using funding from the Triangle Trust. The DRC offers carers online learning opportunities and lots of other information and can be accessed via the Carers Northumberland website.

Young Carers

Carers Northumberland were successful in winning a contract from the local authority to provide young carer support. The project started on 1 August 2020 and a Young Carer Support Worker has been employed, initially for 12 months to support young carers who are referred into the service via the local authority. The project will work closely with the Youth Service to support professionals to identify young carers and access support for them. The long-term plan is to work closely with schools and youth providers to ensure that young carers are identified as early as possible and work with the young carer and their family to support them. The project also works with Active Northumberland who are providing young carers with leisure passes to their leisure centres to access facilities. Some of the work it was hoped to the project would deliver has been affected by the pandemic, but it is hoped that the funding will be extended so this can happen as soon as restrictions are relaxed. The project currently has 103 young carers registered with around 10 young carers receiving regular one-to-one support from the Young Carer Support

Worker. The Young Carer Support Worker has also set up a Young Carers Steering Group which will meet every two months to discuss plans for supporting young carers across the county and includes representatives from education, young people's mental health, youth services and early years and prevention.

Carers into Work Project

The Carers into Work Project which is in partnership with Newcastle Carers and North Tyneside Carers Centre and funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority has been in place for a full year. The initial project was work with the wider North of Tyne project delivery team and local employers to support carers who want to return to work into various different opportunities depending on their individual circumstances. The ongoing issues related to the coronavirus pandemic has meant that engagement in the project across all three local authorities has been low, particularly in Northumberland where there are significantly less opportunities to engage with larger employers, an older population and a large rural geographical area. In response to the changing priorities for carers throughout the pandemic, the North of Tyne Combined Authority, in partnership with the three carers organisations have applied to change some of the parameters of the project. These changes were approved by the North of Tyne Investment Panel on 16 March 2021. The project will still aim to support unpaid carers into employment, education or training but will now also include carers who are aged 16 to 17 years (and all carers 18 years and over) who are:

- Not in work and wish to progress into employment, training or education
- In work and are looking for a change of employment which better meets their employment and caring needs
- In work and wish to maintain their current employment but need support to implement strategies to balance their work and caring responsibilities.

The three Carers into Work Advisors have put together a package of online training via Teams which gives carers the opportunity to take part in a range of workshops including application forms, CV writing, interview techniques and confidence building. There is also a session available to carers to discuss and explore the viability of assistive technology to support them to return to work and be reassured that the person the care for is safe.

Advance Planning Service

In 2019-20 Carers Northumberland received a grant from the Community Foundation to provide four Money Matters sessions for carers. The sessions were designed to support carers to navigate the world of finance and benefits and look at planning for the future by incorporating information on wills, advance planning and Power of Attorney. The sessions were planned for late March and early April and as a result of the coronavirus pandemic were cancelled with a view to rescheduling later in the year. It became clear that the sessions would not be able to go ahead as planned, however, the Community Foundation allowed the funding to be used to support carers who wanted to look into advance planning and in particular Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). The pilot scheme was launch on 26 November 2020 (Carers Rights Day) and offered a full service to carers who want to explore LPA's including what it means, what it entails and support to complete the

process. The pilot was successful, and 20 carers benefited from the project so far. As a result, this service will be offered as part of the core delivery from 1 April 2021.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity remains grateful for the help and support given by government agencies, charitable trusts and other sources. For the year ended 31 March 2021, despite the uncertainties and disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, the Charity reported just a small decrease in overall total income to £289,048 (2020: £292,025).

The charity continued to effectively monitor and control all costs, and as a result costs for the year were reduced to £234,846 (2020: £278,791). The Charity was therefore able to report a surplus for the year of £54,202 (2020: £13,234). Cash balances at 31 March 2021 were £251,680 (2020: £151,549), the increase in the cash balances largely reflecting the surplus generated in the year. The increase in cash balances at 31 March 2021 was also due to the receipt of £48,388 of income at the end of 2020/21 which related to projects to be undertaken in 2021/22. These receipts have been shown in the balance sheet as deferred income, to be released in 2021/22 when the related projects will be undertaken.

Grant Making Policy

The Charity does not make grants but administers the Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumbria Healthcare Trust – Adult Services, and the Young Carer Support Fund on behalf of Northumberland County Council – Children’s Services.

Investment Policy

The charity holds no investments and as such has no investment policy.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to have a reserve of a minimum of 4 months’ operating costs. This figure has been identified following consideration of the main financial risks to the charity. The strategy is to continue to build reserves through economies of scale wherever possible. The Trustees have supported expansion of operations, supported by a sound business case and regular review and in line with our aim to maintain healthy reserves.

Risk Management

As part of the charity’s business plan development, an assessment was undertaken as to the risks the Trust is exposed to. The charity has taken a proactive stance to reduce its overall reliance on external funding and to develop a portfolio of funders to further reduce the impact any one funding stream may incur. A major part of the charity’s partnership working is to keep the charity abreast of any strategic, political or legal changes that could impact upon it.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year; in preparing those financial statements, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining 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. The Trustees 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.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out under Legal and Administrative Information. In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant information of which the company's accountants are unaware; and
- as the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounts information and to establish that the charity's accountants are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in January 2015) and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees on 24th June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



A Arter, Director and Chair of Trustees

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED.**

I report on the accounts of The Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 10 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees, who are also the directors of Carers Northumberland Limited for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011, the 2011 Act, and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination being a Chartered Accountant.

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

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

Basis of Independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met.



Richard Alsept
Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff
CF5 1GG

24th June 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2021	Total y/e 31 March 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Donations	3	3,323	300	3,623	6,690
Charitable activities	3	204,110	80,878	284,988	284,501
<i>Investment income:</i>					
Interest received		437	-	437	834
Total Income		<u>207,870</u>	<u>81,178</u>	<u>289,048</u>	<u>292,025</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	156,740	78,106	234,846	278,791
Total Expenditure		<u>156,740</u>	<u>78,106</u>	<u>234,846</u>	<u>278,791</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)		<u>51,130</u>	<u>3,072</u>	<u>54,202</u>	<u>13,234</u>
Net Movement in Funds		51,130	3,072	54,202	13,234
Reconciliation in funds: Fund balances brought forward		<u>131,228</u>	<u>6,848</u>	<u>138,076</u>	<u>124,842</u>
Fund balances carried forward		<u>182,358</u>	<u>9,920</u>	<u>192,278</u>	<u>138,076</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year / period.
All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing charitable activities.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

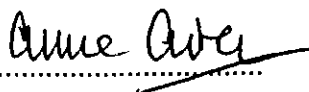
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2021

	Notes	March 2021 £	£	March 2020 £	£
FIXED ASSETS	2		408		1,781
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	228		881	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>251,680</u>		<u>151,549</u>	
		251,908		152,430	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(60,038)		(16,135)	
Net Current Assets			191,870		136,295
NET ASSETS			<u>192,278</u>		<u>138,076</u>
Restricted Funds	10		9,920		6,848
Unrestricted Funds			182,358		131,228
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			<u>192,278</u>		<u>138,076</u>

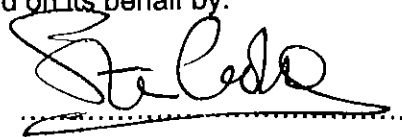
For the financial year ended 31 March 2021, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476(1) requesting an audit. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and which otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2006, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime under the Companies Act 2006 and with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a for Small Entities (effective January 2015).

Approved by the Board on 24th June 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



A Arter, Director



S Cooke, Director

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principle accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

a. Basis of accounting

The company is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The address of the registered office is:

107 & 109 Station Road,
Ashington
Northumberland NE63 8RS

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 24th June 2021.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, Section 1a Small Entities, and the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice, (Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2015), as well as the Charities Act 2011.

b. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received or generated for charitable purposes. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose as defined within their objects.

c. Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income which is received by way of grants, donations and gifts to the charity is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities upon receipt. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Bank interest and other investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable activities are derived from contracts and service agreements and are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

d. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes unrecoverable VAT.

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2021

- Operation and development of the charity includes all costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include accountancy fees.

e. Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All items with a useful life of more than one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office Equipment	-	25% reducing balance
Office Fixtures and Fittings	-	25% reducing balance

f. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

g. Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from funders for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

h. Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

i. Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

j. Pensions

The Project operates a defined contributions pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2021

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Website £	Office Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1 April 2020	6,000	30,011	6,584	42,595
Additions	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2021	<u>6,000</u>	<u>30,011</u>	<u>6,584</u>	<u>42,595</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2020	6,000	28,304	6,510	40,814
Charge for year	-	1,347	26	1,373
As at 31 March 2021	<u>6,000</u>	<u>29,651</u>	<u>6,536</u>	<u>42,187</u>
Net book value				
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>408</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>1,707</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>1,781</u>

CARERS NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2021

3. Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2021	Total y/e 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£
<i>Donations and Fundraising</i>	3,323	300	3,623	7,120
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Care Trust grants	172,300	-	172,300	172,300
Other care grants	17,562	77,878	95,440	107,563
Covid related grant	10,000	-	10,000	-
Other income	4,248	-	4,248	180
Project income	-	3,000	3,000	4,028
	<u>207,433</u>	<u>81,178</u>	<u>288,611</u>	<u>291,191</u>
<i>Interest receivable</i>				
Bank interest receivable	437	-	437	834
	<u>437</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>834</u>
Total	<u>207,870</u>	<u>81,178</u>	<u>289,048</u>	<u>292,025</u>

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total y/e 31 March 2021	Total y/e 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£
<i>Charitable Activities:</i>				
Service Delivery Manager	29,863	-	29,863	-
Key Support Work	-	-	-	41,386
Training Co-ordinator	19,391	-	19,391	23,774
Central Office	53,982	778	54,760	65,324
Carers Support Fund	-	15,410	15,410	18,420
Carers Return to Work	-	35,845	35,845	-
Young Carers Support	-	24,265	24,265	-
Information Service	51,318	-	51,318	84,865
Volunteer Coordination	-	-	-	26,890
Carers Trust Grants	-	1,808	1,808	-
Projects (Other)	-	-	-	7,146
Redundancy costs	-	-	-	7,888
Depreciation	1,373	-	1,373	1,099
	155,927	78,106	234,033	276,792
<i>Governance</i>				
Trustee meetings and training	-	-	-	1,249
Professional fees	813	-	813	750
	813	-	813	1,999
Total	156,740	78,106	234,846	278,791

5. Debtors

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Trade Debtors	228	881
Prepayments	-	-
Total	228	881

6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
PAYE and NIC	4,017	3,836
Creditors & accruals	7,633	9,299
Deferred grants	48,388	3,000
Total	<u>60,038</u>	<u>16,135</u>

Included within creditors and accruals is an amount of £1,338 (2020: £1,858) owed to Northumberland Care Trust. This amount is repayable on demand.

7. Staff costs and numbers

During the financial period the company had a maximum of 8 FTE employees and their remuneration was made up as follows:

	2021 £
Salary and wages	158,409
National insurance costs	13,036
Employer pension costs	5,372
Redundancy costs	-
Total	<u>176,817</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets	408	-	408
Current Assets	241,988	9,920	251,908
Creditors	(60,038)	-	(60,038)
Total	<u>182,358</u>	<u>9,920</u>	<u>192,278</u>

9. Remuneration of management committee

Four trustees received expenses payments of £nil (2020: £545) associated with the cost of attending meetings of the charity in the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

10. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1 April 2020	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended and transfers	Balance 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Carers Week	-	3,000	-	3,000
Carers Trust	-	1,808	1,808	-
Carers into Work	-	39,547	35,845	3,702
Carers Support Fund	6,801	10,000	15,410	1,391
Young Carers Support	47	25,823	24,043	1,827
Carers Emergency Cards	-	1,000	1,000	-
	6,848	81,178	78,106	9,920