

**Hereford & Worcester Community
First Responders**

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements**

For the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Hereford & Worcester Community First Responders
Contents of the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st December 2024

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Hereford & Worcester Community First Responders

Report of the Trustees

Year Ended 31st December 2024

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by the Charities issued in March 2005

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1124035

Principal address

16 Quarry Field
Lugwardine
Hereford
HR1 14BS

Trustees

Mr N Smith Chairman
Mrs S WatkinsSecretary/Treasurer
Mrs C Johnston
Mr C Woods
Mr R Miles
Mrs H Smith

Independent Examiner

Mrs L Shelley
Rose Tree Cottage
Perrystone Hill
Ross-on-Wye
Herefordshire
HR9 7QX

Structure, Governance and Management

Status

The Charity is a charitable trust governed by a trust deed (dated 9th April 2008). The organisation was started in 2006 and was registered with the Charities Commission on May 13th 2008

Trustee recruitment and training

The Trustees for the Charity are members of the Hereford & Worcester First Responders. The original trustees were those who volunteered to become trustees for the charity on its inception.

Advice and guidance was initially given by members of the West Midlands Ambulance Service Trust who have their own charitable trust

All trustees have received the booklet from the Charity commission about becoming a Trustee.

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The First Responders' aim is the relief of sickness and preservation of life and good health to the people of Herefordshire and Worcester by providing trained volunteers to attend medical emergencies as directed by the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust or its successors.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust has the responsibility for training & clinical guidance for the Community First Responders in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

Currently there are over two hundred volunteers trained as First Responders in the two counties.

Public Benefit

The charity delivers a 'Public Benefit' through the provision of volunteers as First Responders who then attend emergencies as directed by West Midlands Ambulance Service. This is particularly relevant in rural areas where ambulance response times may be extended due to remote locations. A Community First Responder generally operates within a radius of 5 miles from his/her nominated base (home or work) this reduces the time for help to arrive on scene. This is vital in such cases as cardiac arrest, stroke and other life threatening events.

Volunteer recruitment and training

The Trust has recruited through the media in local press, which targets those areas most in need, as well as family, friends and work colleagues. Those interested are scrutinised, invited for interview and have to successfully pass a Data Barring Service check (DBS).

Successful applicants then undergo their training period which will lead to a BTEC Level 2 qualification, the Institute of Health Care Development (IHCD) (Intermediate) First Person on Scene Award. Written knowledge and practical assessment have to be attained. This qualification is valid for 3 years. However, to remain operational there is a BLS re-test every six months and CPD(Continued Personal Development) requirement annually and a re-qualification of IHCD every 3rd year. A higher level of qualification is now being offered to any CFR who wishes to progress their level of expertise.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Achievements and Performance

Ambulance Service performance is measured in accordance with Central Government directives, which are movable.

From local Community perspective it is often the First Responder who arrives at a medical emergency before the 999 Emergency Response arrives. A First Responder can assess and stabilise a patient. This can significantly improve a Cardiac patient's prospects in surviving the event. Early response can also provide reassurance for the patient and family, whilst waiting for the Ambulance service.

Long term investments plans

The charity has no long term investment plans. It is intended that all funds should be utilised as required in the short term to maintain the aims of the Charity. The majority of funds are held in an interest bearing account and transfers are made to a current account as the need arises.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Summary and Reserves policy

The Charity has no earned income, all receipts are donations, collections and raffles. Total receipts of funds were £40262 (2023 £33808) of which £37910 (2022 £31604) was restricted income and is detailed in the Financial statements.

£37918 (2023 £2923) was spent to provide additional kit and equipment for individual Responder Schemes within Hereford & Worcester.

The net result for the year was an excess of resources expended of £782 (2022 £5794) excess of incoming resources)

As most donations are made to individual schemes the charity accounts are maintained so that these donations are classed as restricted and can only be used to provide from the local scheme to which the donation has been made.

The activities of the Responders has been very restricted because of WMAS and Government guidelines during the Covid 19 pandemic. The reserves and cash balances of the Charity and

individual schemes has been significantly reduced during this period and continues to do so. The Charity has still had to cover the cost of keeping response vehicles on the road. WMAS have also changed their policy in replacing defib batteries and pads. These are extremely expensive so schemes now have to fund raise to cover the cost of replacement. 2025 will continue to be extremely challenging and the Trustees will need to closely monitor the financial viability of the Charity. Especially as most of the original kit now has net zero worth and with the requirement of WMAS of all schemes with new CF's must have an operational approved liveried vehicle, rather than CFR owner vehicles.

Reserves Policy

The charity currently has no requirement to hold funds in reserve.

Dissolution of the Charity

If at any future time a decision to wind up the charity is taken, any funds remaining after all liabilities have been met will be donated to The British Heart Foundation, who originally provide the start-up funds and equipment for Hereford and Worcester First Responders.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 30th October 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Mr N Smith
Chairman and Trustee

N Smith

Independent Accountant's Report to the Trustees of Hereford & Worcester Community First Responders Year Ended 31st December 2024

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which comprise Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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 required.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- 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
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

Our 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 statements below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

Have not been met; or

(2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Lesley Shelley ACMA

Rose Tree Cottage
Perrystone Hill
Ross on Wye
Herefordshire
HR9 7QX

Hereford & Worcester Community First Responders
Statement of Financial Activities
Year Ended 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	2352	37910	40262	33491
Investment income	3				317
Other incoming resources					
Total incoming resources		2352	37910	40262	33808
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income		1062	37918	38980	27514
Charitable activities					
General					
Governance costs			500	500	500
Total resources expended		1062	38418	39480	28014
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		1290	-508	782	5794
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		4616	74849	78922	73128
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		5904	74341	78588	78922

Hereford & Worcester Community First Responders
Balance Sheet
Year Ended 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
	Notes				
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6			36911	30535
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7				
Cash at bank		1049	41129	42177	48886
				42177	48886
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year		0	0	500	500
NET CURRENT ASSETS				41677	48386
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES				78588	78921
NET ASSETS				78588	78921
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds				6326	5036
Restricted funds				72262	73855
TOTAL FUNDS				78588	78921

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 October 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mr N Smith - Trustee

Mrs S Watkins - Trustee

Hereford & Worcester Community First Responders

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life

Satellite Navigations	-	33% on cost
First aid equipment	-	25% on cost
Motor vehicles	-	25% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements

2. **VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	40,262	33,491
Donated services and facilities		
Total	40,262	33,491

3. **INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	0	317

4. **TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2024 nor for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2024 nor for the year ended 31st December 2023.

5. **DONATED SERVICES**

No charge was made for accountancy and the independent examination in 2014, however in 2015 the appointment changed and a charge of £500 was made, this was the same for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

6. **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Satellite Navigations £	First aid equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Totals £
COST				
At 1st January 2024	13,366.00	218,140.33	44,307.99	275,814.32
Additions				10,370.22
Disposals/Adjustments				-1,000.00
At 31st December 2024	<u>13,366.00</u>	<u>217,140.33</u>	<u>44,307.99</u>	<u>285,184.54</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st January 2024				245,278.98
Charge for the year and adjustments	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>2,995.00</u>
At 31st December 2024	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>248,273.98</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st December 2024	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>36,910.56</u>
At 31st December 2023	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>30,535.34</u>

7. **DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHING ONE YEAR**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	0	0