



MEARS
FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2021

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a colorful patterned face mask and blue gloves. She is holding a white plastic bag. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a food bank or a similar setting. The image is overlaid with a green curved shape at the top and a red triangle on the left side.

Playing our part

Contents

Our Vision / Our Mission	2
Our guiding principles	3
Our activities	4
Strategy / Forward look	14
Operating environment	14
Grant strategy	17
Structure, Governance & Management	18
Financial review	19
Responsibilities of the trustees	19
Small company provisions	19
Accounting policies	20
Statement of financial activities	22
Balance sheet	23
Notes to the financial statements	24

The Mears Foundation is the independent, charitable arm of Mears Group plc.

Registered Charity Number: 1134941

Company number 07021016

1390 Montpellier Court, Gloucester Business Park,
Brockworth, Gloucester GL3 4AH

Hello

The Mears Foundation is a grant-making trust. It seeks to harness the goodwill, talents and skills within Mears to raise money through charitable donations and fundraising activities.

The income is then used to directly benefit the like-minded charities and good causes that provide practical support to vulnerable people and communities across the UK.

Our Vision

To see a world where everyone can be an active member of their local community so they can flourish and actively contribute to society.

Our Mission

To empower and assist people so that they can develop their own skills and abilities to their maximum potential.



Our guiding principles:

- ▶ Improve the lives of people living within communities in the United Kingdom.
- ▶ Help build community cohesion and integration.
- ▶ Provide career and skills development opportunities to those needing them most.
- ▶ Be a positive contributor to the environment.

We work to improve the lives and life chances of the many groups and individuals that share our values. We provide opportunities and skills that enable them to become stronger and more self-reliant.

Our activities in 2021

The Foundation received 68 applications for support, all of which were acknowledged. The Foundation was pleased to award 58 grants to charities offering support to their communities, in addition to volunteer support by Mears staff.

- ▶ 2021 saw the Foundation significantly increase its income from donations and therefore managed to increase considerably the number of grants awarded to causes that support the building of communities in the United Kingdom.
- ▶ Despite Covid restrictions, the Foundation delivered several successful fundraising events.
- ▶ The Foundation has worked with HACT to develop a social value calculator to better report on its impact.
- ▶ In 2021, for every £1 granted, the Foundation delivered £200 in social value.
- ▶ In 2021, the Foundation also launched its Friends of Mears initiative. This programme seeks partnerships with corporate supporters to extend the Foundation's ability to support community projects for public benefit.



Herts Young Homeless

Hatfield

Herts Young Homeless offer many different services to support those facing difficult times at a young age. They offer the Homeless Hub, a front door to homeless prevention services in Hertfordshire, an outreach service for those 18 and over to provide mediation, health advice, and education.

How we are helping:

Mears Foundation are helping this amazing charity with their *Live Life Project*. This project is for young people who have experienced homelessness (e.g. sofa surfing or staying in temporary accommodation). The Foundation grant will cover the costs of running this project allowing a Live Life member who has reached out to Herts Young Homeless for regular support throughout the year, including transport to and from regular Live Life meetings, training, employment and social skills plus signposting to any other services such as mental health support or counselling.

The Foundation looks to build strong, long-term relationships with like-minded charities such as Herts Young Homeless ensuring support is available for those who need it the most.



The Health and Wellness Hub

Motherwell

The Health and Wellness Hub is a community organisation in Motherwell that provides a range of health and wellbeing activities (including holistic therapies, classes -yoga, tai chi, Pilates, Zumba, chair-based exercise and peer support groups). In addition, the hub provides volunteering opportunities to our most vulnerable community members, including people with a long-term condition, those who are long-term unemployed, people with a disability and people with a mental health condition.

How we are helping:

The Mears Foundation has awarded a grant to The Health and Wellness Hub in Motherwell helping them to continue to offer services that alleviate social isolation and loneliness in their local community.

With the grant the Hub will be able to fund their 'Buddies' project ensuring they can provide sufficient volunteers and telephone-based support to their service users, helping local people connect and transition back into wider group and community life after long periods of social isolation and exclusion due to Covid restrictions.

The project supported 35 local people who required befriending support (both directly at social distance and by telephone) regarding mental health and wellbeing. This service enabled people to take part in group activities, allowed others on low income to get involved, increased confidence and wellbeing and made those in the group feel valued and in a better position to seek training and employment opportunities. Plus signposting to any other services such as mental health support or counselling.

In most cases, those accessing the hub live in areas of deprivation and inequality including within the top 10-20% Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Datazone categories.

The befriending service has been a great lifeline for me and gives me contact with the outside world, it's been great receiving the calls but it would be nice to do something face to face with other people too in the future.

”

The Curve Food Pantry

Octavia Housing, RBKC & Hammersmith & Fulham support people affected by ill health, social isolation, low income or unemployment in Central and West London.

The charity delivers a young people's programme which offers a wide range of innovative, inclusive and creative activities to provide opportunities for young people to try new activities in arts and digital media.

They also have an employment and training team who offer one to one information, advice and guidance to empower individuals to reach their goals, and to provide them with the tools and resources to successfully search, apply for and gain paid employment.

How we are helping:

The Mears Foundation has helped Octavia add to their services by awarding a grant that will be used to support those on low income and in food poverty. The stigma of using a traditional foodbank was proving a barrier to their residents accessing the very basic of needs – food.

The grant awarded by the Foundation will help Octavia to set up their own 'Food Pantry', giving a more dignified approach to accessing vital food items, offering residents more choice and value. They planned to use a space in their community centre which is at the heart of their community that has more than 2,000 Octavia residents, plus those of Hammersmith & Fulham.



Cleland Miners Boxing & Community Club

Motherwell

Cleland Miners Boxing Club is a boxing and community club for both male and females from the local area aged from age 8 to 40. The club currently opens three nights a week for training and keep fit classes, a dance class is also available one night a week. The club is run purely on a voluntary basis, with most of the coaches in 4 or 5 nights a week between 5pm – 10pm. The club feel that people should be able to train, keep fit, dance, and socialise without having to pay a fee and therefore all classes are free. Anyone and everyone is welcome.

How we are helping:

The Mears Foundation saw a great opportunity to help a community in a deprived area, where community activity was difficult to come by. Joining forces with Mears supply chain and friend of the Foundation, CEF, we were able to make a difference to this community's meeting place.

The Foundation instantly saw a great opportunity to involve CEF, electrical experts and one of Mears top suppliers, in helping this isolated community by getting involved in helping to update the clubs heating.

By working together, the Foundation and CEF donated 10 new efficient heaters. This allows the club to stay open during the colder months and encourages the communities to get involved, which combats social isolation.

This has been such a heart-warming project to come through the Foundation. It's very difficult to understand how isolated a community can be where a village has very few facilities for the residents to get together. It was such an easy solution and one that will have a huge impact.

Heather Tyrer / General Manager / Mears Foundation

Strategy / Forward look

Operating environment

2021 has been another challenging year for everyone. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to lead to unprecedented challenges faced by society, healthcare, food systems and the world of work.

In the UK, the success of the vaccination programme promises a better operating environment for 2022. However, the impact of last two years on the most vulnerable members of society will be felt for years to come.

In 2022, the Mears Foundation will continue its work to build communities in the United Kingdom through grants and partnerships that alleviate:

1. Poverty in the following forms:

Food

The UK's food poverty rate is among the highest in Europe. Since the start of the pandemic, household food insecurity increased, the use of food banks reached its highest levels, and campaign groups highlighted the importance of free school meals for families in the UK.

Nearly 6 million adults and 1.7 million children were struggling to get enough food between September 2020 and February 2021, according to a report from the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs committee.



For the poorest in our society, up to 35% of disposable income will now be needed for food, compared to less than 9% for the more wealthy. This will increase reliance on cheap, highly processed, high fat, high sugar, high salt, and calorie-dense, unhealthy foods. Re-emerging problems of poor public health nutrition such as rickets and malnutrition in the elderly are also causes for concern.

Fuel

In the latest estimates, around 13% of households in England were classed as fuel poor, 25% in Scotland, 12% in Wales, and 18% in Northern Ireland.

In general, fuel poverty relates to households that must spend a high proportion of their household income to keep their home at a reasonable temperature.

Fuel poverty is affected by three key factors: a household's income, their fuel costs, and their energy consumption (which in turn can be affected by the energy efficiency of the dwelling).

Fuel poverty often leads to other problems. For example, cold homes can have negative impacts on both mental and physical health, potentially adding demand to the NHS and social care providers, and directly contributing towards excess winter deaths. Health impacts of cold homes include increased risk of heart attack or stroke, respiratory illnesses, poor diet due to *heat or eat* choices, mental health issues, and worsening or/slow recovery from existing conditions.

Those most at risk of ill health from fuel poverty include children the elderly, and long-term sick and disabled people.

Strategy / Forward look

Digital

Digital poverty is the inability to interact with the online world fully, when, where, and how an individual needs to. It exacerbates and is exacerbated by other socio-economic, educational, racial, linguistic, gender, and health inequalities. It is both the product and the cause of other forms of socio-economic disadvantage.

Over the past year and a half, the COVID-19 pandemic has irrevocably thrust digital poverty into the national spotlight, as many aspects of everyday life moved online to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus.

The pandemic crisis simultaneously exposed how much of our life has already been digitised, how damaging digital poverty can be for individuals and society, and the need to urgently plan for a future in which people are simply unable to participate in society without access to devices and data.

The Foundation will look to support programmes that help with Device and Connectivity (Affordability, Data, Infrastructure) Access (Accessibility, Availability) and Capability (Skills, Education and understanding).

Digital exclusion is a key driver of social isolation

2. Social Isolation and Loneliness

We all feel lonely at times – it's a normal human emotion. We are biologically wired for social contact, and loneliness is our signal that we need more.

Most of us will experience loneliness at some point in our lives, regardless of age, circumstance, and background. We all experience loneliness differently.

Loneliness and social isolation have been linked to early deaths and an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, depression, cognitive decline and poor sleep. It's as harmful to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Social Isolation has also been found to cause several mental health issues including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, sleep problems and increased stress.



People who feel lonely are more than twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's (and other forms of dementia) than those who do not feel lonely.

The Foundation will support direct interventions focussed on helping people maintain existing relationships and develop new ones. This includes supporting group activities such as lunch clubs and walking groups, one-to-one approaches like befriending schemes, access to psychological support for people for whom loneliness is part of broader mental health issues as well as developing volunteering, including people who might not ordinarily volunteer, mobilising peer support, and intergenerational support in neighbourhoods.



Grant strategy

The Mears Foundation awards grants to projects in the UK only.

The Foundation exists to support the vulnerable in our communities by awarding grants to charities and projects who are offering people and those communities a lifeline.

The Foundation awards grants that are submitted /endorsed by a member of Mears Group plc workforce. The projects we look to support are ones that alleviate:

- **Poverty in the following forms:**
 - Food
 - Fuel
 - Digital
- **Social Isolation and Loneliness**

Grant requests received and supported by a Mears Group plc employee are reviewed in March and September, and awarded in May and November annually.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was incorporated on the 16 September 2009 and is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Foundation is managed by its General Manager, Heather Tyrer, under the guidance of the Chair and the Board of Trustees.

Registered Charity Name:

The Mears Foundation

Charity Number:

1134941

Company Number:

07021016 (England and Wales)

Chair:

Ms Christine Losecaat MBE

Company Secretary/Treasurer:

Mrs Judith Herbert

Trustees:

Ms Karen Duncan

Effective 25/03/21

Ms Diana Green

Mr Patrick Grace

Mrs Judith Herbert

Ms Diane Keay

Mr Kevin Morrow

Ms Alison Wilkinson

Effective 25/05/21

Executive Staff:

Heather Tyrer

Registered Office:

1390 Montpelier Court

Gloucester Business Park

Brockworth

Gloucester

GL3 4AH

Bankers:

Barclays Bank PLC

18 Southgate Street

Gloucester

GL1 2DH

Financial review

During the year, the charity raised funds in the amount of £124,085.

From these funds, the £44,607 incidental running costs of the charity were met and grants of £62,628 given. The excess funds remain in the bank account to carry forward for future projects and grants.

Heather Tyrer

General manager

Responsibilities of the trustees

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ▶ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

- ▶ observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.

- ▶ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

- ▶ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On Behalf of the Board:

Christine Losecaat MBE

Chair

22nd February 2022

Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of current asset investments at market value, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015), the Companies Act 2006 and the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting by Charities (the SORP).

Incoming resources

Donations and gifts

All monetary donations and gifts are included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable, provided that there are no donor-imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, in which case recognition is deferred until the pre-condition has been met.

Grants receivable

Revenue grants are credited as incoming resources when they are receivable provided conditions for receipt have been complied with, unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable.

Depreciation on the fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund.

All other income is included in the statement of financial activities when received or when the charity is legally entitled to the income.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes laid down by the donor. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation. Expenditure for those purposes is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for expenditure on the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been designated for specific purposes by the Trustees, for necessary work in connection with the ongoing provision of services yet fail to meet the stringent criteria of contractual obligation set out in FRS12 (Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets).

Resources expended

Grants payable

Grants payable are accounted for in the period in which the performance conditions attaching to the grant payment are met or, where no performance conditions apply, when a legal or constructive obligation arises.

Other expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- ▶ costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising.
- ▶ charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. 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 include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- ▶ all costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activity on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

Statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £
Incoming resources			
Voluntary income	1	81,401	9,466
Activities for generating funds	2	39,606	3,546
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3	3,078	674
Total incoming resources		124,085	13,686
Resources expended			
Cost of generating funds	7	2,638	1,057
Charitable activities	4	68,569	9,410
Salaries	8	36,028	7,665
Total resources expended		107,235	18,132
Net incoming resources for the period		16,850	(4,446)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		34,201	38,647
Total funds carried forward		51,051	34,201

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 relate to continuing activities.

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank		62,079	35,601
Debtor – Mears Group match funding		22,292	–
		84,371	35,601
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(33,320)	(1,400)
Net assets		51,051	34,201
Funds			
General funds		51,051	34,201
Total funds	10	51,051	34,201

For the year ending 31 December 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustee's responsibilities:

- ▶ the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the period in question in accordance with section 476.
- ▶ the trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 22nd February 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

Christine Losecaat MBE
Chair

Judith Herbert
Treasurer

Notes to the financial statements

	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
1. Voluntary income		
Donations	81,401	9,466
	81,401	9,466
2. Incoming resources from activities for generating funds		
Funds raised for Mears Loneliness project	–	2,995
Amazon website link	5	–
Sponsored events	13,115	40
Mears fundays	1,480	–
Collections / raffles	25,006	511
	39,606	3,546
3. Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Gift aid	3,078	674
	3,078	674
4. Costs of charitable activities by fund type		
Mears Loneliness project	–	3,299
Auctions and raffles	206	167
Sponsored events	5,456	444
Mears fundays	279	–
Donations	62,628	5,500
	68,569	9,410

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
5. Costs of charitable activities by activity type				
Mears Loneliness project	–	–	–	3,299
Mears fundays	279	–	279	–
Auctions and raffles	206	–	206	167
Sponsored events	5,456	603	6,059	444
Donations	62,628	–	62,628	5,500
Direct costs	9,410	–	9,410	19,066
6. Governance costs				
Governance costs were met by Mears Group PLC.				
7. Analysis of support costs				
Charity giving administration fee			1,008	257
Job advert fees			–	800
Staff expenses			992	–
Compliance fees			35	–
Merchandise			603	–
			2,638	1,057
8. Staff costs and emoluments				
Salaries			36,028	7,665
			36,028	7,665
9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year				
Other creditors			33,359	1,400
			33,359	1,400
10. Analysis of net assets between funds				
All funds are designated as general funds				



For more information about the Mears Foundation
please contact Heather Tyrer, General Manager on:
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