

LANCASTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SOLUTIONS

England & Wales · Charity number 1127626

Details

Other names	LDCVS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06743623
Registered	2009-01-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Cornerstone Sulyard Street Lancaster LA1 1PX
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Website	www.lancastercvcs.org.uk

Activities

Objects: A) TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT OF LANCASTER (HEREINAFTER CALLED "THE AREA OF BENEFIT") AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, THE PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND THE RELIEF OF POVERTY, DISTRESS AND SICKNESS;B) TO PROMOTE AND ORGANISE CO-OPERATION IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ABOVE PURPOSES AND TO THAT END TO BRING TOGETHER IN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Activities: LDCVS is an infrastructure organisation providing support for the voluntary sector throughout the district of Lancaster in Lancashire

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LANCASTER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
- Cumbria
- Lancashire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£766,038	£882,201	£462,857	11
2024-06-30	£765,875	£742,374	£579,020	11
2023-06-30	£917,529	£879,675	£278,217	8
2022-06-30	£705,148	£606,372	£240,363	6
2021-06-30	£335,743	£402,767	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Nicola Richards		2023-05-17
Anthony Matthew Murray		2023-10-16
Emma Jane Seddon		2023-10-16
Hazel Mary Taylor		2024-12-05
Jess Shaw		2025-02-11
Paul Jebb		2022-07-21
Roda Ogunpehin		2025-07-04

LANCASTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SOLUTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1127626

Accounts

**LANCASTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SOLUTIONS
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**



**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
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Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company No. 06743623
Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Objectives and Activities

Aims and Objectives

Our purpose, aims and activities for the year 2024-25:

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions (LDCVS) is an infrastructure organisation that exists to support and strengthen the sustainability, independence and ability of voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations to deliver services and activities that support individuals and communities in the Lancaster District. Currently we have over 400 local organisations as members of LDCVS and several public sector and corporate bodies that are associate members. We added 68 new members over the year.

Our Objects, which are contained in our governing document (Memorandum and Articles) are:

- To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community with particular reference to the local government district of Lancaster (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") and, in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together in council representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the area of benefit

The aims of our charity, for the public benefit, are to:

- Ensure our members are well supported to deliver the best outcomes and that their expertise is valued and maximised.
- Work with our members to shape local services to best meet local needs.
- Bring organisations together to build relationships, share support and learn from each other.
- Help our members access the resources, funding and support they need.

Our aims fully reflect the purposes (objects) that the charity was set up to further and we review them each year, together with our objectives and activities, to assess the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to our beneficiaries. This review also helps us to ensure our aims, objectives and activities are focused on our stated purposes and how planned activities contribute to the aims and objectives set by the Trustee Board. In considering these, the trustees of LDCVS believe they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The focus of our work:

Our overall mission has been, and remains, to promote, develop and support, through partnership, a dynamic and diverse voluntary and community sector. In setting out our aims and objectives we have also defined the outcomes that will demonstrate whether we met them and whether our activities have brought about benefits to those organisations and individuals we work with.

Public Benefit

As part of our business plan, the board in 2022 agreed four strategic aims for the period to 2025:

- To ensure our members are well supported and resourced
- To connect communities, the VCFSE sector and support agencies
- To champion the VCFSE sector
- To be a sustainable organisation, open to new learning

For each of these aims, we have identified several indicators, which will help us understand how well that aim has been achieved. The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Achievements and Performance

Welcome – Professor Paul Jebb, Chair of Trustees

It is my pleasure to present the Lancaster District CVS Annual Report for 2024–2025.

Across our district, more than 450 voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations are not only delivering vital services but also holding communities together through turbulent times. Their work provides support, connection, and hope in the face of ongoing challenges, from tight funding and financial pressures, to increasing demand for services.

Yet, this moment also presents real opportunities. Opportunities to innovate, to collaborate more deeply, and to transform the way our sector works together. We know that charities are continually asked to do more with less, in an environment where grants and contracts rarely cover the true costs of delivery. The question is not simply how we thrive, but how we create the conditions for long-term sustainability and meaningful impact.

Now, more than ever, we need to help our members build the resilience they need to thrive. At Lancaster District CVS we remain committed to walking alongside our members on this journey. This means creating the conditions for supporting innovation, strengthening collaboration and enabling long-term impact. We will continue to be a stable and consistent partner in that journey, offering practical tools, advocacy, and a platform for the sector's collective voice so you as our members have the support and space to lead change.

Our Annual Report documents our work, our journey over the last year with acknowledgement to the people who have shaped and informed how we work collaboratively to support the voluntary, community, faith, social enterprise sector and our local communities.

I am grateful to our funders, supporters and partners who have shown their continued confidence in us. Furthermore, I am entirely grateful to our Board of Trustees for their energy and eye for detail and our staff and volunteers who have continued to show courage and tenacity over the last year. Above all, we celebrate our colleagues across the sector - the people who lead and work tirelessly supporting our residents living in our district today and for the future.

Together, we are creating a stronger, more connected voluntary sector - one that is ready to meet challenges head on and seize the opportunities ahead.

Foreword – Yak Patel, Chief Executive Officer

As I reflect on the past year, what stands out most vividly are the moments spent visiting our local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) groups across Lancaster District. Walking into community centres, attending local projects, sitting in on community meetings, and speaking with our members and residents has been invaluable. These interactions bring to life the stories behind the numbers, deepening my understanding of the extraordinary impact our local organisations make every day - from supporting vulnerable families, to creating safe spaces for young people, to championing health and wellbeing initiatives that touch every part of community life.

2024 marked my 12th year at Lancaster District CVS and 30 years working in the VCFSE sector. Meeting our members across the district and listening to their work is not just a responsibility, it's a firm part of my DNA and keeps me inspired as CEO of Lancaster District CVS.

It is clear that such impact does not happen in isolation. Behind each successful project lies a web of connections, partnerships, and resources - the local infrastructure that enables organisations to thrive. As highlighted by national research from DCMS and NAVCA, local infrastructure such as ours play a critical role: strengthening governance, building capacity, unlocking funding, shaping local policy decisions, and connecting groups that might otherwise not get the chance. Put simply, strong infrastructure ensures that frontline groups can focus on delivering change, while also having a voice in shaping the systems and processes that affect them.

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Main Achievements – continued



LDCVS Chief Officer Yak Patel with Robyn Thomas, CEO and Founder of Stanleys Community Centre, at the reopening of Stanleys in May 2025

Over the last year, Lancaster District CVS has continued to invest in this foundation. From practical training and governance support, to convening partnerships and amplifying resident voices, our work has sought to strengthen the conditions that allow the sector to flourish. We know that the challenges facing our district whether that be health inequalities, housing, community cohesion, the cost of living crisis - all are complex and cannot be tackled by any one organisation alone. But by working together, supported by a resilient infrastructure, our VCFSE sector is demonstrating daily that real, lasting change is possible.

As you read this report, I hope you will see the breadth of what has been achieved, and also the depth of connection that underpins it. The future we want for our communities will only be realised if we continue to invest in both the people and the structures that enable collaboration, innovation, and leadership.

Charitable Activities

Report

Celebrating the District's Voluntary Sector – FestiVOL 2024

Over 75 representatives from dozens of community organisations met up at the Lune Valley Methodist Hub in Brookhouse on 21 November for FestiVOL, the annual celebration of our district's voluntary sector.



Kyle McKenzie of Escape2Make, one of the guest speakers at FestiVOL 2024

Opening the event, we heard inspiring accounts of community support, innovation and progress from guest speakers including Abi Mills (The Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Lancaster), Vanessa Toulmin of Morecambe Winter Gardens, Sharon Jackson of Neuro Drop-in, and Kyle McKenzie of Escape2Make.

Delegates then took part in workshops taking a closer look at three areas where the involvement of community organisations has been changing and deepening across the district:

- Community Centres & Community Assets
- Regenerative Economy
- Have A Go & Get Involved (finding out how honest discussion, games and art can support mental health)

These workshops provided an opportunity for delegates to challenge preconceptions, share experiences and ambitions, and discover new ways to work together to support our communities.

This process helps Lancaster District CVS understand how the organisations we support want to move forward in relation to achieving their aims, and in turn contributes to our plans for the future and how we talk to stakeholders about our sector's aspirations.

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**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Charitable Activities - continued

Organisational Development and Capacity Building

This service provides support to local people looking to establish new projects and groups and also helps existing organisations to improve their effectiveness. Groups can access support with a wide range of issues including charity or social/community enterprise start-up, governance and leadership, achieving quality standards, social impact, project development, applying for funding, policy development, and training.

- We provided development advice information to 78 individuals and organisations, and 93 substantial bespoke information and guidance sessions to organisations requiring additional support and research. Groups who received this support provide community services in areas of work including health and wellbeing, children, young people and families, environment, community safety, vulnerable people, arts and culture.
- We advised 12 new start-ups, helping with business planning, funding and investment.
- We delivered 8 open workshops to 152 delegates.

One organisation we supported, the Bay International Film Festival, told us more about what it meant for their work:

"We wanted to personally thank you for your and CVS Team's support of our second film festival edition. It's no exaggeration to say that the festival's success was only possible because of wonderful people like you who collaboratively helped us to make it happen. We're truly grateful for your support".

To support community groups in learning from each other, LDCVS introduced a new support network specifically for the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSFE) in 2023 called the Swop Shop Skill Share Network. The purpose is to create a networking space where attendees can swap their own organisation's ideas, skills and resources and take the opportunity to talk about what has worked well for them on themed topics. And of course, benefitting from hearing from other organisations and taking on board their best practice and solutions. This year we delivered 2 Swop Shops:

- Suicide Awareness and prevention - a sold-out event with 45 participants from across 30 organisations, the event focused on tools resources and knowledge to help people and organisations to support the most vulnerable people accessing services
- Heart of the Community – identifying, managing and realising the potential of community assets. 11 organisations attended from community centres, villages halls and institutes across the district. The session, provided an opportunity to share community project ideas and consider shared solutions for running buildings, including financial, legal and maintenance.

Funding Advice and Information

Our funding advice and information function helps sector organisations to access funding opportunities from sources including charitable trusts and commissioners that enables them to become more sustainable by improving their financial security and capacity.

Our Development Officer advises on local, regional and national opportunities and guides our members through one-to-one advice sessions. Other support also includes developing proposals to bid status, compiling evidence and data, and advice on managing and monitoring once the grants is awarded.

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Charitable Activities - continued

The annual LDCVS funding fair connected 108 attendees with representatives of local, regional and national funders including:

- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Arts Council England
- Lancashire Environmental Fund
- Key Fund
- The Duchy of Lancaster
- The Francis Scott Charitable Trust
- Ørsted Walney Extension Community Fund
- Banks Lyon Memorial Trust
- Spacehive Crowd Fund Lancashire
- Lancaster City Council
- LDCVS Bay Foundation
- Lancashire County Council 4 Communities
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund
- easyfundraising
- Westminster Foundation
- The Penhale Fund
- The Community Foundation for Lancashire
- 3R Charity



Member organisations met with a range of local, regional and national funders

Lancashire Youth Challenge attended the Fair and told us more about their experience:

"I found the event well managed and beneficial to our charity, as the funding parties we met with, are eager to offer support and welcome applications. Events like these are of paramount importance to charities like ours, as we rarely get chance to have in person meetings with funders, and that direct connection and communication makes a huge difference."

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Charitable Activities - continued

Community Learning Network

Working in partnership with Lancaster City Council, our sector is benefitting from United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund funding which has provided resources to coordinate a training programme for voluntary organisations across the district.

Our Community Learning Network Officer works closely with our members to determine their training needs and create or source appropriate workshops held in person or online.

ldcvs training

Disability Inclusion

FREE, INTERACTIVE & INFORMATIVE WORKSHOP

Tue 21 January 2025 10am - 12pm
Christchurch, Lancaster, LA1 3EA

Session will be delivered by:
Ollie Flitcroft
Wheelchair user and experienced 3rd sector fundraiser

This session will deal with:

- ✓ Explore different impairments and daily challenges faced by disabled people.
- ✓ Discuss the impact of language on disability, both positive and negative.
- ✓ Hear Ollie Flitcroft's personal experiences and challenges as a disabled person.
- ✓ Engage in interactive discussions on disability equality and inclusion.

Book your place today!

For more information visit:
lancastercvs.org.uk/training

UKSPF support has enabled LDCVS to offer a comprehensive training programme, responsive to the needs of our membership

During our 2024/5 year, over 240 delegates from 61 organisations attended workshops covering issues such as:

- Mental health first aid
- Multiple Sclerosis awareness
- Visual impairment awareness
- Project management
- Working with volunteers with disabilities
- LGBT+ awareness
- Understanding GDPR
- Coaching and mentoring
- First aid
- Finance

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Charitable Activities - continued

- Communicating impact
- Stress management
- Disability inclusion
- Writing funding applications
- Volunteer management
- Social media
- Suicide prevention
- Public speaking

The Bay Foundation

The Bay Foundation is our overall brand for the work we carry out relating to organising and promoting grant programmes for the benefit of communities across the district. We co-design and administer these programmes on behalf of philanthropic organisations, businesses and the public sector, helping funding to get to the places and projects that make a real difference to people's lives.



Participants in the 2024 Round of Pots of Possibility 'Your Pots', held at The Storey Institute

During the year, we:

- Continued to develop granting processes conducted using participative budgeting. The Your Pots strand of the Pots of Possibility programme grants money originating with the National Lottery Community Fund for projects supporting community-led action and local initiatives to stimulate a zero-waste, circular and regenerative local economy. Applicants for grants of up to £10,000 from a pot of £50,000 gathered at The Storey in late November to present their ideas to the community who were then invited to vote for which projects they thought ought to receive the funds. We're proud to deliver this project in partnership with LESS (Lancaster) CIC and Shared Future CIC.
- Held a further round of the Community Pots strand of the Pots of Possibility programme, distributing £20,000 across seven projects.
- Distributed over £7,000 in grants of up to £500 from the Eric Wright Community Trust programme, targeted at our smallest community organisations.
- Worked with Lancaster City Council for a further year of the Lancaster Community Fund, distributing over £25,000 for projects which meet the Council's priorities around building community wealth and resilience, contributing to a more sustainable district, and creating individual and community well-being
- Joined forces with West End Morecambe Big Local to launch Minds within the Bay, a youth-led grant fund supporting ideas, projects and organisations that make a positive difference to young people's mental health in the West End of Morecambe. £20,000 was distributed among seven organisations for projects designed by young people and chosen for funding by a panel of their peers.
- Collaborated with our local authorities, Smokefree Lancashire, and the district's ICC leads to plan a grant programme worth more than £125,000 focused on increasing referrals to stop smoking pathways and providing diversionary activities within communities.

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Charitable Activities - continued

Financial Services

Through our experienced Finance Officer, we provide a range of services for the sector including payroll management, pensions advice, payment of grants and independent examinations of accounts. During 2024-25, we provided independent examinations to 17 organisations, and payroll services for 52 employees across 12 clients.

Lancaster District Volunteer Centre

The Lancaster District Volunteer centre supports volunteers, and the organisations that recruit volunteers, by providing a brokerage service that matches local people to organisations with volunteering opportunities.



The LDCVS stand at Lancaster University's Sustainable Futures Volunteering Fair, March 2025

The centre also provides bespoke support to organisations deploying volunteers, including good practice guides, advice on policies and procedures and training and support with developing new initiatives involving volunteers. Our Volunteer Centre remained the key local volunteering development organisation in the district. We supported a wide range of people including those recovering from issues such as mental health problems, alcohol and drug addiction, criminal justice and being long term unemployed.

Whilst we recognise that volunteering can bring enormous benefit to individuals and organisations, it also requires a great deal of partnership working to ensure people are supported into volunteering. A large percentage of people seeking opportunities had come from difficult backgrounds and were looking to rebuild their lives through volunteering. These were the very reasons for co-designing programmes that helped build resilience amongst families, individuals and communities – thus building social action and developing local leadership.

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**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Charitable Activities – continued

Creating pathways into volunteering for young people through to older people and those with disabilities amongst other community groups remained a focus for our team. Promoting volunteering in communities affected by unemployment as a means of building work skills, confidence and addressing community need also remained an important component of our work. Regular 'drop in' sessions were held in job centres, town centres, festivals, community events, community centres and in places and times that were more accessible for local people.

- Our online volunteer centre website advertised 51 opportunities at volunteering.lancastercvs.org.uk
- 23 new organisations registered to offer opportunities online
- 111 potential volunteers registered to find opportunities online
- 37 organisations were advised about working with volunteers.
- One to one advice was offered to 90 potential volunteers.
- We helped to administer over 60 DBS checks, providing help with advice and guidance, eligibility checks, form filling and ID requirements.

The quality of the service we offer speaks for itself and it is a matter of great pride for us all to be able to respond to unmet needs. Without the contribution of our own volunteers, we wouldn't be able to support the people and organisations we come into contact with. We would like to emphasise the significant contribution our volunteers make, and we hope that this continues to be recognised by our members and partners.

Volunteer Awards



Celebrations at the 2025 Lancaster District Volunteer Achievement Awards

The biennial Lancaster District Volunteer Awards took place at the Strathmore Hotel in Morecambe on Friday 6 June. 150 guests enjoyed a celebration of the tireless work of volunteers across the district. Hosted by LDCVS Chair Professor Paul Jebb and trustee Ali Richards alongside the Right Worshipful Mayor of Lancaster Margaret Pattison, the event also celebrated 20 years since the district's first Volunteer Awards in 2005.

Congratulation to all nine category winners and thank you to event and category sponsors Lancaster University, Lancaster & Morecambe College, The Cumberland Building Society, HSE Advice UK, Specialist Care Team, Lancashire County Council (Local Member Grants from Erica Lewis and Charlie Edwards), and Lancaster City Council.

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Charitable Activities - continued

Lancaster District Young People's Foundation

Growing from the successful Lancaster District Youth Partnership initiative, Lancaster District Young People's Foundation (LDYPF) was accepted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation by the Charity Commission in July 2024.



A young people's consultation event

During the year, Lancaster District CVS continued to support the new Foundation with the time and expertise of our Young People Foundation Officer.

Funds were secured from Lancaster City Council to enable consultation sessions with young people. We held two evening sessions in community venues with an aim of consulting with young people about their aspirations for their communities and recruiting young people for our Young People's Advisory Board. The events were attended by 40 young people.

A diverse group of engaged young people were recruited to form the LDYPF Young People's Advisory Board. We are currently meeting with young people every month and their ideas shape our decision making. Meetings are regularly attended by 10 -12 young people.

We also put young people at the heart of decision making through our Minds Within The Bay programme. This involved recruiting and training a group of dynamic young people, making them responsible for developing and overseeing a grant giving programme. The panel awarded £20,000 to projects which support young people in the West End of Morecambe with their mental health. The young leaders were meticulous in their decision making and we are excited to see the impact that the funded projects will make.

Banks Lyon Step Up Fund

14 young people have benefited from the fund from June 2024 to June 2025. The fund supports young people living in the Lancaster District, aged between 16 and 24 facing social and/or financial barriers to accessing education, training or employment. It can be spent on anything which will help the young person progress on the route to employment.

AB was referred by Morecambe Foyer. AB is 18 years old and has lived experience with street-based homelessness. When AB came to stay at Morecambe Foyer, he came with 'just the clothes on his back'. AB was provided with an opportunity to interview for a role as a carer which led to him securing employment.

The StepUp Fund enabled AB to purchase much needed clothing and toiletries to support him with being presentable and confident in his new role. Morecambe Foyer provided us with the following feedback:

"Watching those young people be supported by the Step Up fund brought joy to my heart, knowing that you gave the young person a leg up for their employment prospects."

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Charitable Activities - continued

Children & Young People Multi-Agency Forum (CYPMAF)

We continued to host five CYPMAF meetings per year. The meetings provide a space for partners working in the young people's sector to come together to undertake training, to share good practice and to network. Meetings were regularly attended by around thirty colleagues.

Training has included:

- An overview of PREVENT Training
- A local picture of NEET young people by the Youth Futures Team
- Morecambe Bay Partnership - programmes for young people
- An overview of Lancaster and Morecambe King's Trust Programme
- The importance of Nature Connectedness by Natural England.

We continued to support colleagues working in the young people's sector by collating and distributing fortnightly newsletters to share updates about local young people's provision and funding and training opportunities. The information shares have also included regional and national updates. The network consists of over 280 members.

The Lancaster District Directory & Social Prescribing

The Lancaster District Directory, online at directory.lancastercvs.org.uk, helps our local population find and get in touch with essential services provided by community groups, the NHS and our local authorities.

Launched in January 2023, the directory grew over our 2024/5 year, adding 149 new services and activities.

Through 2024 and the early months of 2025 we collaborated with the Lancaster Integrated Care Community Development Lead and a core group of other health professionals and voluntary sector organisations to support Help is Close, a campaign focused on suicide prevention in our district. The campaign's assets across the project encouraged residents to visit the Directory to find out about local services that can help them to overcome the issues they face. LDCVS contributed to the campaign by commissioning a range of targeted adverts on social media with a total reach of over 450,000 accounts.

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Charitable Activities - continued



Paid social media advertising drove visits to the Lancaster District Directory as part of the Help is Close Campaign

The effectiveness of the campaign can be seen in visitor numbers to a special landing page created on the directory, which was visited by nearly 7,000 users between 1 January 2025 and 30 April 2025. In addition, average monthly visitors to the Directory home page over the period were up by 286% compared to the same time in 2024.

During 2024/5 we received 142 social prescribing referrals from the district's PCNs, LSCFT and other sources, with the majority focusing on the need for community support around mental health, loneliness and isolation, physical health conditions, financial difficulties, and bereavement. Using the knowledge built up through building the Lancaster District Directory, Jenny Reddell, our Community Health Officer, can signpost suitable services and activities to these patients, helping them access local support.

We extended our social prescribing reach by partnering with Lancaster City Council and two key voluntary sector organisations to plan and deliver integration activities with adult social services as part of Lancashire County Council's Adult Social Services Transformation. A referral route from the County Council's Customer Access Service and selected Adult Social Care teams was opened in April 2025, backed up by additional support provided by Citizens Advice North Lancashire and Positive Futures Wellbeing CIO through direct grants from LDCVS.

This project will continue into our 2025/6 year with a focus on reducing calls to the County's teams through a small grants programme and a communications campaign focused on the wards generating the highest volume of calls. These correlate with wards which are less well provided with voluntary sector support and we believe that light-touch social prescribing can have a significant impact on resident wellbeing in those areas.

Health Coaching

In early 2025 we began to collaborate with Lancaster City Council to deliver health and wellbeing coaching through the WorkWell programme, funded by the UK Government through Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

The programme is being piloted across several vanguard districts across England, and is a free and voluntary service available to anyone who is struggling to find or stay in work because of mental or physical health conditions. It provides access to a health coach who can help the participant plan realistic and reasonable steps to improve their situation, alongside referral to additional community-based support.

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Charitable Activities - continued

To deliver the programme, LDCVS has recruited a further three part-time Health & Wellbeing Coaches, strengthening our existing provision by 1.5 full time equivalent, who began to meet participants in the spring of 2025.

Community Action Networks

Ryelands Estate

The Community Action Network on the Ryelands Estate have continued to work side by side with local residents, local authorities, schools, the NHS, police, and local charities to create lasting change.

Since its inception in 2018, the Ryelands Residents Group has become far more than a residents' group - it has grown into a movement for community-led change. What makes Ryelands so special is the commitment of its residents: their determination to navigate challenges, look out for one another and find solutions together. It has been a real pleasure and privilege to grow alongside them, to support their ambitions, and at times, to simply be a shoulder to lean on.

While we could go on to write so much about their achievements, we created the following video to bring together voices from across the community - residents, partners, and those who have worked tirelessly to make Ryeland's a better place for everyone. It powerfully portrays the spirit of community unity in action. From improving play areas for children to realising the long-held dream of a new community centre, this story is about empowerment, shared purpose and the belief that every resident deserves the opportunity to thrive.

We invite you to watch the video and hear directly from the people of Ryelands about how they are shaping a brighter, fairer future for their community: <https://youtu.be/vDUqhK5Tsg>

As part of our involvement in the Ryelands Estate Community Action Network, we supported local engagement through the creation and promotion of dedicated publicity materials. The Ryelands video proved to be a powerful tool for raising awareness and showcasing community action, achieving 10,556 views and generating 258 reactions through comments, shares and saves.

This level of reach and interaction highlights both the strong interest in local initiatives and the value of using digital storytelling to amplify the voices and efforts of communities.

West End Morecambe

During 2025 we began the work of developing a Community Action Network in the West End of Morecambe, with the support of a grant from West End Morecambe Big Local. Residents, community organisations, local authorities and public sector organisations were invited to a two-day event at The Alhambra in June, where everybody had space to share their thoughts and feelings about the neighbourhood.



The beginnings of the West End Morecambe Community Action Network project

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**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Charitable Activities - continued

Our first day focused on the moments, memories and experiences that made people care deeply about the West End, sharing opinions about what gives the areas its heart and soul, and thinking about what the community dreams about for the future. During the second day, we talked about designing initiatives that could help the neighbourhood move towards those dreams by designing activities that could be feasible, impactful and sustainable.

Partnership Working

Creating strategic relationships and partnerships

Lancaster District CVS remained committed to ensuring that the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector is visible, valued, and influential in shaping the future of our district. In a period marked by financial pressures, rising demand, and increasing complexity of community needs, our role as a strategic partner had never been more vital.

Over 2024–2025, we continued to strengthen collaboration across the system by working closely with local government, health partners, and community networks to ensure the VCFSE sector is recognised as an equal partner in local decision-making. This year has been about connection, resilience, and innovation: ensuring that partnership working translates into tangible outcomes for the sector and our communities.

We remained an active partner within the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and the Integrated Care system, helping ensure that local voices, community intelligence, and the lived experience of residents inform both local and regional priorities. Our Chief Executive continued to represent the Lancaster District VCFSE Leadership Forum, ensuring the sector's collective "ask and offer" is heard and embedded in policy and planning discussions.

Lancashire and South Cumbria Place Partnership Board.

We continue to play a key role within the ICP, collaborating across health, local authorities, and the voluntary sector to improve population health and wellbeing. Our Chief Executive represented the county's VCFSE Alliance, ensuring the community sector's insights shape place-based health priorities and decision-making.

Voluntary Sector Northwest

Our ongoing commitment to ensuring Lancaster District's voice is represented at a regional level was achieved by attending Voluntary Sector Northwest meetings. These provided opportunities to meet with leaders from across the region to discuss shared challenges, influence policy, and strengthen the collective impact of the VCFSE sector.

Lancaster District Strategic Partnership

The creation of the Lancaster District Strategic Partnership was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the 19th of August 2024.

Through the partnership, the nine founding member organisations will work together to improve the Lancaster District aligned to agreed strategic priorities – sustainability and the climate emergency, the economy, health and wellbeing and communities.



Signing the Lancaster District Strategic Partnership

The partnership aims to deliver mutually beneficial local and regional projects by identifying and developing new opportunities for collaborative working between sectors. It also aims to maximise how organisations use their combined resources effectively to improve the Lancaster District.

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**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Charitable Activities - continued

Lancaster District CVS is one of the founding members and we attend regular LDSP meetings to contribute to the steering of the partnership and ensure that the interests of the local sector are represented within projects across the district.

Lancaster District Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board

This year marked the conclusion of our Chief Officers tenure as Chair of the Lancaster District Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board. Serving in this role has been one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of his career - an opportunity that truly deepened our appreciation for partnership working at its best.

Over the past three years, the Board has been united by a shared mission: to improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working across Lancaster District. Together, we have developed and delivered a wide range of initiatives addressing key local priorities - from mental health and children's wellbeing to poverty reduction and community resilience.

We are particularly proud of the collaborative projects that have made a lasting impact:

- Children and Young People – strengthening early intervention, suicide prevention, and youth-led safe spaces to tackle isolation, improve mental health, and support families.
- Uniting Around Mental Health – launching the Help is Close campaign and Adult Social Care programme, connecting thousands of residents to the support they need.
- Community Conversations – engaging residents directly to address issues such as poverty, food insecurity, education, smoking cessation, and housing.

With the introduction of the NHS 10-Year Plan and wider system reforms, it felt timely to hand over the role to new leadership and fresh perspectives. We remain committed to supporting the Board's continued success and the collective effort to build a healthier, fairer district.

Lancashire and South Cumbria VCFSE Alliance

Over the past year, we continued to play an active role in the Lancashire and South Cumbria Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Alliance, a key regional partnership that strengthens the voice and influence of the sector within the Integrated Care System.

Our involvement ensured that the experiences, challenges, and contributions of local organisations are represented in regional planning and decision-making. Through regular meetings, working groups, and shared learning sessions, we have contributed to shaping collective priorities around health inequalities, prevention, and community wellbeing.

A key focus this year has been the VCFSE UEC (Urgent and Emergency Care) Fund, which supported voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver services that reduce pressure on urgent and emergency care systems. We worked closely with partners to identify opportunities for local organisations to access funding, strengthen capacity, and deliver community-led solutions that improve access to care, promote prevention, and support people before they reach crisis points.

Through our participation, we have strengthened links between local and regional structures, ensured district-level insights inform wider system design, and supported the development of the Alliance's VCFSE Strategy and Action Plan, embedding the sector as an equal partner in health and care delivery.

Lancaster District Food Justice Partnership

In 2024–2025, we continued our strong commitment to tackling poverty and inequality through active participation in the Lancaster District Food Justice Partnership. This collaboration remained central to supporting residents most affected by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Over the year, our collective efforts have strengthened the district's response to food insecurity, from coordinating emergency food provision to influencing anti-poverty policies. We also continued to prioritise community empowerment through education, participation, and advocacy on issues of food justice. By working together with Lancaster City council and local food projects in the community, we have helped to deliver vital support to those in need but also continued to support community groups to strengthen their charitable foundations.

Morecambe Eden Project – Communities and Place Team

During the year, we continued our active engagement with the Morecambe Eden Project, particularly through the Communities and Place Team, supporting efforts to enhance local engagement across the district.

Key areas of development include supporting programmes that address social inclusion, reduce isolation, and provide opportunities for skill-building and community participation. This included coordinating with local groups to deliver inclusive events, workshops, and activities that promote a sense of ownership and pride.

Through collaboration with the Communities and Place Team, we helped to ensure that the Eden Project's vision of a thriving, sustainable Morecambe is underpinned by meaningful community engagement, equitable access to opportunities, and projects that deliver lasting impact for residents.

...CONTINUED

**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Charitable Activities - continued

Big Local – West End Morecambe

Heading into the last 18 months of a 10-year Big Local programme, the West End Morecambe Partnership has continued to make significant strides in securing a lasting legacy for the community. Big Local, established by Local Trust in 2012, is a National Lottery Community Fund initiative providing over £1 million to each of 150 communities across England. Lancaster District CVS has acted as the Locally Trusted Organisation for WEM for much of this period, supporting the partnership and administering funds on their behalf.

A major milestone this year was the successful purchase of Stanleys Community Centre, a hub that has served the West End for over 15 years. Previously operating under costly rental arrangements and requiring significant upkeep, the Centre is now secured as a permanent community asset. Lancaster District CVS worked alongside WEM during the purchase, acting as the guardian of the property while planning its transition to full community ownership, ensuring that it remains owned by the community, for the community.

Information & Communication

Throughout the year we continued to focus on growing our audience across our communication channels and diversify our methods of communication. Social media audiences grew by 7%

Between July 2024 and June 2025, our social media presence continued to grow, strengthening both reach and engagement across platforms. On Facebook, our audience grew by nearly 22% to 1,741 followers, while interactions more than doubled to 9,367 – reflecting greater connection and participation from our community.

Video content was a key driver of this success, with views increasing dramatically, including a 455% rise in three-second plays and a 306% rise in one-minute views. Alongside this, our YouTube channel generated 17,000+ impressions, 1,600+ views, and over 83 hours of watch time, further extending the reach of our messages and resources.

These results demonstrate the growing impact of our communications activity, with more people engaging with our content and the stories we share.

We published 48 editions of our weekly Bulletin to more than 900 subscribers, a very popular service among our members and stakeholders. The Bulletin connects groups to essential funding information and services. Information covered in these bulletins included local events and sector news, training and networking, health and wellbeing, job vacancies, funding information, policy updates, consultations and campaigning and news from local voluntary and community groups.

Looking Ahead

As we look towards 2025 - 26, Lancaster District CVS remains committed to championing and strengthening the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector. The year ahead will mark a pivotal point for us - a time to build on the progress we've made, renew our strategy with our members and partners, and continue shaping a future where communities are connected, resilient and able to thrive.

We will embark on the development of a new five-year strategic plan, co-designed with the people and organisations we work with. Through our conversations, harnessing on what we have heard and shared reflection, we will ensure the plan reflects the priorities and ambitions of our members, and communities. Our goal is to create a strategy that strengthens local collaboration, builds sustainable infrastructure for the sector, and ensures the voice of community organisations continues to shape decisions that affect people's lives.

The next year will also see us continue to invest in leadership development and capacity building within the sector. We know that strong, confident leaders and well-supported organisations are essential to driving change. Through our networks, training, and support, we will help our members navigate challenges, share learning, and develop new approaches to complex social issues such as poverty, health inequalities and social isolation.

Through our Community Action Network model, we will expand our place-based work, supporting residents and partners to codesign practical, locally led solutions that create lasting impact. We are particularly focused on deepening this work in areas where inequalities are greatest, ensuring that community voices lead the way in shaping neighbourhood renewal and wellbeing.

Volunteering will remain a cornerstone of our work. We will continue to connect people with meaningful opportunities that not only support local organisations but also enhance wellbeing and social inclusion. We will explore the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA), a UK-wide quality mark awarded to organisations that consistently deliver the core functions of a Volunteer Centre.

We anticipate our health and wellbeing programs to grow. Working closely with partners across the health and social care system, we will support our members and residents to address physical and mental health by helping them to manage health inequalities. This includes social prescribing, health coaching and creating spaces for community-led health activities.

We are committed to growing our Bay Foundation as a trusted conduit for investing funding into the sector. By building strong partnerships with local businesses, philanthropic donors and anchor institutions, we aim to increase the resources available to the sector, ensuring that small grassroots groups have the support they need to deliver their work. support

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**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

We will also build on our role as a strategic connector within the Lancashire and South Cumbria system, amplifying the role of the sector in health and wellbeing, poverty reduction, climate action, and community resilience. Our ongoing collaboration with the Integrated Care Partnership, local authorities, universities, and regional partners will help ensure that local expertise and lived experience remain central to system-level decisions.

Finally, we recognise that the coming years will bring both opportunities and challenges. Funding remains uncertain, demand continues to rise and the landscape of public services is changing with the introduction of the NHS 10 year plan, combined authorities and local government reform. Yet, we remain optimistic and determined. Our strength lies in the collective power of our members, partners, and communities - people who show every day that communities have the ideas, compassion and commitment to create a better district.

Financial Review

Financial Position

The total expenditure for the year was £882,201 (2024: £742,374) and income was £766,038 (2024: £765,875) giving a net operating deficit of £116,163 (2024: surplus of £23,501) leaving funds carried forward to 2025-26 of £462,857 (2024-25: £579,020). Free reserves are £156,179 (2024: £217,292). Restricted reserves are £306,678 (2024: £361,728).

Our main source of funding for our core costs was the National Lottery (Community Fund). We also received funding from Lancaster City Council along with project funding from various sources to reach a total income from grants and contracts of £687,127 (2024: £710,659). Our income from services provided to other organisations was £67,856 (2024: £44,065).

The Trustees are aware that all funding streams remain under threat of reduction or withdrawal and they continue to diligently monitor the budget and work to establish new sources of funding.

Principal financial management policies adopted in the year:

A budget for the year was established and agreed prior to the beginning of the financial year and it was monitored monthly and amended as necessary over the period.

Management accounts were prepared and presented regularly to the board of Trustees for their monitoring and analysis of income and expenditures against the budget.

Policies regarding spending authorities, operation of petty cash systems and payment of expenses are held by the Charity and are reviewed at intervals.

Reserves policy:

The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold financial reserves in order that it might meet anticipated future costs contingent liabilities and that it can continue to operate and meet the needs of users in the present uncertain funding environment. Trustees have determined that unrestricted funds equivalent to at least three months operating expenditure plus redundancy costs should be maintained at all times, equivalent to £118,000 in 2024/25 (2025/26 £118,000). Trustees routinely review the amount that should be held in reserve to meet contractual commitments and running costs in the event of significant reductions or withdrawals of funding which may have a damaging effect on continued operations.

Principal Funding Sources

The main sources of grant funding were the National Lottery (Community Fund) and Lancaster City Council, both core cost grants. We also generated income via the Bay Foundation (see above) in respect of grant administration on behalf of funders.

Investment Policy and Objectives

Funds which are not required immediately are held in easily accessed interest bearing accounts. This was deemed most appropriate since grant and income streams are occasionally subject to delays.

Risk Management

The trustees review the risks at regular intervals and set up procedures to mitigate those risks.

The three main risks previously identified are the loss of major funding, insufficient trustees; and the loss of one or more key staff.

Additional Note

Subsidiaries: none

Future Developments

Plans for the future:

The Trustees are committed to growth of the organisation both in terms of scale and reach. We will continue to invest in effective infrastructure and our staff to maintain and improve the quality and range of services which we offer in our district.

To ensure that Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions is robust and sustainable we will constantly review the strategic direction of our organisation. Funding is crucial to this and we continue to identify possible opportunities to ensure a diverse funding profile.

However, we note that without the financial support of our current funders we would not be able to deliver this vital service and would like to take this opportunity to thank The National Lottery Community Fund and Lancaster City Council. We would also like to thank every other funder, trust and organisation that has supported us, either financially or in other ways, throughout the year.

**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Nature of the governing document: Memorandum and Articles

How the Charity is constituted: Incorporated

Date of governing document: 7th November 2018 (revised)

Governance:

LDCVS was founded in 1972 as the National Council of Voluntary Services, an unincorporated charity. It became a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated 7th November 2008 and was established under a memorandum and articles of association which describes the objects and powers of the charitable company, and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Full membership of LDCVS is open to voluntary organisations that comply with the criteria for membership.

In addition, there are affiliate categories of membership for public sector and corporate bodies. LDCVS trustee board is responsible for managing the business of LDCVS as outlined in the Articles of Association.

Trustee Selection Methods

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees:

LDCVS is a membership organisation, the membership being predominantly drawn from other local voluntary organisations, from whom the Directors (Board of Trustees) are elected either at the AGM or through an open and transparent selection and interview process. The paid staff of LDCVS are accountable to this Board. No funders are currently represented on the Board.

Induction and Training of Trustees

Policy and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees:

New trustees are inducted into the workings of the Charity, including policies and procedures, in a timely fashion and understand their responsibilities.

**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Ms Hazel Taylor (appointed 05/12/2024)
Ms Emma Seddon
Mr Anthony Murray
Ms Alison Richards
Professor Paul Jebb
Ms Jess Shaw (appointed 11/02/2025)
Ms Roda Ogunpehin (appointed 04/07/2025)

Company Secretary

Mr Nicholas Smith

Other Personnel

Yakub Patel - Chief Officer

Charity Number

1127626

Company Number

06743623

Registered Office

The Cornerstone
Sulyard Street
Lancaster
LA1 1PX

Independent Examiner

Christine Harwood ACMA
Accounts Matters Limited
3-2-1 Storey House
White Cross
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 4XQ

**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Other Information

Finally:

The Trustee Board would like to thank our Chief Officer, all our staff and volunteers for their dedication, hard work and for ensuring a highly valued service is delivered to the communities across North Lancashire.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statement unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing the financial statements the trustees are required to:

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

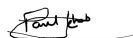
The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at anytime the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Professor Paul Jebb
Trustee
Date



21 Jan 2026

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you 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 Company 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 Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, 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 the 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 any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
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 and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other 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.



23 Jan 2026

Christine Harwood ACMA
Date
3-2-1 Storey House
White Cross
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 4XQ

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

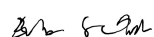
				2025	2024
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	4	109	-	109	-
Charitable activities	5	367,401	319,726	687,127	710,659
Other trading activities	6	67,856	-	67,856	44,065
Investments	7	10,209	29	10,238	11,151
Other	8	708	-	708	-
		<u>446,283</u>	<u>319,755</u>	<u>766,038</u>	<u>765,875</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities	9	(501,236)	(380,965)	(882,201)	(742,374)
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		<u>(54,953)</u>	<u>(61,210)</u>	<u>(116,163)</u>	<u>23,501</u>
Transfers between funds	21	(6,160)	6,160	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>(61,113)</u>	<u>(55,050)</u>	<u>(116,163)</u>	<u>23,501</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		217,292	361,728	579,020	555,519
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	21	<u>156,179</u>	<u>306,678</u>	<u>462,857</u>	<u>579,020</u>

The notes on pages 27 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Balance Sheet
As At 30 June 2025

				2025	2024
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	16	-	157,351	157,351	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	17	115	-	115	399
Cash at bank and in hand		158,402	149,328	307,730	580,960
		158,517	149,328	307,845	581,359
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	18	(2,338)	(1)	(2,339)	(2,339)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		156,179	149,327	305,506	579,020
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		156,179	306,678	462,857	579,020
NET ASSETS		156,179	306,678	462,857	579,020
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds				306,678	361,728
Unrestricted Funds				156,179	217,292
TOTAL FUNDS	21			462,857	579,020

On behalf of the board



21 Jan 2026

Ms Emma Seddon
Trustee

Date

The notes on pages 27 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/generated from operations	1	(126,117)	14,859
Net cash (used in)/generated from operating activities		(126,117)	14,859
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(157,351)	-
Interest received		10,238	11,151
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities		(147,113)	11,151
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of bank borrowings		-	(1,802)
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(273,230)	24,208
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	2	580,960	556,752
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	2	307,730	580,960

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

1. Reconciliation of (expenditure)/income to cash (used in)/generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income	(116,163)	23,501
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(10,238)	(11,151)
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in trade and other debtors	284	171
Increase in trade and other creditors	-	2,338
Net cash (used in)/generated from operations	<u>(126,117)</u>	<u>14,859</u>

2. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents, as stated in the Statement of Cash Flows, relates to the following items in the Balance Sheet:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>307,730</u>	<u>580,960</u>

3. Analysis of changes in net funds

	As at 1 July 2024	Cash flows	As at 30 June 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>580,960</u>	<u>(273,230)</u>	<u>307,730</u>

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

1. General Information

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 06743623 and registered charity number 1127626. The registered office is The Cornerstone, Sulyard Street, Lancaster, LA1 1PX.

2. Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting Policies

3.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

3.2. Going Concern Disclosure

The trustees have not identified any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

3.3. Incoming Resources

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets and government grants, are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met these amounts are deferred.

Other income is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable.

Investment income is bank interest only.

3.4. Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when it is incurred.

Expenditure includes any relevant VAT.

Grants payable are payments made to community groups from specific funding and are accounted for when the grant is awarded.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

Allocation of costs

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Some costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, e.g. estimated usage, as set out in Note 6.

Employee benefits

The costs of employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension costs charged in the Statement of Activities represent the contribution payable by the charity in the year.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the SOFA in the year in which they accrue.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

...CONTINUED

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

3.4. Resources Expended - continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with charitable objects.

Designated funds are those funds set aside by the Trustees out of the unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes and projects.

Transfers to unrestricted funds from restricted funds represent the amounts earned by the Charity by way of management and consultancy fees. Or other transfers as permitted by the relevant funding agreements.

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the full cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life. The principal rates in use are:

Equipment, fixtures and fittings 20% reducing balance

Computer equipment 100% on cost

3.5. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Plant & Machinery 20% reducing balance

Computer Equipment 100% on cost

3.6. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

3.7. Taxation

LDCVS is a registered charity. All the company's income is applied to its charitable activities and the company is therefore exempt under current legislation from most forms of taxation (CTA 210s 475/476, 486 & 488 and ITA 2007 S532 & 534).

4. Income from Donations and Legacies

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Total
	funds	funds
	£	£
Donations and gifts	109	-

5. Income from Charitable Activities

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted
	funds £	funds £
	Total funds £	Total funds £
Charitable activities	367,401	319,726
	687,127	710,659

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

6. Income from Other Trading Activities

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£
Grant administration	41,160	27,342
Accounting support & Independent Examinations	2,675	2,645
Payroll activities	5,104	4,978
Rent West Street	8,122	1,840
Rent Stanleys Community Centre	8,000	-
DB checks	2,795	2,135
Project income	-	3,625
Trybooking income	-	1,500
	<u>67,856</u>	<u>44,065</u>

7. Investment Income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	10,209	29	10,238	11,151

8. Other Income

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£
Other income	708	-

9. Analysis of Expenditure

				2025
	Activities undertaken directly (see note 10)	Grant funding of activities (see note 11)	Support costs (see note 12)	Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities 2025	508,956	336,970	36,275	882,201
				2024
	Activities undertaken directly (see note 10)	Grant funding of activities (see note 11)	Support costs (see note 12)	Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities 2024	349,683	344,488	48,203	742,374

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

10. Direct Costs

	2025
	Charitable
	activities
	£
Fundraising activities:	
Events and training	37,766
DB check expenses	2,207
Stanleys Building repairs	76,225
Employee costs:	
Wages and salaries	311,751
Employers NI	21,780
Employers pensions - defined contribution schemes	14,072
Premises expenses:	
Premises costs	483
General administration:	
Management fees	41,160
Marketing and advertising costs	1,888
Data and telecommunications costs	1,624
	508,956
	508,956
	2024
	Charitable
	activities
	£
Fundraising activities:	
Events and training	5,840
DB check expenses	1,724
Employee costs:	
Wages and salaries	280,211
Employers NI	20,234
Employers pensions - defined contribution schemes	12,518
General administration:	
Management fees	27,342
Computer software, IT consumables and maintenance	1,224
Marketing and advertising costs	590
	349,683
	349,683

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

11. Grants Payable

	2025	2024
	Grants to	Grants to
	Institutions	Institutions
	£	£
Charitable activities	336,970	344,488
Grants paid to institutions, included above, are as follows:		
	2025	2024
	£	£
West End Morecambe Organisation	138,745	89,975
Grants supporting local charities under £25,000	59,795	254,513
Adult Social Care Grants 2025	50,000	-
Pots of Possibility CF	25,664	-
Pots of Possibility RF	60,451	-
Unrestricted grants	2,135	-
	<u>336,790</u>	<u>344,488</u>

12. Support Costs

	2025
	Charitable
	activities
	£
Employee costs:	
Staff training	1,972
Staff expenses	3,750
Premises expenses:	
Rent	13,881
General administration:	
Insurance	3,304
Membership and licences	2,000
Professional fees	2,000
Subscriptions	3,965
Payroll software	206
Bank charges	70
Other office costs	1,695
Refreshments	503
Christmas party	558
Governance costs:	
Independent examiner's fees	1,980
Other governance costs	391
	<u>36,275</u>

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2024 Charitable activities £
Employee costs:	
Staff training	1,449
Staff expenses	5,044
Premises expenses:	
Rent	16,041
General administration:	
Insurance	1,607
Kit and equipment	527
Membership and licences	1,330
Telecommunications and data costs	1,094
Professional fees	12,310
Investment and setup	300
Subscriptions	4,262
Payroll software	232
Bank charges	60
Other office costs	2,338
Other costs	350
Governance costs:	
Independent examiner's fees	1,056
Other governance costs	203
	48,203

13. Independent Examiner's Remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,980	1,056

14. Staff Costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	311,751	280,211
Social security costs	21,780	20,234
Other pension costs	14,072	12,518
	347,603	312,963

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

15. Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees during the year was: 11 (2024: 11)

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

16. Tangible Assets

	Land & Property		Plant & Machinery		Computer Equipment		Total
	Restricted						
	£		£		£		£
Cost							
As at 1 July 2024	-		26,360		41,485		67,845
Additions	157,351		-		-		157,351
As at 30 June 2025	157,351		26,360		41,485		225,196
Depreciation							
As at 1 July 2024	-		26,360		41,485		67,845
As at 30 June 2025	-		26,360		41,485		67,845
Net Book Value							
As at 30 June 2025	157,351		-		-		157,351
As at 1 July 2024	-		-		-		-

The building purchase relates to Stanleys Community Centre as part of the West End Morecambe Partnership and has been valued at cost.

17. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	115	399

18. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	2,339	2,339

19. Other Commitments

The company entered into a rental agreement that results in commitments under non- cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Not later than one year	-	10,104
Later than one year and not later than five years	10,476	-
	10,476	10,104

20. Pension Commitments

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

During the year the charge to the statement of financial activities in respect of defined contribution schemes was £14,072 (2024: £12,518).

At the balance sheet date contributions of £NIL were due to the fund and are included in creditors.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 June 2025

21. Movement in Funds

	As at 1 July 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 30 June 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General:					
General unrestricted fund	99,292	370,058	(425,011)	(6,160)	38,179
Designated:					
Designated Funds	118,000	-	-	-	118,000
Stanleys	-	76,225	(76,225)	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	217,292	446,283	(501,236)	(6,160)	156,179
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds	361,728	319,755	(380,965)	6,160	306,678
Total funds	579,020	766,038	(882,201)	-	462,857

Part of the restricted fund (£157,351) is held in freehold property on the balance sheet.

	As at 1 July 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 30 June 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General:					
General unrestricted fund	223,217	281,940	(365,532)	(40,333)	99,292
Designated:					
Designated Funds	55,000	-	-	63,000	118,000
Total unrestricted funds	278,217	281,940	(365,532)	22,667	217,292
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds	277,302	483,935	(376,842)	(22,667)	361,728
Total funds	555,519	765,875	(742,374)	-	579,020

22. Transactions with Trustees

None of the trustees received any remuneration or any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity during the current or previous year.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

23. Related Party Disclosures

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

24. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.



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Document fingerprint f8925d70ab0b05bd93995d2555220685

Parties involved with this document

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Wed, 21st Jan 2026 16:10:42 GMT	Ms Emma Jane Seddon - Signer (551bd99921f36e20cdab09c300e8bf7a)

Audit history log

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Parties involved with this document

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Audit history log

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LANCASTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SOLUTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1127626

Accounts



Company Registration Number 06743623
Charity Number 1127626

Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

ACCOUNTS MATTERS LTD
3-2-1 Storey House
White Cross
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 4XQ

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

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**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Charity Number

1127626

Company Registered Number

06743623

Trustees

Mr P Jebb

Ms AN Richards

Mr AM Murray

Ms EJ Brant

Ms HM Taylor (appointed 5 December 2024)

Ms J Shaw (appointed 11 February 2025)

Company Secretary and Registered Office

Mr NR Smith

Sulyard Street

Lancaster

Lancashire

LA1 1PX

Principal Address

The Cornerstone

Sulyard Street

Lancaster

Lancashire

LA1 1PX

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd

PO Box 289

Kings Mill

West Malling

Kent

ME19 4TA

Independent Examiner

Christine Harwood

Accounts Matters Ltd

3-2-1 Storey House

White Cross

Lancaster

LA1 4XQ

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees' Annual report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024 (including directors' report)**

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year were:

Samantha Jane Riches (resigned – 22 February 2024)
Paul Michael Colley (resigned – 7 February 2024)
Paul Jebb
Alastair Charles Loasby (resigned – 12 September 2024)
Alison Nicola Richards
Emma Jane Brant (appointed 16 October 2023)
Anthony Matthew Murray (appointed 16 October 2023)

Additional CVS Board Members:

Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council each nominate an individual to join the board as a non-voting observer / advisor, during the year this was:
Lancaster City Councillor: Sandra Thornberry

Chief Officer: Yakub Patel

Structure, governance and management:

Nature of the governing document:	Memorandum and Articles
How the Charity is constituted:	Incorporated
Date of governing document:	7th November 2018 (revised)

Governance:

LDCVS was founded in 1972 as the National Council of Voluntary Services, an unincorporated charity. It became a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated 7th November 2008 and was established under a memorandum and articles of association which describes the objects and powers of the charitable company, and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Full membership of LDCVS is open to voluntary organisations that comply with the criteria for membership.

In addition, there are affiliate categories of membership for public sector and corporate bodies. LDCVS trustee board is responsible for managing the business of LDCVS as outlined in the Articles of Association.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees:

LDCVS is a membership organisation, the membership being predominantly drawn from other local voluntary organisations, from whom the Directors (Board of Trustees) are elected either at the AGM or through an open and transparent selection and interview process. The paid staff of LDCVS are accountable to this Board. No funders are currently represented on the Board.

Policy and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees:

New trustees are inducted into the workings of the Charity, including policies and procedures, in a timely fashion and understand their responsibilities.

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Our purpose, aims and activities for the year 2023-24:

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions (LDCVS) is an infrastructure organisation that exists to support and strengthen the sustainability, independence and ability of community, voluntary and faith and social enterprise organisations to deliver services and activities that support individuals and communities in the Lancaster District. Currently we have nearly 350 local organisations as members of LDCVS and also a number of public sector and corporate bodies that are associate members. We added 47 new members over the year.

Our Objects, which are contained in our governing document (Memorandum and Articles) are:

- To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community with particular reference to the local government district of Lancaster (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") and, in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together in council representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the area of benefit

The aims of our charity, for the public benefit, are to:

- Ensure our members are well supported to deliver the best outcomes and that their expertise is valued and maximised.
- Work with our members to shape local services to best meet local needs.
- Bring organisations together to build relationships, share support and learn from each other.
- Help our members access the resources, funding and support they need.

Our aims fully reflect the purposes (objects) that the charity was set up to further and we review them, together with our objectives and activities, each year to assess the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to our beneficiaries. This review also helps us to ensure our aims, objectives and activities are focused on our stated purposes and how planned activities contribute to the aims and objectives set by the Trustee Board. In considering these, the trustees of LDCVS believe they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The focus of our work:

Our overall mission has been, and remains, to promote, develop and support, through partnership, a dynamic and diverse voluntary and community sector. In setting out our aims and objectives we have also defined the outcomes that will demonstrate whether we met them and whether our activities have brought about benefits to those organisations and individuals we work with.

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

As part of our business plan, the board in 2022 agreed four strategic aims for the period to 2025:

- To ensure our members are well supported and resourced
- To connect together communities, the VCFSE sector and support agencies
- To champion the VCFSE sector
- To be a sustainable organisation, open to new learning

For each of these aims, we have identified a number of indicators, which will help us understand how well that aim has been achieved,

Achievements and performance:

Welcome – Paul Jebb, Chair of Trustees

As we reflect on another transformative year at Lancaster District CVS, I am filled with immense pride in what we have achieved together. This year has been one of continuity and strengthening the foundations we have nurtured over time while continuing to serve, support, and empower our communities to meet the challenges that they face.

Our Board of Trustees has been pivotal in guiding our work, and I extend my heartfelt thanks for their unwavering commitment and strategic leadership. Once again, I am equally inspired by our remarkable Chief Executive Officer and wider team, whose passion and dedication enable us to meet the evolving needs of our members and partners, while addressing some of society's most pressing challenges such as health inequalities, poverty, community cohesion, socio-economic barriers and climate change.

As we approach the end of our current strategy, we will be creating our new plan with our members, our partners and communities. This wide engagement is important to us as look ahead to the next five years. Lancaster District CVS is here to benefit our district, so hearing about the priorities from a variety of stakeholders will be important to us. We know there will be a wide range of priorities but what will be important is that we are able to respond to the needs of our members so that more people can enjoy the benefits of our work. Over the next several months, we will be working on plans to prepare and publish our new strategy in 2025.

Our Annual Report documents our work, our journey over the last year with acknowledgement to the people who have shaped and informed how we work collaboratively to support the voluntary, community, faith, social enterprise sector and our local communities.

We are grateful to our funders, supporters and partners who have shown their continued confidence in us with and for their steadfast support of our organisation and the wider VCFSE sector. The sector continues its remarkable work in supporting people across our neighbourhoods and communities, helping to strengthen the social fabric of our district.

Above all, we celebrate our colleagues across the sector - the people who lead and work tirelessly supporting our residents living in our district today and for the future.

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Foreword – Yak Patel, Chief Executive Officer

Lancaster District CVS has always responded to the challenges of the moment. This year, those challenges have been difficult. We've seen multiple global conflicts with more and more casualties and devastation, the continuing impacts of climate change wrecking businesses and homes and the continued effects of the cost-of-living crisis causing acute stress and hardship for many, particularly those who were already vulnerable and put yet more stress on our public services. Yet, through it all, one thing remains clear: it is our communities who step up to pick up the pieces - bringing hope, resilience and action.

The response from our colleagues working across the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector has been incredible, and I am, as ever, continually impressed by the commitment and compassion of the people who step up, no matter what time it is, to support people struggling to cope. Thousands of volunteers share their time, energy and kindness, making an extraordinary impact and very real differences to people's lives. At Lancaster District CVS, we are proud to be a cornerstone of support, working alongside our partners to empower communities, strengthen the sector, and create lasting impact. Together, we are not only responding to the moment – we are helping to build stronger, more connected, and more compassionate communities.

Despite the challenges, you'll see in this report that we have continued to make progress against our strategic priorities. Our report provides more detailed examples of our work but to name just a few:

- Our Community Action Networks brought people together came together to talk about what it means to be healthy and well and create better futures for people in their communities, particularly those seldom heard voices.
- Our Connecting Community Officers supported new and emerging charities and community groups and inspired hundreds of volunteers to make a difference whilst supporting volunteering involving organisation with information and guidance.
- Our Health Officers supported people with their health and wellbeing needs and developed the districts Digital Directory of Services, helping hundreds of people to access local services.
- Our Bay Foundation invested hundreds of thousands of pounds into local activities and services, helping those to deliver vital services to people and our communities.
- Our Young People Foundations Officer worked with local children and young people organisations to ensure their voices were heard in decision making.
- Collectively, we made it possible for leaders in the sector to be connected to strategic and operational partnerships and ensure we are working together to tackle inequalities and develop further inclusive partnership.

We are looking ahead for the coming years, and we believe we are going in the right direction. We wouldn't be in this position without every single one of you who believe in the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector. If you used our services, partnered with us to create meaningful opportunities, volunteered your time, used your voice and experience to help and speak up for our work this year or supported our work in any other way - thank you. Our success is yours too, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the coming year.

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Report

Celebrating the District's Voluntary Sector – FestiVOL 2023

Over one hundred representatives from dozens of community organisations met up at More Music in Morecambe on 21 November for FestiVOL, the annual celebration of our district's voluntary sector. Opening the event, we heard inspiring accounts of community support, innovation and progress from guest speakers representing BEE Adventures, Positive Futures, Lancaster Men's Hub, and Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission.

Delegates then took part in workshops taking a closer look at four areas where the involvement of community organisations has been changing and deepening across the district:

- Volunteering in Arts & Culture
- Exploring Intergenerational Projects
- Children & Young People's Projects
- The Power of Social Prescribing

These workshops provided an opportunity for delegates to challenge preconceptions, share experiences and ambitions, and discover new ways to work together to support our communities. We also asked delegates to tell us, and each other, about their hopes for the next five years.

This process helps Lancaster District CVS understand how the organisations we support want to move forward in relation to achieving their aims, and in turn contributes to our plans for the future and how we talk to stakeholders about our sector's aspirations.

Organisational Development and Capacity Building

This service provides support to local people looking to establish new projects and groups and also helps existing organisations to improve their effectiveness. Groups can access support with a wide range of issues including charity or social/community enterprise start-up, governance and leadership, achieving quality standards, social impact, project development, applying for funding, policy development, and training.

- We provided 161 bespoke information, advice and guidance sessions to 55 groups and organisations. Groups who received this support provide community services in areas of work including health and wellbeing, children, young people and families, environment, community safety, vulnerable people, arts and culture.
- We advised 21 new start-ups, helping with business planning, funding and investment.
- We delivered 13 open workshops to 241 delegates.

Community Learning Network

Working in partnership with Lancaster City Council, our sector is benefitting from a United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund grant which has provided resources to coordinate a training programme for voluntary organisations across the district.

Our Community Learning Network Officer works closely with our members to determine their training needs and create or source appropriate workshops held in person or online.

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

During our 2023/4 year, over 330 delegates from 98 organisations attended workshops covering issues such as:

- Mental health first aid
- Supporting and engaging people in recovery
- Social investment
- Risk management and insurance
- Writing compelling funding applications
- Duties of a designated safeguarding lead
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Suicide prevention
- Autism and neuroinclusion
- Food safety
- Essential lifesaving skills
- Creating a funding strategy
- Trusteeship and governance
- First aid at work

Funding Advice and Information

Our funding advice and information function helps sector organisations to access funding opportunities from sources including charitable trusts and commissioners that enables them to become more sustainable by improving their financial security and capacity.

Our Development Officer advises on local, regional and national opportunities and guides our members through one-to-one advice sessions. Other support also includes developing proposals to bid status, compiling evidence and data, and advice on managing and monitoring once the grants is awarded.

The annual LDCVS funding fair connected 108 attendees with representatives of local, regional and national funders including the National Lottery Community Fund, Arts Council England, The Key Fund, The Duchy of Lancaster, Francis Scott Charitable Trust, Ørsted Walney Extension Community Fund, Areti Charitable Trust, Banks Lyon Memorial Trust, Elizabeth & Richard Wilson Charitable Trust, Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, Spacehive Crowdfund Lancashire, Lancaster City Council, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Lancashire County Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Bay Foundation

The Bay Foundation is our overall brand for the work we carry out relating to organising and promoting grant programmes for the benefit of communities across the district. We co-design and administer these programmes on behalf of philanthropic organisations, businesses and the public sector, helping funding to get to the places and projects that make a real difference to people's lives.

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

During the year, we:

- Completed a final round of the Community Health Champions Fund in partnership with Lancaster City Council. The programme funds projects which support our communities in talking about health and wellbeing and taking action to improve public health. The final phase of the project distributed £59,000 for eight community projects.
- Delivered our very first granting process conducted using participative budgeting. The Your Pots strand of the Pots of Possibility programme grants money originating with the National Lottery Community Fund for projects supporting community-led action and local initiatives to stimulate a zero-waste, circular and regenerative local economy. Applicants for grants of up to £10,000 from a pot of £50,000 gathered at Torrisholme Methodist Church in late November to present their ideas to the community who were then invited to vote for which projects they thought ought to receive the funds.
- Held a further round of the Community Pots strand of the Pots of Possibility programme, distributing over £23,000 across seven projects.
- Distributed over £7,000 in grants of up to £500 from the Eric Wright Community Trust programme, targeted at our smallest community organisations. During the year, we relaunched the fund with rolling deadlines, so that any application received in a calendar month would be assessed the following month. This has enabled grass-roots organisations to access funding more flexibly across the year.
- Worked with Lancaster City Council for a further year of the Lancaster Community Fund, distributing over £22,000 for projects which build community wealth and resilience, contribute to a more sustainable district, or create individual and community well-being
- Collaborated with the Westminster Foundation to provide £45,000 in targeted grants to 37 community centres, youth organisations, parent/teacher associations, and uniformed groups over the winter of 2023/24. The grants supported the provision of free food to children and young people experiencing food insecurity.
- Became a distributor of funding from the Banks Lyon Memorial Step Up Fund, which exists to support young people living in the Lancaster District, aged between 16 and 24 and facing social and/or financial barriers to accessing education, training or employment. The Step Up Fund can be spent on anything which will help the young person progress on the route to finding a job. The maximum spend on any one individual is £250.

Financial Services

Through our experienced Finance Officer we provide a range of services for the sector including payroll management, pensions advice, payment of grants and independent examinations of accounts. During 2023-4, we provided:

- 14 independent examinations.
- Payroll services for 50 employees across 13 clients.

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Lancaster District Volunteer Centre

The Lancaster District Volunteer centre supports volunteers, and the organisations that recruit volunteers, by providing a brokerage service that matches local people to organisations with volunteering opportunities. The centre also provides bespoke support to organisations deploying volunteers, including good practice guides, advice on policies and procedures and training and support with developing new initiatives involving volunteers.

Our Volunteer Centre remained the key local volunteering development organisation in the district. Our project supported a wide range of people including those recovering from issues such as mental health problems, alcohol and drug addiction, criminal justice and being long term unemployed.

Whilst we recognise that volunteering can bring enormous amounts of benefits to individuals and organisations, it also requires a great deal of partnership working to ensure people are supported into volunteering. A large percentage of people seeking opportunities had come from difficult backgrounds and were looking to rebuild their lives through volunteering. These were the very reasons for co-designing programmes that helped build resilience amongst families, individuals and communities – thus building social action and developing local leadership. Creating pathways into volunteering for young people through to older people and those with disabilities amongst other community groups remained a focus for our team. Promoting volunteering in communities affected by unemployment as a means of building work skills, confidence and addressing community need also remained an important component of our work. Regular ‘drop in’ sessions were held in job centres, town centres, festivals, community events, community centres and in places and times that were more accessible for local people.

- Our online volunteer centre website advertised 95 opportunities at volunteering.lancastercvs.org.uk
- 39 new organisations registered to offer opportunities online
- 130 potential volunteers registered to find opportunities online
- 47 organisations were advised about working with volunteers.
- One to one advice was offered to over 100 potential volunteers.
- We helped to administer over 40 DBS checks, providing help with advice and guidance, eligibility checks, form filling and ID requirements.

The quality of the service we offer speaks for itself and it is a matter of great pride for us all to be able to respond to unmet needs. Without the contribution of our own volunteers, we wouldn’t be able to support the people and organisations we come into contact with. We would like to emphasise the significant contribution our volunteers make, and we hope that this continues to be recognised by our members and partners.

Lancaster District Youth Partnership & Lancaster District Young People’s Foundation

Building on the work of the Lancaster District Youth Partnership during our 2022/3 year, partnership members and our wider young people’s network agreed to form a dedicated Lancaster District Young People’s Foundation.

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To launch the concept, we were joined by the CEO of the Young People's Foundation Trust along with the CEO of Young Manchester at an event attended by twenty colleagues representing cross sector organisations, all with a passion for improving outcomes for young people. During the meeting we discussed priorities for our Young People's Foundation (YPF) and explored the aspirational long-term aims for the model.

We created trustee roles and application packs and subsequently recruited eight passionate and committed trustees to the foundation including representation from:

- Lancashire Youth Challenge
- Stanleys Youth and Community Centre
- Morecambe FC Community Sports
- More Music
- CEEP (Connect, Engage, Empower, Participate)
- Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire City Council (Community Connector)
- Lancashire District Community and Voluntary Solutions

Together the members agreed an organisational vision which is 'to empower cross-sector collaboration and influence change, for a district where all children and young people are heard, happy, inspired and dare to dream.' Subsequently, trustees completed a CIO registration with the Charity Commission.

Break the Mould

In 2023, the Francis C Scott Charitable Trust celebrated 60 years of supporting work with young people delivered through a range of exceptional local, regional, and national organisations. To mark this milestone, the Trust asked local young people to distribute funds on its behalf.

Working together with Cumbria Youth Alliance, a core group of eight young leaders were recruited, supported by the project coordinator to develop the process of forming a grant giving board. The young people, from diverse backgrounds and geographical areas, actively engaged and led on the project through to its completion. This pioneering grant-making programme empowered young people by enabling them to take the lead in identifying funding criteria and ultimately to decide on which projects were funded. The young people identified three key priority areas for the funding:

- Creating Safe Spaces for Young People: This strand encompassed activities, guidance, and support for both general and minority groups.
- Transitioning to Adulthood for Young People: Focused on equipping young people with essential life skills for a successful transition to adulthood.
- Mental Health Support for Young People: Addressing the unique mental health challenges faced by young individuals in a post-pandemic world.

The group received 51 grant applications, and they demonstrated integrity and insight when they came together to discuss applications and allocate funding. The young people chose to allocate 7 large grants and 7 small grants to organisations based across Cumbria and Lancaster district.

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Break the Mould is not only a 60-year celebratory milestone for Francis Scott Trust but also provides critical evidence in shaping the future strategic direction of grant giving. The learning from the project will inform our understanding of what is important to young people, it will also shape how we will incorporate youth involvement in the future of our grant-making processes. By engaging directly with local young people, there emerges a deeper understanding of young people's needs and aspirations. A Break the Mould impact report was commissioned and produced involving interviews with young people and staff. Key learning points will be shared across the sector.

Children & Young People Multi-Agency Forum (CYPMAF)

We continued to host five CYPMAF meetings per year. The meetings were an opportunity for partners working in the young people's sector to come together to undertake training, to share good practice and to network. Meetings were regularly attended by between twenty and thirty colleagues.

Training has included:

- Overview of research to understand mental health support for LGBT+ young people.
- The role of the young trustee.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.
- An overview of the Speech and Language Therapy Service

In June 2024 we hosted a Skill Share Swap Shop where colleagues were invited to share best practice around young people's voice in a peer support space.

We continued to support colleagues working in the young people's sector by collating and distributing weekly newsletters to share updates about local young people's provision and funding and training opportunities. The information shares have also included regional and national updates. The network consists of over 200 members.

Step into Work Programme

LDCVS worked in partnership with University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust to offer local young people (aged 18-24) and not in work or training a chance to gain work experience at Royal Lancaster Infirmary. The project was aimed at young people furthest away from the labour market. Young people were recruited through referrals from Lancaster Job Centre, Morecambe Job Centre, Inspira and local young people organisations.

All the young people that accessed the programme faced multiple barriers to accessing employment, for example they had never been in paid employment, had experienced mental health difficulties, had childcare commitments to juggle or had English as a second language.

The programme began with ten young people attending the sign-up day to complete relevant paperwork. Six young people then went on to participate in two days of employability skills training at Moor Lane Mills in September 2023. This was followed by a three-week working placement at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. Participants selected placements in departments based on their skills and interests, choosing between health care, catering, domestics, portering, administration, estates and facilities, or carpark supervision.

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After completion of the programme all young people attended a mock interview delivered by the Trust's staff, generating feedback about how they could improve their interview skills. All young people met with the Youth Foundation Officer to develop an action plan for next steps.

Feedback from a family member of one of the participants illustrates the value of this programme:

My son started the 'Step into work' programme three weeks ago after five years of unemployment due to covid and his social anxiety, OCD and autism.

Now finishing his third week I have a totally different person living with me. He is enjoying his placement at RLI so much and now feels he has something to get up for every day. Prior to this he said life was like 'being in prison' no future and nothing to look forward to. He is intent now on getting a full-time job at RLI and coming off benefits. We can't thank CVS and Catherine enough for this opportunity. It has been simply life changing. We would recommend this programme to anyone who wants to get back into work.

The Lancaster District Directory & Social Prescribing

The Lancaster District Directory, online at directory.lancastercvs.org.uk, helps our local population find and get in touch with essential services provided by community groups, the NHS and our local authorities.

Launched in January 2023, the directory grew over our 2023/4 year to include information relating to over 450 services and activities from nearly 200 different organisations.

During the year, we completed the working of integrating our social prescribing offer into three local Primary Care Networks, enabling GP staff to refer patients seeking community support directly to us for advice and signposting.

With funding from the Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board's Mental Health Transformation Fund, we were able to further integrate social prescribing with mental health teams at Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust in order to support clients living in the Lancaster district and work with Bay Volunteers to create and promote buddying schemes for people finding it difficult to access services.

In total, we received 104 referrals with the majority focusing on the need for community support around mental health, loneliness and isolation, physical health conditions, and bereavement. Using the knowledge built up through building the Lancaster District Directory, Jenny Reddell, our Community Health Officer, can signpost suitable services and activities to these patients, helping them access local support.

Jenny explains how she was able to work with one client in November 2023:

Mark was referred to us in November after he had suffered a bit of a mental health breakdown at work. Mark works full time but has a very understanding boss. He also lives in Caton and doesn't drive, meaning it was hard for him to get out in the evening as he is reliant on public transport.

He was keen to try and change his life and was looking for support with finding social activity. It also became clear that he was still struggling to cope with his father's death in 2021, and that he blamed himself for this.

The first thing I suggested was some grief counselling at the Cornerstone. Mark jumped at the chance. He made contact straight away and on follow up after Christmas he was still in touch.

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I also suggested the Saturday afternoon “hub” held in the Lune Valley Methodist Church in Caton that offers various different social activities, and Lancaster Ramblers as Mark had expressed an interest in getting fitter and enjoyed walking. I also drew his attention to the Gregson and the Centre @ Halton for other social activity that happens during evening and weekends.

Health Coaching

Extending our work around public health, we worked with Active Lancashire during our 2023/4 year to implement a health coaching programme focused on helping people with respiratory problems. Our Health Coach worked to build links with GP and hospital teams, collaborating with the Morecambe Bay Respiratory Network to encourage referrals for individuals who were facing difficulties arising from conditions such as asthma, COPD, and COVID-19.

The programme allows participants to access up to 13 weeks of holistic support involving assessment, goal-setting, action planning, progress monitoring, education and empowerment. In particular, clients were encouraged to think about their own challenges and set personalised goals as a means of adopting healthy lifestyle behaviours that will have a positive impact on their own health and wellbeing, increase their activation, and improve their future health outcomes.

LB, who had been diagnosed with both chronic asthma and long Covid, explains how our Health Coach helped him to create healthy habits like regular exercise, balanced nutrition, and good sleep hygiene:

I think Tanya has gone above and beyond. I have explored a lot of information within the sessions, and it has made me reflect on where I’m currently at and where I want to be. I have sincerely appreciated all the help as I don’t want to end up in hospital again.

Since starting the coaching sessions, I have already made so many changes. Thanks to Tanya, I now have regular input from my asthma Nurse and I’m keeping on top of other relevant appointments.

I have gained a lot of knowledge and Tanya has given me recommendations on things I could be doing to help myself. I’ve gained a lot from completing a symptom diary. I have focused on completing this daily so that I can identify patterns to my flare ups.

These strategies are really helping with my anxiety. Tanya has given me a lot of reassurance and has always believed in me and that has been priceless!

Community Action Networks

This year, we expanded our Community Action Network (CAN), strengthening local leadership and relationships across Lancaster and Morecambe. Trust, collaboration, and grassroots engagement remain central to how communities respond to local needs. We were instrumental in raising thousands of pounds to invest in programs and the social infrastructure for the network and our impact was demonstrated through several key initiatives:

- **Emergency food support:** Over 80 families received weekly food parcels, including fresh produce and essential non-perishable items. Additionally, 26 young people were provided with breakfast parcels to ensure they started their school day nourished.
- **Youth engagement:** We delivered weekly after-school programs and half-term activities, engaging over 60 children and young people. These free sessions created safe spaces and provided opportunities for informal learning, play, and mentorship from trusted adults.

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- **Empowering Young Women:** Eight dedicated workshops for young women helped participants build confidence, express their talents, and develop self-advocacy skills.
- **Leadership development:** 25 community leaders participated in 'Let's Talk About Power' workshops, collaborating with Lancaster University researchers to explore how collective action can shape their neighbourhoods. This partnership led to the creation of a power framework, which the CAN used to campaign for cleaner streets, safer playgrounds, and better support for vulnerable residents.
- **Influencing policy through lived experience:** The chair of the Ryelands Residents Association represented her community at the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, advocating for a stronger focus on poverty and life chances for young people. Her contributions ensured that lived experience became a core part of the board's agenda and that the needs of the Ryelands estate were incorporated into the board's action plan.
- **Co-creating a Community Plan:** We partnered with residents, the local city council, and the Integrated Care Board to develop a bold Community Plan. This plan outlines ambitions for a new community centre, family spaces, green areas, and a multi-use games area. A monthly multi-agency partnership, led by resident now meets to drive these projects forward and secure funding to bring the community's vision to life.

Through collaboration, advocacy, and empowering local action, our work is helping to transform spaces that matter to people, amplify community voices in decisions that are important to them, and create lasting change for the residents of Ryelands estate.

Partnerships & Networks

Lancaster District CVS is proud to play a key strategic role in strengthening and advancing the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector. Our growing and established relationships with public, private and education sector means that we are able to work closely together build a diverse, resilient, and effective sector that creates lasting change in our communities. Over the past year, we have attended and contributed to nearly **200 strategic partnership meetings** across the Lancaster district, the county, and the region. Our participation ensures that the sector's voice is heard, valued, and shapes a wide range of agendas.

Key strategic partnerships:

- **Health and Wellbeing:** Lancashire Place Based Partnership Board, Health & Wellbeing Partnership Board, Integrated Care Partnership, Urgent emergency and Out of Hospital Care, Integrated Care Communities, Population Health Strategy Group, Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and Lancaster District Strategic Partnership Board.
- **Community Development:** Communities Together, Community Learning Network, Eden Morecambe, Community Action Network, Coastal Communities and West End Morecambe.
- **Poverty and Inclusion:** Food Poverty Justice Alliance, Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission, Community Wealth Building, Community Conversation Strategic Partnership, and Morecambe Bay Anchors Collaborative.
- **Children, Young people and Families:** Lancaster District Children & Young People Multi-Agency Forum, Lancaster District Mental Health Network, Morecambe Bay Curriculum, and Lancaster & Morecambe College Governors.
- **Community Safety:** Community Safety Partnership and Homelessness Strategy Working Group.
- **Learning and Innovation:** Health Innovation Centre, Digital Transformation Board, and Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care

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- **Regional Alliances:** Lancashire and South Cumbria Voluntary Sector Alliance, Lancashire Association for CVS and Lancaster District Chamber of Commerce.
- **Environment and Sustainability:** Food Futures, Closing Loops, Community and Nature Strategic Partnership, LAEP Board (Local Area Energy Plan)

Through these collaborations, we ensured that the VCFSE sector not only has a seat at the table but also shapes the conversations that drive local and regional policy. From tackling poverty and health inequalities to supporting community safety and youth opportunities, our contributions are playing an active role in driving meaningful change for our communities.

Lancaster District Food Poverty Alliance

Throughout the year, we remained committed to combating poverty and inequality by actively supporting the Lancaster District Food Justice Partnership. Working together, we were key to supporting the Household Support fund - funding from the Department for Work and Pensions to enable us to support those most in need with the significant rise in the cost of living. Over £218,000 was distributed to residents living in the district helping with essentials such as utility bills, food, household appliances, housing costs and other essential items.

This partnership, coordinated by Lancaster City Council unites stakeholders dedicated to addressing food insecurity and its root causes.

Key members of the partnership include:

- Lancashire County Council
- Morecambe Bay Foodbank
- Egg Cup
- Lancaster District Food Clubs Alliance
- Citizens Advice North Lancashire
- Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission

Our collaborative efforts led to policies such as promoting fair wages and support for low-income households, pooling expertise and resources to enhance the reach and impact of food assistance programs and empowering individuals through education and the involvement in decision-making processes related to food justice.

By working together, we not only provided immediate support to those facing food insecurity but also laying the groundwork for systemic change that addresses the root causes of poverty and hunger in our district and this is a partnership we are proud to be involved in.

Big Local – West End Morecambe (WEM)

Local Trust was established in 2012 to deliver Big Local, a National Lottery Community Fund programme which committed more than £1m of grant funding to each of 150 communities and neighbourhoods across England. West End Morecambe became one of these areas eight years ago. LDCVS for the large part of these years has been the Locally Trusted Organisation for WEM and our work has been to support the partnership and administer funds on their behalf. We expected 2023 - 24 to be a year of relative calm following the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, we faced a year of new challenges. In particular, inflation rose to its highest level in decades, causing a significant cost-of-living crisis on residents living in the West End of Morecambe.

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However, we continue to support the West End Morecambe Partnership in its place for full spend-out. One of WEM's most significant planned legacy investments will be the purchase of Stanleys Community Centre, a vital hub serving the community for over 15 years and currently operating under costly rental agreements, spending significant resources on renovation and building upkeep. WEM has decided to secure it as a permanent community asset.

Lancaster District CVS and WEM are working together to make arrangements for LDCVS to buy the building with investment from WEM, acting as the guardian of the property while developing a plan to hand it over to the community. Stanleys will then remain owned by the community, for the community, forever.

Lancaster District VCFSE Leaders Forum

During 2023/24 a key focus for developing our Leadership Forum was to refresh our approaches for recruiting VCFSE representatives and supporting them to attend meetings across the district and Lancashire. One of our key functions has always been to unite the voice of the sector so that we have a stronger and greater influence with our public sector partners at local, regional and national level.

This year, our forum connected in a much stronger way with the VCFSE Alliance for Lancashire and South Cumbria. The VCFSE Alliance was set up to be collaborative network that unites VCFSE organisations across the region to enhance health and care services. Established to ensure the sector's active involvement in the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System, the Alliance serves as a bridge between VCFSE sector and statutory health and care organisations.

During the year, we hosted 6 Lancashire and South Cumbria Assembly meetings, bringing 33 of the 115 representatives from Lancaster District sector together to discuss key issues. Key moments from the year included:

- the Alliance solidifying its partnership with the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board through a formal agreement. This accord emphasised a mutual commitment to collaborative working, recognising the vital role of the VCFSE sector in improving population health and well-being.
- We organised 3 assembly meetings and invited speakers from each health economy of the county to describe their plans and proposal for engaging the VCFSE sector in their delivery plan. As a result, each area has VCFSE representatives supporting the development of the local health plan.
- We facilitated the process to elect representatives onto strategic boards such as Quality Improvement Framework, Urgent Emergency Care Boards, Place Partnership Boards, New Hospital Program, Population Health, Adult Social Care, Transforming Community Care and Care in the Community Program.
- Supported the role out of the Mental Health Transformation fund, a £1.1 million investment into the VCFSE sector.

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- We worked with the National Association for Social Prescribing and the Integrated Care Partnership to secure funding and develop a proposal to research social prescribing activity across the county and provide recommendations to the Integrated Care Board. The final report will be concluded in 2025.

We are proud of the relationships we have grown over the year, and we are grateful to our partners who make every effort to involve us in meetings and decision-making opportunities. We strive for better integration, integrated data sharing, imaginative and inclusive digital solutions and accessible meetings that are open to our communities and colleagues in the sector and our efforts over the year demonstrate that we are working towards much better ways of partnership working.

LOCAL

Locally Organised Communities Across Lancashire (LOCAL) is the vision coordinated by Voluntary Sector Northwest (VSNW) and supported by Lancaster District CVS and other infrastructure organisations across Lancashire that will facilitate this necessary conversation and ensure that all voices are heard across the VCFSE sector. Our Chief Officer was one of the leads to bring together over 300 voices from the sector to create and shape the manifesto for Lancashire. The manifesto describes nine areas of ambition and action from tackling poverty to building green communities, from community and person-centred models of public service to a creating safer Lancashire, from employment support to pioneering a Lancashire model of social prescribing, and from being an equal partner to creating an economic model that works for Lancashire. However, without further collective action, this manifesto would remain just words. In 2023, the Locally Organised Communities Across Lancashire 14 project, funded by the National Lottery Reaching Community Fund was developed to deliver the VCFSE Manifesto, looking at the challenges we as a sector face, and helping the sector to tackle the issues our communities face.

We were delighted to be part of the design and delivery of the LOCAL project team in launching the inaugural Lancashire 14 wide launch event 6th March 2024 at Deepdale Stadium. The conference 'A Manifesto for Change' covered all the Lancashire 14 area including Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool hosting key speakers around the economy and health and was an opportunity to engage in multi-sector discussions to identify the change that needs to happen around the VCFSE Manifesto for Lancashire 14 priorities. Over 45 organisations and 75 individuals attended the launch, and their input was invaluable throughout the day.

To read the Lancashire Manifesto, click [here](#)

Listen to our CEO on the launch event [here](#)

Lancaster District Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board

In 2023-2024, the Lancaster District Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board played a pivotal role in connecting community health outcomes priorities to the newly formed Lancashire Place Partnership. The Lancashire Place Partnership was set up by the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board to support place-based partnerships so that health and wellbeing outcomes could be better implemented at a local level.

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During this year, in preparation for the Lancashire Place Partnership, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, chaired by our CEO Yak Patel, held five events with partners and communities across the district to ensure it engaged with communities and partners in agreeing its strategic priorities. Over 100 people took part in the workshops which then culminated in the board's strategic priorities. For the year, it was agreed that Children and Young People prevention and early intervention, adults (cardio-vascular; social isolation; mental health) and building community resilience be the key focus areas. We were pleased for our plan to be endorsed by our district and the Place Partnership board and following the sign off, we moved on to agreeing our delivery plan.

We concluded the year by supporting and delivering initiatives around health and housing, vulnerable focus ward programs, integrated care neighbourhoods focus wards, healthy weight management programs, a series of community conversations, positive activities for children and young people programs and a range of VCFSE community intervention programs. Furthermore, we finished the year with a strengthened partnership with members attending from public, private, education and VCFSE sectors which demonstrated the support for our communities and a strong collaborative approach through the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board.

Community Safety Partnership

Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership continued throughout the year to address key safety issues in the district. Working with public, voluntary, community and private organisations, the CSP provided a co-ordinated response to a number of community safety issues such as domestic abuse, violent crime, community cohesion, hate crime, knife and gang crime, anti-social behaviour, and road safety.

Information & Communication

Throughout the year we continued to focus on growing our audience across our communication channels and diversify our methods of communication. Social media audiences grew by 11%

We published 49 editions of our weekly Bulletin to more than 800 subscribers, a very popular service among our members and stakeholders. The Bulletin connects groups to essential funding information and services. Information covered in these bulletins included local events and sector news, training and networking, health and wellbeing, job vacancies, funding information, policy updates, consultations and campaigning and news from local voluntary and community groups.

Reflections and Looking Forward

In 2023-24, we continued our commitment to understand the voluntary community faith and social enterprise sector across the district. From network meetings to surveys, to spending time with our members to attending community events, we made every effort to listen deeply and ensure we responded to as many needs as possible. The sector remains vital to our communities, delivering thousands of interventions that improve lives across the district. Recognising this, we have committed to launching the State of the Sector Survey next year to gather robust data on the size, scope, and impact of our local VCFSE sector. This work will provide crucial insights to guide our future strategies and advocacy.

Health and Wellbeing is one of our key programs of support. We will continue to work in strong partnerships to leverage the benefits of the sector to improve and strengthen the wellbeing of our residents. Building on our programs, we will support people to grow, help residents live independently, engage with their communities, and improve their health and wellbeing. We look forward to improving our co-designed digital directory of services, ensuring residents can find the help they need and ensure organisations collaborate effectively across boundaries.

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Developing Leadership across the Sector

The VCFSE sector is evolving in response to significant social, political, and economic changes. To support our members and colleagues respond to emerging challenges, we will build on our leader's network by providing more space for peer support, problem solving, training and strategic engagement. We know from our members that they benefit from dedicated time and space to reflect, learn, and grow through a supportive network for ongoing collaboration.

Sector Development

Organisational support, capacity building, volunteering, and training will continue to be core functions of our work in the year ahead. Our focus will also be on expanding and enhancing the support we provide to local frontline VCFSE groups and organisations, ensuring they have the knowledge and resources needed to grow and develop. Convening opportunities for colleagues working with people suffering from poverty, inequalities and the costs of living crisis, we will provide the opportunities and practical responses to our colleagues working tirelessly to run their organisation whilst helping our residents ensuring they can continue delivering life changing services while maintaining the wellbeing of both their teams and the communities they serve.

Community Action Networks

Working with our communities has been one of our key approaches this year through our Community Action Network (CAN). CAN brings together local residents, organisations, and partners to co-design community-led solutions. By focusing on lived experience and local priorities, we have strengthened community cohesion, increased participation in decision-making, and supported initiatives that directly address social inequalities. Through workshops, events, and collaborative planning, CAN has proven to be an effective model for sustainable, grassroots-led change.

Over the next year, we will work with partners, funders and our communities so that we can extend our program to neighbourhoods who seek to change the communities they live in. Looking ahead, we are committed to working with partners, funders, and community members to expand the reach of CAN. Our goal is to extend the programme into additional neighbourhoods where residents are eager to take collective action and create lasting, positive change in the community they live.

The Bay Foundation was established to provide a sustainable source of funding and support for community initiatives across Lancaster District. The Foundation has played a pivotal role in supporting local organisations and our focus remains committed to building a diverse portfolio of grants and investments that strengthens the VCFSE sector and ensure a lasting, positive impact across the district whilst helping to secure income for our own long-term sustainability. By seeking to build stronger relationships with local businesses, public sector partners, and philanthropic donors, the Bay Foundation has grown its reputation to be a reliable, transparent and fair investor. Our focus remains on investing in grassroots initiatives that create long-term, positive change, ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed and can have the greatest impact

Lancashire VCFSE Manifesto

In collaboration with our members and key stakeholders, we played a pivotal role in the development of the Lancashire VCFSE Manifesto - a collective strategy that articulates the sector's role in creating fairer and more resilient communities. This manifesto serves as a collective commitment to harnessing the full potential of the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector to create meaningful, long-term impact.

Over the next year, we are committed to amplifying the sector's voice and influence through active engagement with the Lancashire and South Cumbria VCFSE Alliance and Lancashire Association for CVS. By strengthening these connections, we will advocate for the VCFSE sector as a key partner in local policy, service delivery, and community development - ensuring its insights, expertise, and contributions continue to shape a more inclusive and supportive future for all.

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Financial review:

The total expenditure for the year was £742,374 (2023: £879,675) and income was £765,875 (2023: £917,529) giving a net operating surplus of £23,501 (2023: £37,854) leaving funds carried forward to 2024-25 of £579,020 (2023-24: £555,519). Free reserves are £217,292 (2023: £278,217). Restricted reserves are £361,728 (2023: £277,302).

Our main source of funding for our core costs was the National Lottery (Community Fund). We also received funding from Lancaster City Council along with project funding from various sources to reach a total income from grants and contracts of £710,659 (2023: £824,645). Our income from services provided to other organisations was £44,065 (2023: £88,445).

The Trustees are aware that all funding streams remain under threat of reduction or withdrawal and they continue to diligently monitor the budget and work to establish new sources of funding.

Principal financial management policies adopted in the year:

A budget for the year was established and agreed prior to the beginning of the financial year and it was monitored monthly and amended as necessary over the period.

Management accounts were prepared and presented regularly to the board of Trustees for their monitoring and analysis of income and expenditures against the budget.

Policies regarding spending authorities, operation of petty cash systems and payment of expenses are held by the Charity and are reviewed at intervals.

Reserves policy:

The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold financial reserves in order that it might meet anticipated future costs contingent liabilities and that it can continue to operate and meet the needs of users in the present uncertain funding environment. Trustees have determined that unrestricted funds equivalent to at least three months operating expenditure plus redundancy costs should be maintained at all times, equivalent to £118,000 in 2023/4. Trustees routinely review the amount that should be held in reserve to meet contractual commitments and running costs in the event of significant reductions or withdrawals of funding which may have a damaging effect on continued operations.

Principal funding sources:

The main sources of grant funding were the National Lottery (Community Fund) and Lancaster City Council, both core cost grants. We also generated income via the Bay Foundation (see above) in respect of grant administration on behalf of funders.

Investment policy and objectives:

Funds which are not required immediately are held in easily accessed interest bearing accounts. This was deemed most appropriate since grant and income streams are occasionally subject to delays.

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Risk Management:

The trustees review the risks at regular intervals and set up procedures to mitigate those risks.

The three main risks previously identified are the loss of major funding, insufficient trustees; and the loss of one or more key staff.

Subsidiaries: none

Plans for the future:

The Trustees are committed to growth of the organisation both in terms of scale and reach. We will continue to invest in effective infrastructure and our staff to maintain and improve the quality and range of services which we offer in our district.

To ensure that Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions is robust and sustainable we will constantly review the strategic direction of our organisation. Funding is crucial to this and we continue to identify possible opportunities to ensure a diverse funding profile.

However, we note that without the financial support of our current funders we would not be able to deliver this vital service and would like to take this opportunity to thank The National Lottery Community Fund and Lancaster City Council. We would also like to thank any other/trust/organisation that has supported us, either financially or in other ways, throughout the year.

Finally:

The Trustee Board would like to thank our Chief Officer, all our staff and volunteers for their dedication, hard work and for ensuring a highly valued service is delivered to the communities across North Lancashire.

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Responsibilities of the Trustees:

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions for the purposes of Company Law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Small Company Provisions:

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Paul Jebb

Chair of Trustees 14 Mar 2025

Approved by the Board on

**Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 June 2024 which are set out on pages 25 to 34.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you 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 company 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 company'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 CIMA 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 the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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 any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
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 and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other 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.

Signed:



Christine Harwood (Mar 18, 2025 11:09 GMT)

Name: Christine Harwood ACMA

Address:

Accounts Matters Ltd
3-2-1 Storey House
White Cross
Lancaster
LA1 4XQ

Date:

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure account)

Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions

Company Limited By Guarantee

For the year ended 30 June 2024

					As restated
	Note	Unrestricted	Designated Funds	Restricted	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Charitable activities	2	226,741		483,918	710,659
Other trading activities	3	44,065			44,065
Investment income	4	11,134		17	11,151
Total		281,940	-	483,935	765,875
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	6	365,532		376,842	742,374
Total		365,532	-	376,842	742,374
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(83,592)	-	107,093	23,501
Transfers between funds		(40,333)	63,000	(22,667)	-
Net movement in funds		(123,925)	63,000	84,426	23,501
Total Funds brought forward		223,217	55,000	277,302	555,519
Total Funds carried forward		99,292	118,000	361,728	579,020

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

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

Balance Sheet

Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Company Limited by Guarantee
As at 30 June 2024

				<i>As restated</i>
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £ Total 2023 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	9		-	-
Current Assets				
Debtors	10	399		399 570
Cash at bank and in hand	11	219,232	361,728	580,960 556,751
		219,631	361,728	581,359 557,321
Creditors: amounts falling due within one	12	(2,339)		(2,339) (1,802)
Net Current Assets		217,292	361,728	579,020 555,519
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		217,292	361,728	579,020 555,519
Funds	14			
Current Year Surplus/deficit		(60,925)	84,426	23,501 37,854
Funds brought forward		278,217	277,302	555,519 517,665
Total Funds	15	217,292	361,728	579,020 555,519

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and if its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

18 Mar 2025

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on _____

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Emma Brant - Treasurer

Company Registration No: 06743623

The notes on pages 28 to 34 form part of these financial statements

Statement of Cash Flows

Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions

Company Limited by Guarantee

As at 30 June 2024

	2024	<i>As restated</i> 2023
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities	13,058	9,845
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>13,058</u>	<u>9,845</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(1,008)
Interest received	11,151	4,439
Net cash flow from investing activities	<u>11,151</u>	<u>3,431</u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	24,209	13,276
Cash and cash equivalents at start of period	556,751	543,475
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u><u>580,960</u></u>	<u><u>556,751</u></u>
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	580,960	556,751
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u><u>580,960</u></u>	<u><u>556,751</u></u>
Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash flow from Operating Activities		
	2024	<i>As restated</i> 2023
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for year / period	23,501	37,854
Interest receivable	(11,151)	(4,439)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	-	2,151
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	171	22,313
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	537	(48,034)
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>13,058</u>	<u>9,845</u>

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions is a charity limited by guarantee registered in England. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities is the operation of infrastructure support for the Lancaster district's voluntary sector.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and comply with the SORP provisions currently in effect.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Incoming resources

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets and government grants, are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met these amounts are deferred.

Other income is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable.

Investment income is bank interest only.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when it is incurred.

Expenditure includes any relevant VAT.

Grants payable are payments made to community groups from specific funding and are accounted for when the grant is awarded.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

Allocation of costs

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Some costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, e.g. estimated usage, as set out in Note 6.

Employee benefits

The costs of employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension costs charged in the Statement of Activities represent the contribution payable by the charity in the year.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the SOFA in the year in which they accrue.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with charitable objects.

Designated funds are those funds set aside by the Trustees out of the unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes and projects.

Transfers to unrestricted funds from restricted funds represent the amounts earned by the Charity by way of management and consultancy fees. Or other transfers as permitted by the relevant funding agreements.

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the full cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life. The principal rates in use are:

Equipment, fixtures and fittings	20% reducing balance
Computer equipment	100% on cost

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Grants and contracts	226,741	483,918	710,659	824,645
	226,741	483,918	710,659	824,645

3 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Grant administration	27,342		27,342	66,788
Accounting support & Independent Examinations	2,645		2,645	2,470
Payroll services	4,978		4,978	4,876
Office services				458
Rent West Street	1,840		1,840	
DB checks	2,135		2,135	1,974
Donations				11,879
Project income	3,625		3,625	
Trybooking income	1,500		1,500	
	44,065		44,065	88,445

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Bank interest	11,134	17	11,151	4,439
	11,134	17	11,151	4,439

5 Taxation

LDCVS is a registered charity. All the company's income is applied to its charitable activities and the company is therefore exempt under current legislation from most forms of taxation (CTA 210s 475/476, 486 & 488 and ITA 2007 S532 & 534).

6 Resources expended

Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Salaries and pension	292,729	-	292,729	219,748
Employer NIC	20,234	-	20,234	11,510
Training expenses	1,449	-	1,449	1,200
Office costs	2,338	-	2,338	1,686
Premises costs	16,041	-	16,041	11,724
Staff expenses	5,044	-	5,044	2,692
Governance	203	-	203	389
Events and training	5,840	-	5,840	4,805
Independent examination fees	1,056	-	1,056	1,116
DB checks	1,724	-	1,724	1,173
Marketing and publicity	376	214	590	601
Investment and setup	300	-	300	2,088
Depreciation	-	-	-	2,151
Bank charges	60	-	60	60
Insurance	1,607	-	1,607	1,102
Payroll software	232	-	232	187
IT	1,224	-	1,224	
Telephone and internet	1,094	-	1,094	
Membership annual charges	1,330	-	1,330	1,374
Kit and equipment	527	-	527	
Subscriptions	1,964	2,298	4,262	
Professional fees	9,810	2,500	12,310	
CYA residential	-	-	-	6,491
Others	350	-	350	167
Communities together	-	-	-	2,993
PHIF	-	-	-	14,760
Management fees	-	27,342	27,342	66,788
Grant expenditure	-	344,488	344,488	524,870
	365,532	376,842	742,374	879,675

Analysis of grant expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
West End Morecambe Organisation	-	89,975	89,975	100,962
Grants supporting local charities under £25,000	-	254,513	254,513	424,178
	-	344,488	344,488	524,870

More details on different organisations and project types supported can be found in the trustees' report.

Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 30 June 2024

7 Staff costs

The total staff costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	280,210	197,892
Employers NI	20,234	11,510
Pension costs	12,518	10,346
	<u>312,962</u>	<u>219,748</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year. Trustees are not remunerated. There were no out of pocket expenses claimed by the Trustees in the year (2023 - £nil).

8 Staff costs and employee benefits

The average monthly number of employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Charitable activities	11	8

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer Equipment £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation:			
At 1 July 2023	41,485	26,360	67,845
At 30 June 2024	<u>41,485</u>	<u>26,360</u>	<u>67,485</u>
Depreciation:			
At 1 July 2023	41,485	26,360	67,845
Charge for the year	-	-	-
At 30 June 2024	<u>41,485</u>	<u>26,360</u>	<u>67,845</u>
	<u>41,485</u>	<u>26,360</u>	<u>67,845</u>
Net book value:			
At 30 June 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 30 July 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

10 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	399	570
	<u>399</u>	<u>570</u>

Lancaster and District Community and Voluntary Solutions
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 30 June 2024

11 Cash at bank and in hand

	2024 £	2023 £
Caf Gold	217,461	276,356
Caf Cash	1,772	3,093
Caf Gold – Restricted	361,480	276,465
Caf Street Aid	247	837
	<u>580,960</u>	<u>556,751</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	2,339	1,802
	<u>2,339</u>	<u>1,802</u>

13 Commitments under operating leases

The company entered into a new rental agreement, for a 12-month period from 1st June 2024 that results in commitments under non- cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	2024 £
Operating leases which expire:	
Within 1 year	10,104
Within 2 to 5 years	-
After more than 5 years	-
	<u>10,104</u>

14 Analysis of funds

	As at 01 July 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	At June 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	223,217	281,940	(365,532)	(40,333)	99,292
Designated funds	55,000			63,000	118,000
Restricted funds	277,302	483,935	(376,842)	(22,667)	361,728
Total funds	<u>555,519</u>	<u>765,875</u>	<u>(742,374)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>579,020</u>

The Trustees at 30 June 2024 have designated £118,000 (2023: £55,000) for potential future redundancy costs per the Charity's reserve policy.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Prior Year Total £
Fixed Assets				-
Current Assets	219,631	361,728	581,359	557,321
Current Liabilities	(2,339)		(2,339)	(1,802)
Total funds	217,292	361,728	579,020	555,519

16 Related party transactions

The Charity has no disclosable related party transactions in this or the previous year.

17 Reconciliation with previous accounts

The Charity's funds have been understated in the previously submitted accounts due to a bank account being classified as client funds and included as a creditor. This was incorrect and the comparatives have been restated. The effect of the restatement on the funds is set out below.

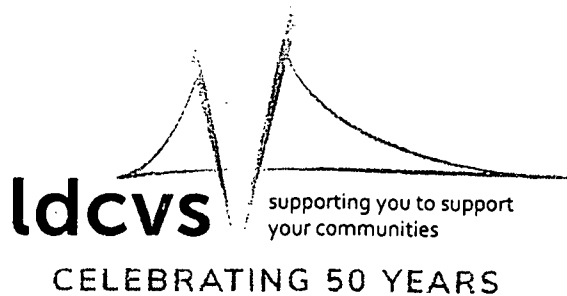
Reconciliation of funds per previously submitted accounts to restated accounts:

	30/06/2023 £	30/06/2022 £
Unrestricted + designated fund balances as previously submitted	911	(84,911)
Adjustments:		
Roundings	4	
Transfer from creditors	277,302	325,274
Unrestricted + designated fund balances as restated	278,217	240,363
	30/06/2023 £	30/06/2022 £
Restricted fund balances as previously stated	277,306	325,274
Adjustments:		
Roundings	(4)	
Restricted fund balance as restated	277,302	325,274
<i>Total funds previous accounts</i>	<i>278,217</i>	<i>240,363</i>
Total funds restated	555,519	565,637

LANCASTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SOLUTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1127626

Accounts



Company Registration number 06743623

Charity number 1127626

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

CHARITY COMMISSION
FIRST CONTACT

29 FEB 2024

ACCOUNTS
RECEIVED

WATERS & ATKINSON
Chartered Accountants
Morecambe

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

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Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
Directors, officers and advisers

Trustees

Dr SJ Riches
Mr PM Colley
Mr P Jebb
Mr AC Loasby
Ms AN Richards

Company Secretary and Registered office

Mr NR Smith
The Cornerstone
Sulyard Street
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 1PX

Charity registration number

1127626

Registered charity name

Lancaster District Community & Voluntary Solutions

Company registered number

06743623

Principal place of business

The Cornerstone
Sulyard Street
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 1PX

Accountants

Waters & Atkinson
Chartered Accountants
The Old Court House
Clark Street
Morecambe
Lancashire
LA4 5HR

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
PO box 289
Kings Mill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year were:

Harsha Shukla	resigned 24 November 2022
Samantha Jane Riches	
Kenneth Dunn	resigned 15 June 2023
Jill Anderson	resigned 15 June 2023
Claire Louise Chapman	resigned 24 November 2022
Carol Mary Ostermeyer	resigned 28 November 2022
Paul Michael Colley	
Paul Jebb	appointed 24 November 2022
Alastair Charles Loasby	appointed 17 August 2022
Alison Nicola Richards	appointed 17 May 2023

Additional CVS Board Members:

Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council each nominate an individual to join the board as a non-voting observer / advisor, during the year this was:

Lancaster City Councillor: Alistair Sinclair

Chief Officer: Yakub Patel

Structure, governance and Management:

Nature of the governing document:	Memorandum and Articles
How the Charity is constituted:	Incorporated
Date of governing document:	7 th November 2018 (revised)

Governance:

LDCVS was founded in 1972 as the National Council of Voluntary Services, an unincorporated charity. It became a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated 7th November 2008 and was established under a memorandum and articles of association which describes the objects and powers of the charitable company, and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Full membership of LDCVS is open to voluntary organisations that comply with the criteria for membership. In addition, there are affiliate categories of membership for public sector and corporate bodies. LDCVS trustee board is responsible for managing the business of LDCVS as outlined in the Articles of Association.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees:

LDCVS is a membership organisation, the membership being predominantly drawn from other local voluntary organisations, from whom the Directors (Board of Trustees) are elected either at the AGM or through an open and transparent selection and interview process. The paid staff of LDCVS are accountable to this Board. No funders are currently represented on the Board.

Policy and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees:

New trustees are inducted into the workings of the Charity, including policies and procedures, in a timely fashion and understand their responsibilities.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Our purpose, aims and activities for the year 2022-23:

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions (LDCVS) is an infrastructure organisation that exists to support and strengthen the sustainability, independence and ability of community, voluntary and faith and social enterprise organisations to deliver services and activities that support individuals and communities in the Lancaster District. Currently we have over 300 local organisations as members of LDCVS and also a number of public sector and corporate bodies that are associate members. In addition, we offer support to individuals with volunteering through our Volunteer Centre.

Our Objects, which are contained in our governing document (Memorandum and Articles) are:

- To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community with particular reference to the local government district of Lancaster (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") and, in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together in council representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the area of benefit.

The aims of our charity are to

- Ensure our members are well supported to deliver the best outcomes and that their expertise is valued and maximised.
- Work with our members to shape local services to best meet local needs.
- Bring organisations together to build relationships, share support and learn from each other.
- Help our members access the resources, funding and support they need.

Our aims fully reflect the purposes (objects) that the charity was set up to further and we review them, together with our objectives and activities, each year to assess the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to our beneficiaries. This review also helps us to ensure our aims, objectives and activities are focused on our stated purposes and how planned activities contribute to the aims and objectives set by the Trustee Board. In considering these, the trustees of LDCVS believe they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The focus of our work:

Our overall mission has been, and remains, to promote, develop and support, through partnership, a dynamic and diverse voluntary and community sector. In setting out our aims and objectives we have also defined the outcomes that will demonstrate whether we met them and whether our activities have brought about benefits to those organisations and individuals we work with.

As part of our business plan, the board in 2022 agreed four strategic aims for the period to 2025:

- To ensure our members are well supported and resourced
- To connect together communities, the VCFSE sector and support agencies
- To champion the VCFSE sector
- To be a sustainable organisation, open to new learning

For each of these aims, we have identified a number of indicators, which will help us understand how well that aim has been achieved,

Achievements and performance:

Welcome – Paul Jebb, Chair of Trustees

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my privilege to present our Annual Report for the year 2022-2023. I am delighted to share the progress and achievements of our organisation over the past year as we continue to support, promote, and develop the Third Sector across Lancaster District and make a positive impact on communities through the work that we do.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

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I begin by thanking my Board colleagues for their support, commitment, insight and guidance in governing the organisation. We have in recent years navigated through turbulent times, including the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic which has impacted people's perceptions of the workplace and introduced new methods of working. Throughout, our organisation has demonstrated courage, agility, innovation, and collaboration so we can continue to support the third sector to reach into communities that we serve.

I am proud that LDCVS has remained committed to its core values and strategic objectives. This Annual Report serves as a record of the dedication and hard work of our team, partners, and supporters. It is through their collective efforts that we have been able to continue supporting our members and our communities. In this report, you will find information on our financial performance, our projects, our achievements, and the positive impact we have made on the sector and the lives of our communities.

We have continued to participate in strategic partnerships, strengthen our operations and maximise our reach and impact. As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we remain focussed on the future. We will continue to evolve in response to a fast-changing world and adapt to the ever-changing needs of our beneficiaries and communities. The challenges that lie ahead require us to be agile, innovative, and proactive.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our members, volunteers, partners, our staff and funders, for their unwavering commitment and support. We look forward to your continued partnership as we look ahead. Together, we embrace the future with determination and a shared commitment to achieve better things for our communities.

Foreword – Yak Patel, Chief Executive Officer

Lancaster District CVS is a unique organisation in our city. Since 1972 we have been championing the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector's outstanding community action and the role it plays across communities in the Lancaster district. It was the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of our organisation in 2022 and it was around that time, fifty years ago, that discussions were taking place about how community and voluntary action could be better organised.

Today we are a charity on a mission, along with our colleagues across the broad spectrum of health and social care, to improve the lives of people living in our communities, working with local people so they can become the best they can be. As we have for fifty years, we have once again been coming together to discuss how we can make a better society and how we can work together to build it. We've worked together to make a bigger difference to the residents of the Lancaster district and helping communities to join in the activities that make them happier and healthier.

In an environment that is pulling people in different directions, charities and voluntary action bring people together and the sector will continue to unite us in the future. It's particularly important that we consider the sector's role as an agent of change, as well as its role in helping reinforce the values that we have in common even at a time when we are often focusing more on our differences of opinion. So, in our annual report, I want to celebrate the work that we do to in bringing people together, to celebrate the difference that we make. And I want to celebrate the fact that we offer something different, something distinctive, something valuable.

What we do at Lancaster District CVS is supporting, enabling and encouraging community action and our annual review gives us the chance to reflect upon and celebrate what happens across the district's voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector.

What we achieve at Lancaster District CVS is down to the amazing contribution of our expert board of trustees, our dedicated volunteers and the passion, enthusiasm and dedication of the staff team. Why we do it is simple: it's because the sector changes people's lives and we want to make it as simple as possible for people to do more good.

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Activities

Celebrating 50 Years

In 1972, the Lancaster District Council of Community Service was established in response to the economic and social challenges our communities faced at that time. Half a century ago, a meeting at Lancaster Town Hall agreed to start the Council of Community Service, an infrastructure organisation dedicated to supporting a growing community sector. Over the years, the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector has grown resulting in positive differences to people's lives and a much wider participation by our communities at every level of political, economic and social life.

The successes of the past 50 years have only been possible because of all the people who have given of their time, skills, dedication and caring, as trustees, members of staff, volunteers and fundraisers. This history records the truly magnificent spirit of caring in the area served by LDCVS.

Today, as Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions, we are proud of what has been accomplished. It is with great thanks to our members and our partners that we have sustained five decades of serving the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector.

To recognise the achievements of the last five decades, and look forward to what the next may bring, we took advantage of this significant anniversary to launch FestiVOL our inaugural event to celebrate the past, present and future of the voluntary community faith and social enterprise sector. Over 130 members, volunteers, partners and friends enjoyed a day of celebrations to mark our anniversary at the Banqueting Suite, Lancaster Town Hall.

We were delighted to have several guest speakers, inspiring us all on the day:

- Cat Smith, Member of Parliament for Lancaster and Fleetwood,
- Mark Davies, CEO of Lancaster City Council,
- Caroline Jackson, leader of Lancaster City Council
- Karen Kyle, Program Manager at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust
- Fiona Inston, Head of Public Protection at Lancaster City Council
- Guy Christianson, CEO of Lancashire Youth Challenge,
- Micheal Kohl, CEO of West End Impact,
- Robyn Thomas, CEO of Stanleys Community Centre,
- Deborah Hargreaves, Manager of Marsh Community Centre.

Throughout the day, participants had the opportunity to make new connections and benefit from our workshops. The feedback exceeded our expectations with overwhelming support and comments with many saying that this should be an annual event. The celebration was a rare opportunity for LDCVS to show the breadth of support it provides to the community and voluntary sector all in one place with organisations, groups, and projects from across the district showcasing their work.

It was a moment to honour our past and look with excitement to our future. It also served as a reminder that for five decades, we have inspired our members and communities. As we look to 2023-24



Celebrating our 50th Anniversary with sector colleagues, partners and stakeholders at Lancaster Town Hall

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and beyond, we are excited by the opportunities ahead of us.

You can read a report on our celebrations at <https://lancastercvs.org.uk/celebrating-50-years-of-lancaster-district-cvs/> and watch a short video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfcYloT55s0>

Organisational Development and Capacity Building

This service provides support to local people looking to establish new projects and groups, and also helps existing organisations to improve their effectiveness. Groups can access support with a wide range of issues including charity or social/community enterprise start-up, governance and leadership, achieving quality standards, social impact, project development, applying for funding, policy development, and training.

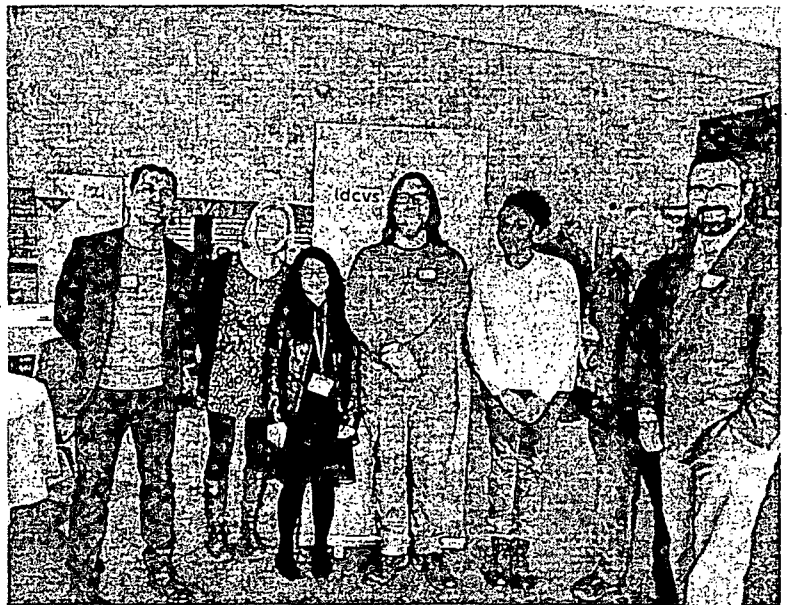
- We provided 241 bespoke information, advice and guidance sessions to 436 groups and organisations. Groups who received this support provide community services in areas of work including health and wellbeing, children, young people and families, environment, community safety, vulnerable people, arts and culture.
- We advised 23 new start-ups, helping with business planning, funding and investment.
- We delivered 17 open workshops to 119 delegates.

Funding Advice and Information

Our funding advice and information function helps sector organisations to access funding opportunities from sources including charitable trusts and commissioners that enables them to become more sustainable by improving their financial security and capacity.

Our Development Officer advises on local, regional and national opportunities and guides our members through one-to-one advice sessions. Other support also includes developing proposals to bid status, compiling evidence and data, and advice on managing and monitoring once the grants is awarded.

We hosted a 'meet the funder' event, connecting 110 attendees with representatives of local, regional and national funders including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Francis Scott Charitable Trust, Banks Lyon Memorial Trust, Arts Council, National Lottery Community Fund, Lancaster Community fund, Community Foundation for Lancashire, Lancaster Environmental fund, Key Fund, Growing Enterprise in Communities, Lancashire County Council Community Project Support, Ørsted Walney Extension Community Fund, Areti Charitable Trust and Richard and Elizabeth Wilson Trust.



Our team at the 2022 Funding Fair

The Bay Foundation

The Bay Foundation is our overall brand for the work we carry out relating to organising and promoting grant programmes for the benefit of communities across the district. We co-design and administer these programmes on behalf of philanthropic organisations, businesses and the public sector, helping funding to get to the places and projects that make a real difference to people's lives.

During the year, we:

- Launched a final round of the Community Health Champions Fund in partnership with Lancaster City Council, inviting and assessing applications for grants to be made in our 23/24 year. The programme

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funds projects which support our communities in talking about health and wellbeing and taking action to improve public health.

- Launched the first round of the Community Pots strand of the Pots of Possibility programme, through which we grant money originating with the National Lottery Community Fund for projects supporting community-led action and local initiatives to stimulate a zero-waste, circular and regenerative local economy.
- Distributed over £16,000 in grants of up to £500 from the Eric Wright Community Trust programme, targeted at our smallest community organisations.
- Worked with Lancaster City Council for a further year of the Lancaster Community Fund, distributing over £16,000 for projects which build community wealth and resilience, contribute to a more sustainable district, or create individual and community well-being
- Were invited by Lancaster City Council to collaborate in building a grant programme which used an allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support projects which communities address the increasing cost of living, particularly around energy and food costs. Over £50,000 was distributed in sixteen grants.
- Collaborated with the Westminster Foundation and the Population Health Investment Fund to provide targeted grants to community centres, youth organisations, parent/teacher associations, and uniformed groups over the winter of 2022/23. The grants supported the provision of free food to children and young people experiencing food insecurity.

Financial Services

Through our experienced Finance Officer we provide a range of services for the sector including payroll management, pensions advice, payment of grants and independent examinations of accounts.

During 2022-3, we provided:

- 19 independent examinations.
- Payroll services for 53 employees across 13 clients.

Lancaster District Volunteer Centre

The Lancaster District Volunteer centre supports volunteers, and the organisations that recruit volunteers, by providing a brokerage service that matches local people to organisations with volunteering opportunities. The centre also provides bespoke support to organisations deploying volunteers, including good practice guides, advice on policies and procedures and training and support with developing new initiatives involving volunteers.

Our Volunteer Centre remained the key local volunteering development organisation in the district. Our project supported a wide range of people including those recovering from issues such as mental health problems, alcohol and drug addiction, criminal justice and being long term unemployed.

Whilst we recognise that volunteering can bring enormous amounts of benefits to individuals and organisations, it also requires a great deal of partnership working to ensure people are supported into volunteering. A large percentage of people seeking opportunities had come from difficult backgrounds and were looking to rebuild their lives through volunteering. These were the very reasons for co-designing programmes that helped build resilience amongst families, individuals and communities – thus building social action and developing local leadership.

Creating pathways into volunteering for young people through to older people and those with disabilities amongst other community groups remained a focus for our team. Promoting volunteering in communities affected by unemployment as a means of building work skills, confidence and addressing community need also remained an important component of our work. Regular 'drop in' sessions were held in job centres, town centres, festivals, community events, community centres and in places and times that were more accessible for local people.

Find out more about our outreach to potential volunteers in this video showcasing the Volunteer Fair held at Lancaster Central Library on 23 February 2023: <https://youtu.be/1ORB6ZlxxjE>

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Recognising the need to dispel myths around the role of trustees as volunteers in voluntary sector charities, we worked to produce several videos for Trustee Week, including this example drawing on local voices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGSIWHpnrmo>

- Our online volunteer centre website advertised over 130 opportunities at volunteering.lancastercvs.org.uk
- 54 new organisations registered to offer opportunities online
- 123 potential volunteers registered to find opportunities online
- 70 organisations were advised about working with volunteers.
- One to one advice was offered to over 100 potential volunteers.
- We provided over 40 DBS checks, providing help with advice and guidance, eligibility checks, form filling and ID requirements.

The quality of the service we offer speaks for itself and it is a matter of great pride for us all to be able to respond to unmet needs. We consider ourselves fortunate to have such a committed volunteer team as we attempt to further increase the staffing resources to alleviate exceptional workload. The Lancaster District CVS administration team has continued to deal with information enquiries and ensure our database and membership records are kept up to date.

Without the contribution of our volunteers, we wouldn't be able to support the people and organisations we come into contact with. We would like to emphasise the significant contribution our volunteers make, and we hope that this continues to be recognised by our members and partners.

Lancaster District Volunteer Achievement Awards 2023



Hannah Lodge of Let's BeFriends receives the Volunteer of the Year Award from Clark Kent of Guy Penn Insurance, the category sponsor

Our prestigious bi-annual ceremony to celebrate volunteering and voluntary action, took place on Wednesday 7th June at the Midland Hotel as part of National Volunteer week. The awards provide an opportunity to thank the voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises and their volunteers who make such a difference in the district, 365 days a year.

130 guests attended the awards ceremony at the prestigious 90-year-old Art Deco jewel in Morecambe to pay tribute to the fantastic achievements of volunteers. It was truly an inspirational evening hosted by two young people from a local arts and music charity, More Music. All nominees received a certificate of recognition and winners were presented by the Mayor of Lancaster, the Right Worshipful Roger Dennison. Gifts and prizes were donated by local businesses which we were very grateful for.

We were delighted to have organised this event in partnership with Lancaster City Council with sponsorship from the Banks Lyon Memorial Trust, Lancaster and Morecambe College, Guy Penn Insurance and the Cumberland Building Society, as well as grants towards the event's costs from our local elected members of Lancashire County Council.

Categories recognised at the event were:

- Volunteer of the Year (aged 25 or over)
- Young Volunteer of the Year (aged 24 or under)
- Trustee of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- The Roger Sherlock Award for Community Inspiration
- Fundraiser of the Year
- Community Inspiration of the Year

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You can read a report on our celebrations here: <https://lancastercvs.org.uk/volunteer-achievement-awards-2023/>

Lancaster District Youth Partnership

The Lancaster District Youth Partnership has been at the core of supporting our children and young people for ten years, adapting and evolving when faced with challenges, to ensure that we are there in local communities, providing safe spaces, empowering and inspiring children and young people to overcome and achieve their potentials.

This has been a year unlike any others as we faced the unprecedented challenge of supporting children and young people from two years of lockdown. At a time when we knew our children and young people desperately needed safe spaces to go to, opportunities to connect with their friends, find support for their educational and health development and to try something new, we are incredibly proud of the way that our partnership came together and adapted its way of working to continue to meet the needs of children and young people from across our district.

The effects of the pandemic on our children and young people were significant but not new for communities where children and young people are at risk of poverty, food insecurity, personal safety issues and mental ill health. The range of programmes Lancaster District Young People Partnership offered were an essential lifeline for many.

From our work across the district, we know that every child and young person wants to be the best they can be. A combination of community-based, early intervention programmes, outdoor education, life skills underpinned by good mentoring, our work has had a long-term, positive impact on personal and social development. Providing access to a wide range of programs and fun activities in a safe environment with their peers underpins our approach.

But this is only one important element of what we offer. It's also about community and individual trust. Trust that leads to strong relationships, which in turn, create the magic that encourages individuals to open up, to share how they feel and get the support to shine.

Each part of this program has been delivered by the skills and experience of every partner involved. In delivering services to children and young people each partner took a lead on each provision to ensure all aspects of the program was well planned, communicated and that all participants improved their outcomes. Together, we delivered an exciting, engaging and life changing program to over 350 children and young people across our district.

Looking to the future, we want to build on what we have learnt from the last year and meet the increasing demand for our support as the continued fallout from the Covid pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis and growing conflict in Europe. In response to new challenges, the partnership has come together to develop a new strategy which will help us to achieve our next steps and ensure our communities continue to benefit.

Listening to young people about their experiences of the pandemic – and their hopes of our partnership has driven our work. Twenty-four children and young people came together to form our Youth Advisory Group, from every part of our district and reflecting the diversity of backgrounds and experiences we have in our city-region. The group held a central role in supporting and determining our work and keeping us accountable. Most importantly, they represented the views of their peers and did a fantastic job in ensuring that all children and young people tried new things and challenged themselves to reach their full potential.

Over the year, children and young people were, and remain, concerned about a huge range of issues, some as a result of the pandemic which has now been sharpened by the cost of living. The Lancaster Youth Advisory Group mobilised around these themes to energise and focus their work.

- SHOUT (See Hear Our Unheard Teenagers) delivered an outdoor learning programme to 197 young people through opportunities such as forest bathing and bushcraft skills.
- Activate delivered a mental and physical fitness programme to 143 young people through weekly gym sessions and emotional management classes.

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- The Community Impact Programme enabled 188 young people to develop and take part in realistic social action opportunities such as growing food and improving local parks and gardens.
- Inspiring Futures helped 212 young people explore their aspirations concerning their education, work, social and leisure interests
- A one-to-one mentoring programme meant that 155 young people could take a bespoke programme of coaching and mentoring for young people, enabling them to develop interpersonal skills in a safe and supportive environment, and at their own pace.

Break the Mould

In 2023, the Francis Scott Trust celebrated 60 years of supporting work with young people. To mark this milestone year, they asked that a group of local young people to distribute funds on the Trust's behalf. Young people from across the Trust's beneficiary area of Cumbria and Lancaster District were invited to design a grants programme and distribute £60,000 throughout 2023 that would benefit other local young people via their organised groups to support activities that are important to them.

Working in partnership with Cumbria Youth Alliance, the distribution of the charitable funds was both a privilege and a responsibility for us. Whilst the programme was connected to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Trust, it was also a learning exercise for us, to hear first-hand what is important to young people, and to inform and influence future frameworks for adopting youth voice in both grant making systems and strategy. Working collaboratively was an amazing opportunity for us to bring the programme to life, acting as coordinators and facilitators of the programme. As infrastructure organisations and with relationships with the youth sector, we were key to the success of this programme, adopting good practice in the emerging field of youth-led grant making, while recognising that we were all at the beginning of a journey in engaging young people in this way.



The young people of the Break the Mould team canoeing during a residential weekend at the Keppleway Centre

At the time of writing this report, we were at beginnings of this journey. However, in June 2023, we recruited 18 young people from Lancaster and Cumbria, took part in a 3-day training residential and the journey begun to design the grant making program. Our report ending 2024 will highlight the achievements of the program and we look forward to sharing these with you. In the meantime, please do watch our short video of young people taking part in the residential program at <https://lancastercvs.org.uk/break-the-mould/>

Our gratitude and thanks go to Helen Carter, Director of Francis C Scott Trust and colleagues at Cumbria Youth Alliance.

The Lancaster District Directory

The Lancaster District Directory, online at directory.lancastercvs.org.uk, helps our local population find and get in touch with essential services provided by community groups, the NHS and our local authorities.

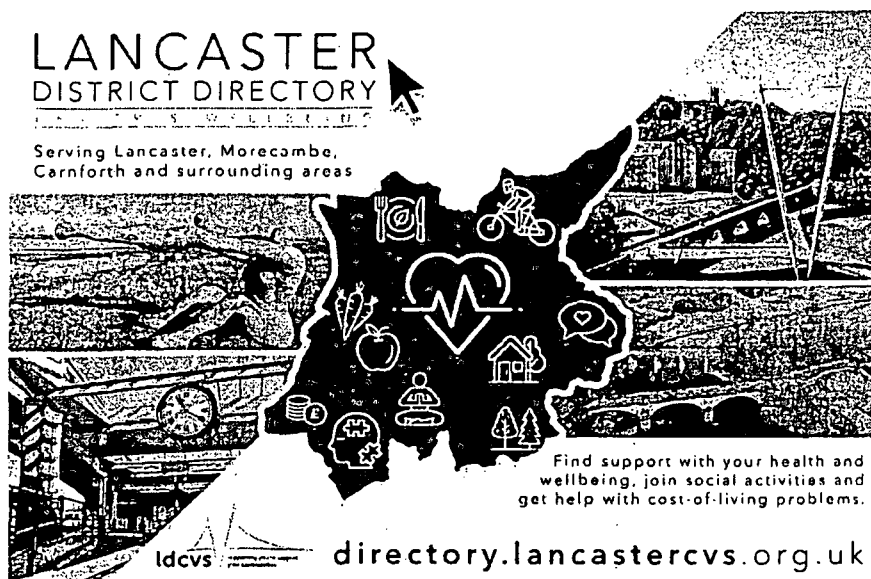
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Launched in January 2023 with the benefit of funding from Bay Health and Care Partners, the directory lists groups, classes, activities and advice sessions covering health, fitness, mental wellbeing, money and accommodation problems, food provision, jobs and skills – and much more.

The initiative, managed in partnership with Lancaster City Council and our local Integrated Care Communities, is intended to help the public and people who work to support their communities understand what is on offer in our local area for those who need help relating to any aspect of their lives.

Service listings include full descriptions, contact information and referral instructions, and are categorised for easy browsing, meaning that people have a one-stop-shop for sources of support.



Over 20,000 postcards promoting the Directory have been distributed across the Lancaster district

The project also facilitates referrals into services, allowing staff at GP surgeries to link patients up with organisations who can support their non-clinical needs. Patients are referred into LDCVS, where our Community Health Officer contacts them directly to find out more about their needs and support them to access relevant local provision.

By the end of our 2022-3 year, more than 350 services and activities in all corners of our district were listed online.

Community Action Networks

Over the year, we worked alongside a community with several health inequalities based on the west side of Lancaster. We worked together with the community to create opportunities for children, young people and families and help create better futures for themselves and improve the community they live in. Since starting this project, we have been amazed by the energy and passion of local organisations and residents who all share the same desire to improve the neighbourhood.

Several resident meetings took place and ideas were formulated by local people and between partners, following which support was given to help these ideas develop. Our team are based in the community on a weekly basis and collaborate with partners from Lancaster City Council, Lancaster Integrated Care Communities, GP practices, Ryelands Primary School, Lancaster Police and voluntary groups to support practical solutions which create real lasting change on the ground.

Over £12,000 was raised and the funds were used to help set up a fitness program for women, after school clubs for children and young people, environmental projects, breakfast clubs and other food support programs. Towards the end of the year, the community association had opened their own bank account, set up a fully functioning committee, attended a range of training programs and developed an action plan of activities for the coming year. In such an under-resourced area, it's been remarkable in what they achieved together to improve the health inequalities they face.

Partnerships and Networks

LDCVS is proud to play a key strategic role across the district, the county and the region. Working with VCFSE sector colleagues and partners from across sectors to help develop a diverse, strong and effective voluntary

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and community sector. During the year, we attended and contributed to nearly 200 strategic partnership meetings in the Lancaster district and across the county with the aim of ensuring the VCFSE sector is heard by our partners and influences a variety of agendas.

These included:

- Lancashire Place Based Partnership Board
- Health & Wellbeing Partnership Board
- Communities Together
- Community Action Network
- Food Poverty Alliance
- Lancaster & Morecambe College Governors
- Lancaster, Morecambe and Carnforth Integrated Care Communities
- Community Safety Partnership
- Eden Communities
- Coastal Communities
- Lancaster District Children Young People Multi Agency Forum
- Transforming Communities Agenda
- Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission
- Voluntary Sector Alliance
- Lancashire Association for CVS
- Chamber of Commerce
- Health Innovation Lab
- City of Sanctuary
- Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care
- Mental Health Forum
- West End Morecambe
- Creative Civic Change
- Integrated Care Partnership
- Community Conversations Strategy Group
- Sustainable Food Lancaster
- Population Health Strategic Group
- Homelessness Strategy Working Group
- Lancaster District Voluntary Sector Leadership Forum
- Community Wealth Building
- Digital Transformation Board.

Lancaster District Food Poverty Alliance

Throughout the year we continued to support the Food Poverty Alliance and frontline VCSE organisations in the fight against poverty and inequality. The Lancaster District Food Poverty Alliance met monthly, coordinated by the Environmental Protection and Public Health Team Leader at Lancaster City Council. Membership includes representatives from Lancashire County Council, Morecambe Bay Foodbank, Egg Cup, Lancaster District Food Clubs Alliance, Citizens Advice North Lancashire and the Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission.

Big Local – West End Morecambe

It has been a privilege to have worked with the West End Morecambe Partnership - a community led partnership committed to improving the West End of Morecambe. Every Big Local Partnership works with a Local Trusted Organisation (LTO) and the LDCVS as the WEM LTO provides a range of functions for the partnership. These include assistance with financial management, partnership working, training, grant administration, advice, insurance and public liability. Having helped them to complete their action plan in 2022, it has been incredible to see this resident-led partnership focus on making lasting positive change in their community. We have been amazed how this partnership have brought people together to collectively discuss strengths and issues in the community and come up with jointly produced solutions.

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Lancaster District VCFSE Leaders Forum

The leadership forum continued to meet monthly and work closer together so that we can genuinely unite the voice of the sector, help our communities grow and have a stronger and greater influence with our public, health and private sector partners at a district, regional and national level. Certainly, in the current climate, there has never been a greater interest in and focus on our role as providers, influencers and above all cultural changers. The forum focused on developing an action plan - a Memorandum of Understanding between the VCFSE sector and how our voluntary sector colleagues can strategically position and contribute to important conversations and decisions.

Lancaster District Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board

The Partnership was a mechanism for driving engagement and collaborative working between partners at a local level and provides a forum to discuss the strategic and operational co-ordination in the delivery of services. In this forum, chaired by our CEO, Yak Patel, the political, clinical, professional and community leaders from across our health and care system came together to deliver the strategic direction set by the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board in addition to our local actions to improve the health and wellbeing of our local populations and reduce health inequalities.

Community Safety Partnership

Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership continued throughout the year to address key safety issues in the district. Working with public, voluntary, community and private organisations, the CSP provided a co-ordinated response to a number of community safety issues such as domestic abuse, violent crime, community cohesion, hate crime, knife and gang crime, anti-social behaviour, and road safety.

Information and communication

Throughout the year we continued to focus on growing our audience across our communication channels and diversify our methods of communication. Our twitter audiences have grown, with an increase of 10%. We made steady progress with over 1000 followers to our Facebook account.

We published 48 editions of our weekly Bulletin to more than 700 subscribers, a very popular service among our members and stakeholders. The Bulletin connects groups to essential funding information and services. Information covered in these bulletins included local events and sector news, training and networking, health and wellbeing, job vacancies, funding information, policy updates, consultations and campaigning and news from local voluntary and community groups.

Financial review:

The total expenditure for the year was £879,675 (2022: £606,372) and income was £917,529 (2022: £705,148) giving a net operating profit of £37,854 (2022: £98,776) leaving funds carried forward to 2023-24 of £278,217 (2022-23: £240,363).

Our main source of funding for our core costs was the National Lottery (Community Fund). We also received funding from Lancaster City Council along with project funding from various sources to reach a total income from grants and contracts of £824,645 (2022: £646,707). Our income from services provided to other organisations was £88,445 (2022: £58,124).

The Trustees are aware that all funding streams remain under threat of reduction or withdrawal and they continue to diligently monitor the budget and work to establish new sources of funding.

Principal financial management policies adopted in the year:

A budget for the year was established and agreed prior to the beginning of the financial year and it was monitored and amended as necessary over the period.

Management accounts were prepared and presented regularly to the board of Trustees for their monitoring and analysis of income and expenditures against the budget.

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Policies regarding spending authorities, operation of petty cash systems and payment of expenses are held by the Charity and are reviewed at intervals.

Reserves policy:

The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold financial reserves in order that it might meet anticipated future costs contingent liabilities and that it can continue to operate and meet the needs of users in the present uncertain funding environment. In consequence, they have, to date, set aside £55,000 for this purpose and intend to increase this amount when further general funds are available. The Trustees routinely review the amount that should be held in reserve to meet contractual commitments and running costs in the event of significant reductions or withdrawals of funding which may have a damaging effect on continued operations.

Principal funding sources:

The main sources of grant funding were the National Lottery (Community Fund) and Lancaster City Council, both core cost grants. We also generated income via the Bay Foundation (see above) in respect of grant administration on behalf of funders.

Investment policy and objectives:

Funds which are not required immediately are held in easily accessed interest bearing accounts. This was deemed most appropriate since grant and income streams are occasionally subject to delays.

Risk Management:

The trustees review the risks at regular intervals and set up procedures to mitigate those risks.

The three main risks previously identified are the loss of major funding, insufficient trustees; and the loss of one or more key staff.

Subsidiaries: none to report

Plans for the future:

The Trustees are committed to growth of the organisation both in terms of scale and reach. We will continue to invest in effective infrastructure and our staff to maintain and improve the quality and range of services which we offer in our district.

To ensure that Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions is robust and sustainable we will constantly review the strategic direction of our organisation. Funding is crucial to this and we continue to identify possible opportunities to ensure a diverse funding profile.

However, we note that without the financial support of our current funders we would not be able to deliver this vital service and would like to take this opportunity to thank The National Lottery (Community Fund) and Lancaster City Council. We would also like to thank any other/trust/organisation that has supported us, either financially or in other ways, throughout the year.

Finally:

The Trustee Board would like to thank our Chief Officer, all our staff and volunteers for their dedication, hard work and for ensuring a highly valued service is delivered to the communities across North Lancashire.

Responsibilities of the Trustees:

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions for the purposes of Company Law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year.

**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Small Company Provisions:

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



**Paul Jebb
Chair of Trustees**

Approved by the Board on 18 January 2024

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure account) for the year ended 30 June 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 30th June 2023 set out on pages 17 to 24.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As the charity trustees of the company (and also, it's directors for the purposes of company law) you 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 company 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 company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2022 ("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.

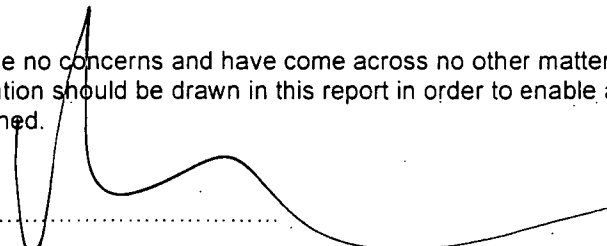
Independent examiner's statement

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 the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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 any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
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 and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other 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.



Damien Sissons BA FCA

Independent Examiner

The Old Court House
Clark Street
Morecambe
Lancashire
LA4 5HR

Date... 14.2.24

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure account) for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Incoming Resources					
Charitable activities	2	280,963	543,682	824,645	646,707
Other trading activities	3	88,445	-	88,445	58,124
Other	4	4,431	8	4,439	317
Total		373,839	543,690	917,529	705,148
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	6	288,017	591,658	879,675	606,372
Total		288,017	591,658	879,675	606,372
Net Income / (Expenditure)		85,822	(47,968)	37,854	98,776

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts related to continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Balance sheet at 30 June 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	-	1,143
Current assets			
Debtors	11	570	22,883
Cash at bank and in hand	10	556,751	543,475
		557,321	566,358
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(279,104)	(327,138)
Net current assets		278,217	239,220
Total assets less current liabilities		278,217	240,363
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	14	911	(84,911)
Restricted income funds	14	277,306	325,274
Total Funds		278,217	240,363

For the financial year ended 30 June 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and if its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

Approved by the members of the committee on 18 January 2024 and signed on its behalf.



Paul Jebb – Chair of Trustees

Company Registration No: 06743623

The notes on pages 19 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Charity have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Companies Act 2006, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

Incoming resources

Grants Receivable

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are receivable, except for those grants which are for a future specific period, in which case the relevant amount is deferred to that period.

Other income

Other income is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when it is incurred.

Expenditure includes any relevant VAT.

Grants payable are payments made to community groups from specific funding and are accounted for when the grant is awarded.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

Allocation of costs

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Some costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, e.g. estimated usage, as set out in Note 6.

Employee benefits

The costs of employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Pension Scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension costs charged in the Statement of Activities represent the contribution payable by the charity in the year.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the SOFA in the year in which they accrue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with charitable objects.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2023

Designated funds are those funds set aside by the Trustees out of the unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes and projects.

Transfers to unrestricted funds from restricted funds represent the amounts earned by the Charity by way of management and consultancy fees. Or other transfers as permitted by the relevant funding agreements,

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the full cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life. The principal rates in use are:

Equipment, fixtures and fittings	20% reducing balance
Computer equipment	100% on cost

2 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Grants and contracts	280,963	543,682	824,645	646,707

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Grant administration	66,788	-	66,788	49,841
Accounting support & Independent Examinations	2,470	-	2,470	2,315
Payroll services	4,876	-	4,876	3,837
Office services	458	-	458	490
Room rent	-	-	-	203
DB checks	1,974	-	1,974	1,228
Donation	11,879	-	11,879	-
Funding Fair	-	-	-	210
	88,445	-	88,445	58,124

4 Other

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Bank interest	4,431	8	4,439	317

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2023

5 Taxation

LDCVS is a registered charity. All the company's income is applied to its charitable activities and the company is therefore exempt under current legislation from most forms of taxation. (CTA 210s 475/476, 486 & 488 and ITA 2007 S532 & 534).

6 Resources expended

Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Salaries	219,748	-	219,748	145,294
Employer NIC	11,510	-	11,510	408
Training expenses	1,200	-	1,200	513
Office costs	1,686	-	1,686	2,541
Premises	11,724	-	11,724	7,804
Staff expenses	2,692	-	2,692	-
Christmas Staff Party	-	-	-	210
Governance	389	-	389	42
Events & training	4,805	-	4,805	896
Accounting services	1,116	-	1,116	960
DB checks	1,173	-	1,173	759
Marketing and publicity	601	-	601	-
Investment and setup	2,088	-	2,088	-
Equipment depreciation	2,151	-	2,151	1,241
Bank charges	60	-	60	96
Insurance renewal	1,102	-	1,102	1,014
Payroll software renewal	187	-	187	180
Membership annual charges	1,374	-	1,374	582
Website hosting	-	-	-	78
LCC Football project	-	-	-	350
CYA residential	6,491	-	6,491	-
Others	167	-	167	-
Communities together	2,993	-	2,993	-
PHIF	14,760	-	14,760	-
Management fees	-	66,788	66,788	-
Grant expenditure	-	524,870	524,870	443,404
	288,017	591,658	879,675	606,372

7 Staff costs and emoluments

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	209,402	138,640
Pension costs	10,346	6,654
	219,748	145,294

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2023

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year. Directors are not remunerated. There were no out of pocket expenses claimed by the Directors in the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the Charity during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Total	8	6

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer Equipment £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 01 July 2022	40,477	26,360	66,837
Additions	1,008	-	1,008
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2023	41,485	26,360	67,845
Depreciation			
At 01 July 2022	39,334	26,360	65,694
Charge for year	2,151	-	2,151
Eliminated	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2023	41,485	26,360	67,173
Net Book Value			
At 30 June 2023	-	-	-
At 30 June 2022	1,143	-	1,143

10 Cash at bank and in hand

	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Caf Gold	276,355	216,046
Caf Cash	3,093	2,155
Caf Gold – restricted – client funds – on behalf of charitable funders	276,466	323,435
Caf Street Aid – held funds on behalf of Street Aid Charity	837	1,839
	556,751	543,475

The Caf Reserves and Street Aid - clients balance represents funds held on behalf of smaller charitable funders – see note 12.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2023

11 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
NHS Morecambe CCG	-	-	-	5,280
Lancaster Music Festival	-	-	-	140
Let's Be Friends	-	-	-	70
Prop Up Project	-	-	-	35
Lancaster City Council	-	-	-	3,858
Blackburn CVS	-	-	-	13,500
Barton Road	200	-	200	-
Global Link	35	-	35	-
Piccadilly Gardens	35	-	35	-
Guy and Penn Insurance	300	-	300	-
	570	-	570	22,883

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
LMC (Rent)	842	-	842	904
Independent examiner	960	-	960	960
Held funds	-	277,302	277,302	325,274
	1,802	277,302	279,104	327,138

The Charity continues to hold funds on behalf of a number of funders for onward distribution to the sector. The funds held at 30 June 2023 amounted to £277,302 (2022: £325,274).

13 Commitments under operating leases

The company entered into a new rental agreement, for a 12-month period from 1st June 2023 that results in commitments under non- cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	Other items £
Operating leases which expire:	
Within 1 year	10,104
Within 2 to 5 years	-
After more than 5 years	-
	<u>10,104</u>

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2023

14 Analysis of funds

	At 01 July 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	At 30 June 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	(139,911)	373,839	(288,017)	-	(54,089)
Designated funds	55,000	-	-	-	55,000
Restricted funds – represents monies held on behalf of charitable funders	325,274	543,690	(591,658)	-	277,306
Total funds	240,363	917,529	(879,675)	-	278,217

The Trustees at 30 June 2023 have designated £55,000 (2022: £55,000) for potential future redundancy costs per the Charity's reserve policy.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Prior Year Total £
Fixed assets	-	-	-	1,143
Current assets	280,019	277,302	557,321	566,358
Current liabilities	(1,802)	(277,302)	(279,104)	(327,138)
	278,217	-	278,217	240,363

LANCASTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SOLUTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1127626

Accounts

Company Registration number 06743623

Charity number 1127626

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

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Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Directors, officers and advisers

Trustees

H Shukla
Dr SJ Riches
K Dunn
J Anderson
C Chapman
CM Ostermeyer
PM Colley

Company Secretary and Registered office

K Dunn
The Cornerstone
Sulyard Street
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 1PX

Charity registration number

1127626

Registered charity name

Lancaster District Community & Voluntary Solutions

Company registered number

06743623

Principal place of business

The Cornerstone
Sulyard Street
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 1PX

Accountants

Coates & Co
Chartered Accountants
2 Fairhope Avenue
Bare
Morecambe
Lancashire
LA4 6JZ

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
PO box 289
Kings Mill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year were:

Alan Chesters	resigned 1 November 2021
Harsha Shukla	
Dr Samantha Jane Riches	
Kenneth Dunn	
Jill Anderson	
Prof Keith Adrian Percy	resigned 1 November 2021
Claire Chapman	
Stephen Thomas Jeffries	appointed 1 November 2021, resigned 9 December 2021
Carol Mary Ostermeyer	appointed 22 February 2022
Paul Michael Colley	appointed 15 June 2022

Additional CVS Board Members:

Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council each nominate an individual to join the board as a non-voting observer / advisor, during the year this was:

Lancaster City Councillor: Alistair Sinclair

Names of other persons who served as trustees in the financial period:

Stephen Thomas Jeffries

Chief Officer: Yakub Patel

Structure, governance and Management:

Nature of the governing document:	Memorandum and Articles
How the Charity is constituted:	Incorporated
Date of governing document:	7 th November 2018 (revised)

Governance:

LDCVS was founded in 1972 as the National Council of Voluntary Services, an unincorporated charity. It became a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated 7th November 2008 and was established under a memorandum and articles of association which describes the objects and powers of the charitable company, and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Full membership of LDCVS is open to voluntary organisations that comply with the criteria for membership. In addition, there are affiliate categories of membership for public sector and corporate bodies. LDCVS trustee board is responsible for managing the business of LDCVS as outlined in the Articles of Association.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees:

LDCVS is a membership organisation, the membership being predominantly drawn from other local voluntary organisations, from whom the Directors (Board of Trustees) are elected either at the AGM or through an open and transparent selection and interview process. The paid staff of LDCVS are accountable to this Board. No funders are currently represented on the Board.

Policy and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees:

New trustees are inducted into the workings of the Charity, including policies and procedures, in a timely fashion and understand their responsibilities.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

Our purpose, aims and activities for the year 2021-22:

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions (LDCVS) is an infrastructure organisation that exists to support and strengthen the sustainability, independence and ability of community, voluntary and faith and social enterprise organisations to deliver services and activities that support individuals and communities in the Lancaster District. Currently we have over 400 local organisations as members of LDCVS and also a number of public sector and corporate bodies that are associate members. In addition, we offer support to individuals with volunteering through our Volunteer Centre.

Our Objects, which are contained in our governing document (Memorandum and Articles) are:

- To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community with particular reference to the local government district of Lancaster (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") and, in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together in council representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the area of benefit.

The aims of our charity are to

- Ensure our members are well supported to deliver the best outcomes and that their expertise is valued and maximised.
- Work with our members to shape local services to best meet local needs.
- Bring organisations together to build relationships, share support and learn from each other.
- Help our members access the resources, funding and support they need.

Our aims fully reflect the purposes (objects) that the charity was set up to further and we review them, together with our objectives and activities, each year to assess the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to our beneficiaries. This review also helps us to ensure our aims, objectives and activities are focused on our stated purposes and how planned activities contribute to the aims and objectives set by the Trustee Board. In considering these, the trustees of LDCVS believe they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The focus of our work:

Our overall mission has been, and remains, to promote, develop and support, through partnership, a dynamic and diverse voluntary and community sector. In setting out our aims and objectives we have also defined the outcomes that will demonstrate whether we met them and whether our activities have brought about benefits to those organisations and individuals we work with. Our business plan details further these activities and the associated indicators.

Achievements and performance:

In addition to this brief Trustees report the Chief Officer has prepared a more detailed report of our activities and the outcomes which will be sent to members and can be supplied to anyone else with an interest in our charity.

The measures associated with the continuing Covid 19 pandemic affected many aspects of our lives in the early part of our year. It had a particular impact on the focus of our work and the services provided by organisations in the Lancaster District. During the second half of our year our focus shifted towards recovery from the most severe phase of the pandemic and its impact on the voluntary sector and most particularly on initiatives to build organisational and individual resilience.

LDCVS played a key role in this activity, acting as a liaison between different groups and signposting individuals to where help and support could be offered. We also played a key role, as administrators, in the operation of an 'Urgent Response Fund', a fund established by our team to help organisations provide support to individuals during the pandemic. We continue to be a member of the multi-agency task group set up to oversee this fund.

Although this meant a shift in our focus we also continued with our more traditional activities throughout the year. These included taking the lead in a number of partnership forums including the 'Voluntary Community

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

Faith Social Enterprise leadership Forum'; the 'Community Action Network,' the 'Morecambe Inter Agency Group', the 'Children, Young People and Families forum', the 'Voluntary Community Faith Social Enterprise Emergency Partnership Group'. In addition, we were involved in providing a voice for the local sector by our involvement with a number of strategic partnerships including the Integrated Care Partnership, the Lancashire Voluntary Community Faith Social Enterprise Alliance and leaders Forum, Population Health Management Group the Lancaster District Community Conversation and working in partnership with Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council and the Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group. We continue to be a trusted partner with the West End Millions and Creative Civic change funds that were established to develop the West End of Morecambe.

We have continued to provide the Volunteer Centre for the district and this year have instigated, and lead, the Lancaster District Voluntary Sector Leadership Forum which has a current membership of 49 organisations. The centre is a member of NCVO and therefore complies with the requirement to provide a service that covers the core areas of work for a volunteer centre.

Financial services support:

Our support for local organisations includes financial services support and this broadly falls into three categories;

- **Grant Administration**

We continued to administer grant programmes on behalf of leading funders both locally and nationally within our Bay Foundation. Our role is to provide advice to groups on these grants, support the work of each of the decision panels, prepare reports and information material, draw up funding agreements, make payments and coordinate monitoring returns.

- **Financial Services**

We continued to provide a cost efficient and effective financial service to some local groups to help implement and operate their own accounting and financial management systems.

The Volunteer Centre:

Our Volunteer Centre remained as the key local volunteering development organisation within the district. The centre has links with local, regional and national agencies in policy and practice relating to volunteering. We engaged with a wide range of people including those recovering from mental health issues, alcohol and drug addiction, criminal justice and those long term unemployed. Whilst we recognise that volunteering can bring enormous amounts of benefits to individuals and organisations (life experiences), it also required a great deal of partnership working to ensure people are supported into volunteering. A large percentage of people seeking opportunities had come from difficult backgrounds and were looking to rebuild their lives through volunteering. These were the very reasons for co-designing programmes that helped build resilience amongst families, individuals and communities.

Financial review:

The total expenditure for the year was £606,372 (2021: £402,767) and income was £705,148 (2021: £335,743) giving a net operating profit of £98,776 (2021: net operating loss of £67,024) leaving funds carried forward to 2022-23 of £240,363 (2021-22: £141,587).

Our main source of funding for our core costs, which reduced slightly compared to the previous financial year, was Lancashire County Council. We also received funding from Lancaster City Council along with project funding from various sources to reach a total income from grants and contracts of £646,707 (2021: £298,139). Our income from services provided to other organisations was £58,124 (2021: £37,574).

The Trustees are aware that all funding streams remain under threat of reduction or withdrawal and they continue to diligently monitor the budget and work to establish new sources of funding.

Principal financial management policies adopted in the year:

A budget for the year was established and agreed prior to the beginning of the financial year and it was monitored and amended as necessary over the period.

Management accounts were prepared and presented monthly to the board of Trustees for their monitoring and analysis of income and expenditures against the budget.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

Policies regarding spending authorities, operation of petty cash systems and payment of expenses are held by the Charity and are reviewed at intervals.

Reserves policy:

The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold financial reserves in order that it might meet anticipated future costs contingent liabilities and that it can continue to operate and meet the needs of users in the present uncertain funding environment. In consequence, they have, to date, set aside £55,000 for this purpose and intend to increase this amount when further general funds are available. The Trustees routinely review the amount that should be held in reserve to meet contractual commitments and running costs in the event of significant reductions or withdrawals of funding which may have a damaging effect on continued operations.

Principal funding sources:

The main sources of grant funding were the National Lottery (Community Fund) and Lancaster City Council, both core cost grants. We also generated income via the Bay Foundation (see above) in respect of grant administration on behalf of Funders. We enjoyed prepayments of grants and project fees from the County and City authorities along with the National Lottery of £102,000 which led to a comparatively large carry forward of funds from the year ending 30 June 2020.

Investment policy and objectives:

Funds which are not required immediately are held in easily accessed interest bearing accounts. This was deemed most appropriate since grant and income streams are occasionally subject to delays.

Risk Management:

The trustees review the risks at regular intervals and set up procedures to mitigate those risks.

The three main risks previously identified are the loss of major funding, insufficient trustees; and the loss of one or more key staff.

Subsidiaries: none to report

Plans for the future:

The Trustees are committed to growth of the organisation both in terms of scale and reach. We will continue to invest in effective infrastructure and our staff to maintain and improve the quality and range of services which we offer in our district.

To ensure that Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions is robust and sustainable we will constantly review the strategic direction of our organisation. Funding is crucial to this and we continue to identify possible opportunities to ensure a diverse funding profile.

However, we note that without the financial support of our current funders we would not be able to deliver this vital service and would like to take this opportunity to thank Lancaster City Council and Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group. We would also like to thank any other/trust/organisation that has supported us, either financially or in other ways, throughout the year.

Finally:

The Trustee Board would like to thank our Chief Officer, all our staff and volunteers for their dedication, hard work and for ensuring a highly valued service is delivered to the communities across North Lancashire.

Responsibilities of the Trustees:

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions for the purposes of Company Law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Small Company Provisions:

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

UABLE Louise Chapman
Chair of Trustees

UABLE 15/11/22

Approved by the Board on November 2022

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Independent Examiner's report to the member of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30th June 2022 set out on pages 8 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions for the purposes of company law) 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), as amended by section 28 of the Companies Act 2006) and that an independent examination is needed.

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:

- 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 independent examiner's statement

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 on 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 I do not express an audit opinion on whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view'.

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 trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006); and
- accounts are prepared which agree 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; or

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



Anthony Coates

1st November 2022

Independent Examiner

2 Fairhope Avenue
Morecambe
Lancashire
LA4 6JZ.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure account) for the year ended 30 June 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Incoming Resources					
Charitable activities	2	219,015	427,692	646,707	298,139
Other trading activities	3	58,124	-	58,124	37,574
Other	4	317	-	317	30
Total		277,456	427,692	705,148	335,743
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	5	162,968	443,404	606,372	402,767
Total		162,968	443,404	606,372	402,767
Net Income / (Expenditure)		114,488	(15,712)	98,776	(67,024)

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts related to continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Balance sheet at 30 June 2022

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	1,143	2,384
Current assets			
Debtors	11	22,883	1,215
Cash at bank and in hand	10	543,475	280,747
		566,358	281,962
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(327,138)	(142,759)
Net current assets		239,220	139,203
Total assets less current liabilities		240,363	141,587
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	14	218,994	104,506
Restricted income funds	14	21,369	37,081
Total Funds		240,363	141,587

For the financial year ended 30 June 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and if its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

Approved by the members of the committee on 9th November 2022 and signed on its behalf.



Ken Dunn – Treasurer

Company Registration No: 06743623

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Charity have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Companies Act 2006, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

Incoming resources

Grants Receivable

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are receivable, except for those grants which are for a future specific period, in which case the relevant amount is deferred to that period.

Other income

Other income is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when it is incurred.

Expenditure includes any relevant VAT.

Grants payable are payments made to community groups from specific funding and are accounted for when the grant is awarded.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

Allocation of costs

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Some costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, e.g. estimated usage, as set out in Note 6.

Employee benefits

The costs of employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Pension Scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension costs charged in the Statement of Activities represent the contribution payable by the charity in the year.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the SOFA in the year in which they accrue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with charitable objects.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2022

Designated funds are those funds set aside by the Trustees out of the unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes and projects.

Transfers to unrestricted funds from restricted funds represent the amounts earned by the Charity by way of management and consultancy fees. Or other transfers as permitted by the relevant funding agreements,

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the full cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life. The principal rates in use are:

Equipment, fixtures and fittings	20% reducing balance
Computer equipment	33% on cost

2 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Grants and contracts	219,015	427,692	646,707	298,139

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Grant administration	49,841	-	49,841	20,192
Accounting support & Independent Examination.'s	2,315	-	2,315	1,530
Payroll services	3,837	-	3,837	3,313
Office services	490	-	490	440
Room rent	203	-	203	-
DB checks	1,228	-	1,228	2,652
Donation	-	-	-	6,452
Esol	-	-	-	2,995
Funding Fair	210	-	210	-
	58,124	-	58,124	37,574

4 Other

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Bank interest	317	-	317	30

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2022

5 Taxation

LDCVS is a registered charity. All the company's income is applied to its charitable activities and the company is therefore exempt under current legislation from most forms of taxation. (CTA 210s 475/476, 486 & 488 and ITA 2007 S532 & 534).

6 Resources expended

Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Salaries	145,294	-	145,294	156,884
Employer NIC	408	-	408	-
Training expenses	513	-	513	937
Office costs	2,541	-	2,541	2,765
Premises	7,804	-	7,804	10,752
Web design	-	-	-	6,832
Christmas Staff Party	210	-	210	-
Governance	42	-	42	985
Events & training	896	-	896	750
Accounting services	960	-	960	600
DB checks	759	-	759	639
Census	-	-	-	100
Bad debt	-	-	-	-
Equipment depreciation	1,241	-	1,241	1,241
Bank charges	96	-	96	93
Insurance renewal	1,014	-	1,014	903
Payroll software renewal	180	-	180	178
Membership annual charges	582	-	582	559
Website hosting	78	-	78	108
LCC Football project	350	-	350	110
NHS Leadership fund	-	-	-	300
	162,968	-	162,968	184,736

7 Staff costs and emoluments

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	138,640	150,391
Pension costs	6,654	6,493
	145,294	156,884

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year. Directors are not remunerated. There were no out of pocket expenses claimed by the Directors in the year.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2022

8 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the Charity during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Total	6	7

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer Equipment £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 01 July 2021	40,477	26,360	66,837
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2022	40,477	26,360	66,837
Depreciation			
At 01 July 2021	38,093	26,360	64,453
Charge for year	1,241	-	1,241
Eliminated	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2022	39,334	26,360	65,694
Net Book Value			
At 30 June 2022	1,143	-	1,143
At 30 June 2021	2,384	-	2,384

10 Cash at bank and in hand

	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Caf Gold	216,046	138,352
Caf Cash	2,155	1,432
Caf Gold – restricted – client funds – on behalf of charitable funders	323,435	137,922
Caf Street Aid – held funds on behalf of Street Aid Charity	1,839	3,041
	543,475	280,747

The Caf Reserves and Street Aid - clients balance represents funds held on behalf of smaller charitable funders – see note 12.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2022

11 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Strawberry Fields	-	-	-	900
The Rainbow Centre	-	-	-	85
Lancashire Youth Challenge	-	-	-	40
Scientist Global Responsibilities	-	-	-	130
Over Wyresdale Parish Hall	-	-	-	60
NHS Morecambe CCG	5,280	-	5,280	-
Lancaster Music Festival	140	-	140	-
Let's Be Friends	70	-	70	-
Prop Up Project	35	-	35	-
Lancaster City Council	3,858	-	3,858	-
Blackburn CVS	13,500	-	13,500	-
	22,883	-	22,883	1,215

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
LMC (Rent)	904	-	904	896
Independent examiner	960	-	960	900
Pension costs	-	-	-	-
LG & BC (room hire)	-	-	-	-
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-
Held funds	-	325,274	325,274	140,963
	1,864	325,274	327,138	142,759

The Charity continues to hold funds on behalf of a number funders for onward distribution to the sector. The funds held at 30 June 2022 amounted to £325,274 (2021: £140,963).

13 Commitments under operating leases

The company entered into a new rental agreement, for a 12 month period from 1st June 2022 that results in commitments under non- cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	Other items £
Operating leases which expire:	
Within 1 year	9,180
Within 2 to 5 years	-
After more than 5 years	-
	<u>9,180</u>

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2022

14 Analysis of funds

	At 01 July 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	At 30 June 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	59,206	277,456	(162,968)	(9,700)	163,994
Designated funds	45,300	-	-	9,700	55,000
Restricted funds – represents monies held on behalf of charitable funders	37,081	427,692	(443,404)	-	21,369
Total funds	141,587	705,148	(606,372)	-	240,363

The Trustees at 30 June 2022 have designated £55,000 (2021: £45,300) for potential future redundancy costs per the Charity's reserve policy,

Restricted funds represent:

ReachIT – delivered IT support sessions for those dis-engaged from IT to help with job applications, and accessing on-line services.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Prior Year Total £
Current assets	241,084	325,274	566,358	281,963
Current liabilities	(1,864)	(325,274)	(327,138)	(142,759)
	239,220	-	239,220	139,204

LANCASTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SOLUTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1127626

Accounts



Company Registration number 06743623

Charity number 1127626

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2021

COATES & CO
Chartered Accountants
Morecambe

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

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Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Directors, officers and advisers

Trustees

A Chesters
H Shukla
Dr SJ Riches
K Dunn
J Anderson
Prof KA Percy
C Chapman

Company Secretary and Registered office

K Dunn
The Cornerstone
Sulyard Street
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 1PX

Charity registration number

1127626

Registered charity name

Lancaster District Community & Voluntary Solutions

Company registered number

06743623

Principal place of business

The Cornerstone
Sulyard Street
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 1PX

Accountants

Coates & Co
Chartered Accountants
2 Fairhope Avenue
Bare
Morecambe
Lancashire
LA4 6JZ

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
PO box 289
Kings Mill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year were:

Alan Chesters
Harsha Shukla
Dr Samantha Jane Riches
Kenneth Dunn
Jill Anderson
Prof Keith Adrian Percy
Claire Chapman

Additional CVS Board Members:

Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council each nominate an individual to join the board as a non-voting observer / advisor, during the year this was:

Lancaster City Councillor: Alistair Sinclair

Names of other persons who served as trustees in the financial period:

Chief Officer: Yakub Patel

Structure, governance and Management:

Nature of the governing document:	Memorandum and Articles
How the Charity is constituted:	Incorporated
Date of governing document:	7 th November 2008

Governance:

LDCVS was founded in 1972 as the National Council of Voluntary Services, an unincorporated charity. It became a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated 7th November 2008 and was established under a memorandum and articles of association which describes the objects and powers of the charitable company, and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Full membership of LDCVS is open to voluntary organisations that comply with the criteria for membership. In addition, there are affiliate categories of membership for public sector and corporate bodies. LDCVS trustee board is responsible for managing the business of LDCVS as outlined in the Articles of Association.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees:

LDCVS is a membership organisation, the membership being predominantly drawn from other local voluntary organisations, from whom the Directors (Board of Trustees) are elected either at the AGM or through an open and transparent selection and interview process. The paid staff of LDCVS are accountable to this Board. No funders are currently represented on the Board.

Policy and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees:

New trustees are inducted into the workings of the Charity, including policies and procedures, in a timely fashion and understand their responsibilities.

Our purpose, aims and activities for the year 2020-21:

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions (LDCVS) is an infrastructure organisation that exists to support and strengthen the sustainability, independence and ability of community, voluntary and faith and social enterprise organisations to deliver services and activities that support individuals and communities in the Lancaster District. Currently we have over 400 local organisations as members of LDCVS and also a

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

number of public sector and corporate bodies that are associate members. In addition, we offer support to individuals with volunteering through our Volunteer Centre.

Our Objects, which are contained in our governing document (Memorandum and Articles) are:

- To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community with particular reference to the local government district of Lancaster (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") and, in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together in council representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the area of benefit.

The aims of our charity are to

- Ensure our members are well supported to deliver the best outcomes and their expertise is valued and maximised.
- Work with our members to shape local services to best meet local needs.
- Bring organisations together to build relationships, share support and learn from each other.
- Help our members access the resources, funding and support they need.

Our aims fully reflect the purposes (objects) that the charity was set up to further and we review them, together with our objectives and activities, each year to assess the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to our beneficiaries. This review also helps us to ensure our aims, objectives and activities are focused on our stated purposes and how planned activities contribute to the aims and objectives set by the Trustee Board. In considering these, the trustees of LDCVS believe they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The focus of our work:

Our overall mission has been, and remains, to promote, develop and support, through partnership, a dynamic and diverse voluntary and community sector. In setting out our aims and objectives we have also defined the outcomes that will demonstrate whether we met them and whether our activities have brought about benefits to those organisations and individuals we work with. Our business plan details further these activities and the associated indicators.

Achievements and performance:

In addition to this brief Trustees report the Chief Officer has prepared a more detailed report of our activities and the outcomes which will be sent to members and can be supplied to anyone else with an interest in our charity.

LDCVS continued to adapt over the last year, often with Covid-19 as the major motivation, ensuring that we remained a major hub for the VCFSE sector through our two main strands – the Volunteer Centre and Development Support. Over the course of the year, vital information flowed to you, our members and partners, to local government, to health and many others but all with the aim of supporting our communities and the voluntary sector. We want to convey sincere thanks to you, our members, for engaging in meetings and completing our surveys so that we could continue to understand the impact of the current operating environment, and meet your needs.

Much of the way we work has been changed by the new ways we have learned to communicate. During the 2020/21 year we created and shared a weekly information bulletin, initially focused on the pandemic, which has now expanded to include a variety of useful information relevant to the sector as we not only deal with current issues but also look to the future.

We also re-launched our online presence with a new website. With almost entirely re-written content and links into new membership and volunteer recruitment systems, the site should better signpost our services and provide more flexible access.

Our overriding commitment is to making sure that the VCFSE sector is visible, valued, and has a strong voice and influence. To that end, we remained a key partner in the Lancashire Resilience Forum, worked

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

closely with the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership, and sustained the Lancashire District VCFSE Sector Leader's Group. This partnership working has forged welcome new links between and across sectors.

Beyond the pandemic response, we have continued to represent the sector on the Morecambe Bay Integrated Care Partnership, on the Population Health Strategic Group, and on the Health & Wellbeing Partnership Board, while maintaining our own networks including the Children & Young People's Multi-agency Forum, the Morecambe Interagency Group, and the Volunteer Network.

LDCVS also partnered with Lancashire Adult Learning, Lancaster and Morecambe College, and the WEA to launch a Community Learning Network, which will work through the coming year to develop and offer community-led and based courses.

Our volunteer centre remained as the key volunteering development resource for the district. While there was a continued and strong focus on the response to the pandemic through coordinating with Lancaster City Council, Hope Church and Bay Health Care partners, we also worked with our members to support their existing volunteer force, find new volunteers, and develop new roles responding to changed conditions. Implementing new software has made it easier to recruit volunteers and advertise roles.

At the end of our 2020/21 year we were delighted to once again hold the Lancaster District Volunteering Awards, our first online version of this event. In developing the event we intended to thank everybody who had volunteered to help their community over the last year and therefore created awards for everybody nominated in a ceremony without categories. Over 100 awards were distributed to teams and individuals from across the district, and we would like to thank Lancaster City Council for their continued support for this event.

As the voluntary sector membership body for Lancaster District, we offer free professional help and advice to our members, supporting start-ups, governance, funding, business planning and policy development. This sector support has never been more vital, and unsurprisingly the number of one to one support sessions grew significantly despite the move to digital delivery. Our two sector resilience surveys provided vital information about how members were coping with various aspects of the pandemic response, further guiding our efforts.

We continued to offer a DBS check service for staff and volunteers within member organisations, carrying out an increased number of checks and advice sessions, and also grew our paid-for financial services including payroll and independent examinations against a backdrop of complex activity around the Job Retention Scheme in operation throughout the year.

Our 2020/21 year was also significant for several developments within our grants and investments programme through the Bay Foundation. Recognising that the pandemic is at its core a human tragedy, we operated the Urgent Response Fund throughout the year, allocating over £98,000 to 87 projects by the end of June 2021, in partnership with Lancaster City Council.

Through another new initiative, LDCVS secured £35,000 from the Morecambe Bay Population Health Investment Fund to support the district's VCFSE sector in providing services that address health inequalities. Projects enabled by this funding included online classes, counselling and mental health support, food initiatives, and family activities.

Looking to the future, the board and staff of LDCVS have reflected on our core values and how we work as an organisation to refresh our business plan, drawing on recent surveys, our conversations with the sector and the needs of our stakeholders. In service of our mission: to support connect and champion the VCFSE sector, we will be working to:

- Ensure that our members are well supported and resourced,
- Connect together communities, the VCFSE sector and support agencies,
- Champion the sector, and
- Be a sustainable organisation, open to new learning.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

Financial services support:

Our support for local organisations includes financial services support and this broadly falls into three categories;

- **Grant Administration**

We continued to administer grant programmes on behalf of the Net Merriman Trust, the Eric Wright Trust and the West End Millions (Morecambe). We also began, during the year, to administer the grants for the Eric Wright Trust. Our role was to provide advice to groups on these grants, support the work of each of the decision panels, prepare reports and information material, draw up funding agreements, make payments and coordinate monitoring returns. There are appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure that any movements in funds are authorised by the respective organisations.

- **Financial Services**

We continued to provide a cost efficient and effective financial service to some local groups to help implement and operate their own accounting and financial management systems in particular payroll and Independent Examinations.

The Volunteer Centre:

Our Volunteer Centre remained as the key local volunteering development organisation within the district. The centre has links with local, regional and national agencies in policy and practice relating to volunteering. We engaged with a wide range of people including those recovering from mental health issues, alcohol and drug addiction, criminal justice and those long term unemployed. Whilst we recognise that volunteering can bring enormous amounts of benefits to individuals and organisations (life experiences), it also required a great deal of partnership working to ensure people are supported into volunteering. A large percentage of people seeking opportunities had come from difficult backgrounds and were looking to rebuild their lives through volunteering. These were the very reasons for co-designing programmes that helped build resilience amongst families, individuals and communities.

Financial review:

The total expenditure for the year was £402,767 (2020: £139,478) and income was £335,743 (2020: £302,970) giving a net operating loss of £67,024 (2020: surplus of £163,492) leaving funds carried forward to 2021-22 of £141,587 (2020: £208,611).

Our main source of funding for our core costs, which increased compared to the previous financial year, was Lancaster City Council. We received specific project funding from various sources to reach a total income from grants and contracts of £298,139 (2020: £270,031). Our income from services provided to other organisations was £37,574 (2020: £16,980).

The Trustees are aware that all funding streams remain under threat of reduction or withdrawal and they continue to diligently monitor the budget and work to establish new sources of funding.

Principal financial management policies adopted in the year:

A budget for the year was established and agreed prior to the beginning of the financial year and it was monitored and amended as necessary over the period.

Management accounts were prepared and presented monthly to the board of Trustees for their monitoring and analysis of income and expenditures against the budget.

Policies regarding spending authorities, operation of petty cash systems and payment of expenses are held by the Charity and are reviewed at intervals.

Reserves policy:

The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold financial reserves in order that it might meet anticipated future costs contingent liabilities and that it can continue to operate and meet the needs of users in the present uncertain funding environment. In consequence, they have, to date, set aside £45,300 for this purpose and intend to increase this amount when further general funds are available. The Trustees routinely review the amount that should be held in reserve to meet contractual commitments and running costs in the event of significant reductions or withdrawals of funding which may have a damaging effect on continued operations.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

Principal funding sources:

The main sources of grant funding were Lancaster City Council and the NFU. We also utilised a prepayment of 2021 costs in respect of Covid response, from the National Lottery along with a surplus of funds carried forward from the previous financial year. We generated income via the Bay Foundation in respect of grant administration on behalf of 3rd parties and from direct service provision to other charities in our district.

Investment policy and objectives:

Funds which are not required immediately are held in easily accessed interest bearing accounts. This was deemed most appropriate since grant and income streams are occasionally subject to delays.

Risk Management:

The trustees review the risks at regular intervals and set up procedures to mitigate those risks.

The three main risks previously identified are the loss of major funding, insufficient trustees; and the loss of one or more key staff.

Subsidiaries: none to report

Plans for the future:

The Trustees are committed to growth of the organisation both in terms of scale and reach. We will continue to invest in effective infrastructure and our staff to maintain and improve the quality and range of services which we offer in our district.

To ensure that Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions is robust and sustainable we will constantly review the strategic direction of our organisation. Funding is crucial to this and we continue to identify possible opportunities to ensure a diverse funding profile.

However, we note that without the financial support of our current funders we would not be able to deliver this vital service and would like to take this opportunity to thank Lancaster City Council and the NFU. We would also like to thank all of the other trusts and organisations that have supported us, either financially or in other ways, throughout the year.

Finally:

The Trustee Board would like to thank our Chief Officer, all our staff and volunteers for their dedication, hard work and for ensuring a highly valued service is delivered to the communities across North Lancashire.

Responsibilities of the Trustees:

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions for the purposes of Company Law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

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

Small Company Provisions:

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Claire-Louise Chapman
Chair of Trustees

Approved by the Board on .13th October 2021

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Independent Examiner's report to the member of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30th June 2021 set out on pages 8 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions for the purposes of company law) 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), as amended by section 28 of the Companies Act 2006) and that an independent examination is needed.

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:

- 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 independent examiner's statement

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 on 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 I do not express an audit opinion on whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view'.

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 trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006); and
- accounts are prepared which agree 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; or

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



Anthony Coates

13th October 2021

Independent Examiner

2 Fairhope Avenue
Morecambe
Lancashire
LA4 6JZ

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure account) for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Incoming Resources					
Charitable activities	2	62,663	235,476	298,139	285,715
Other trading activities	3	37,574	-	37,574	16,980
Other	4	30	-	30	275
Total		100,267	235,476	335,743	302,970
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	5	184,736	218,031	402,767	139,478
Total		184,736	218,031	402,767	139,478
Net Income / (Expenditure)		(84,469)	17,445	(67,024)	163,492

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts related to continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Balance sheet at 30 June 2021

	<i>Notes</i>	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	2,384	3,625
Current assets			
Debtors	11	1,215	15,884
Cash at bank and in hand	10	280,747	337,536
		281,962	353,420
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(142,759)	(148,434)
Net current assets		139,203	204,986
Total assets less current liabilities		141,587	208,611
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	14	104,506	188,975
Restricted income funds	14	37,081	19,636
Total Funds		141,587	208,611

For the financial year ended 30 June 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and if its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

Approved by the members of the committee on 13th October 2021 and signed on its behalf.



Ken Dunn – Treasurer

Company Registration No: 06743623

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2021

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Charity have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Companies Act 2006, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

Incoming resources

Grants Receivable

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are receivable, except for those grants which are for a future specific period, in which case the relevant amount is deferred to that period.

Other income

Other income is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when it is incurred.

Expenditure includes any relevant VAT.

Grants payable are payments made to community groups from specific funding and are accounted for when the grant is awarded.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

Allocation of costs

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Some costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, e.g. estimated usage, as set out in Note 6.

Employee benefits

The costs of employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Pension Scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension costs charged in the Statement of Activities represent the contribution payable by the charity in the year.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the SOFA in the year in which they accrue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with charitable objects.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2021

Designated funds are those funds set aside by the Trustees out of the unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for particular purposes and projects.

Transfers to unrestricted funds from restricted funds represent the amounts earned by the Charity by way of management and consultancy fees. Or other transfers as permitted by the relevant funding agreements,

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the full cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life. The principal rates in use are:

Equipment, fixtures and fittings	20% reducing balance
Computer equipment	33% on cost

2 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Grants and contracts	62,663	235,476	298,139	285,715

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Grant administration	20,192	-	20,192	7,634
Accounting support & I.E.'s	1,530	-	1,530	4,220
Payroll services	3,313	-	3,313	2,194
Office services	440	-	440	320
Room rent	-	-	-	228
DB checks	2,652	-	2,652	2,384
Donation	6,452	-	6,452	-
Esol	2,995	-	2,995	-
	37,574	-	37,574	16,980

4 Other

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Bank interest	30	-	30	275

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2021

5 Taxation

LDCVS is a registered charity. All the company's income is applied to its charitable activities and the company is therefore exempt under current legislation from most forms of taxation. (CTA 210s 475/476, 486 & 488 and ITA 2007 S532 & 534).

6 Resources expended

Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Salaries	156,884	-	156,884	106,318
Training expenses	937	-	937	3,052
Office costs	2,765	-	2,765	2,725
Premises	10,752	-	10,752	10,752
Web design	6,832	-	6,832	2,302
ESOL costs	-	-	-	4,928
Governance	985	-	985	2,401
Events & training	750	-	750	315
Accounting services	600	-	600	3,660
DB checks	639	-	639	1,422
Census	100	-	100	-
Bad debt	-	-	-	1,500
Equipment depreciation	1,241	-	1,241	103
Bank charges	93	-	93	-
Insurance renewal	903	-	903	-
Payroll software renewal	178	-	178	-
Membership annual charges	559	-	559	-
Website hosting	108	-	108	-
LCC Football project	110	-	110	-
NHS Leadership fund	300	-	300	-
	184,736	-	184,736	139,478

7 Staff costs and emoluments

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	150,391	101,361
Pension costs	6,493	4,957
	156,884	106,318

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year. Directors are not remunerated. There were no out of pocket expenses claimed by the Directors in the year.

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2021

8 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the Charity during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Total	7	5

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer Equipment £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 01 July 2020	40,477	26,360	66,837
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2021	40,477	26,360	66,837
Depreciation			
At 01 July 2020	36,852	26,360	63,212
Charge for year	1,241	-	1,241
Eliminated	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2021	38,093	26,360	64,453
Net Book Value			
At 30 June 2021	2,384	-	2,384
At 30 June 2020	3,625	-	3,625

10 Cash at bank and in hand

	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Caf Gold	138,352	189,171
Caf Cash	1,432	1,947
Caf Reserves - Client	137,922	146,418
Caf Street Aid	3,041	-
	280,747	337,536

The Caf Reserves - clients balance represents funds held on behalf of smaller charities – see note 12

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2021

11 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
NHS Morecambe CCG	-	-	-	15,684
Lancashire Reduced Reoffending	-	-	-	200
Strawberry Fields	900	-	900	-
The Rainbow Centre	85	-	85	-
Lancashire Youth Challenge	40	-	40	-
Scientist Global Responsibilities	130	-	130	-
Over Wyresdale Parish Hall	60	-	60	-
	1,215	-	1,215	15,884

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
LMC (Rent)	896	-	896	896
Independent examiner	900	-	900	720
Pension costs	-	-	-	-
LG & BC (room hire)	-	-	-	-
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	400
Held funds	-	140,963	140,963	146,418
	1,796	140,963	142,759	148,434

The Charity continues to hold funds on behalf of a small number of small charities. The funds held at 30 June 2021 amounted to £140,963 (2020: £146,418)

13 Commitments under operating leases

The company entered into a new rental agreement, for a 12 month period from 1st June 2021 that results in commitments under non- cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	Other items £
Operating leases which expire:	
Within 1 year	9,856
Within 2 to 5 years	-
After more than 5 years	-
	<u>9,856</u>

Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2021

14 Analysis of funds

	At 01 July 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	At 30 June 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	143,675	100,267	(184,736)	-	59,206
Designated funds	45,300	-	-	-	45,300
Restricted funds	19,636	235,476	(218,031)	-	37,081
Total funds	208,611	335,743	(402,767)	-	141,587

The Trustees at 30 June 2021 have designated £45,300 (2021: £45,300) for potential future redundancy costs per the Charity's reserve policy.

Restricted funds represent:

ReachIT – delivered IT support sessions for those dis-engaged from IT to help with job applications, and accessing on-line services.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Prior Year Total £
Current assets	141,000	140,963	281,963	353,420
Current liabilities	(1,796)	(140,963)	(142,759)	(148,434)
	139,204	-	139,204	204,986