



Mears Foundation Annual Report & Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2022



Contents

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2022.

- 3. Our Vision and Mission
- 3. Objectives and activities
- 4. Activities 2022
- 8. Strategy Forward Look
- 8. Operating environment
- 11. Grant Strategy
- 12. Structure, Governance & Management
- 13. Financial review
- 13. Responsibilities of the trustees
- 13. Small company provisions
- 14. Accounting policies
- 16. Statement of financial activities
- 16. Balance sheet
- 17. Notes to the financial statements

Our vision and Mission

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

We do this through our mission of building communities.

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

The guiding principles of The Mears Foundation are to:

- ▶ 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 with groups and individuals who share our values to improve their lives and life chances by providing them with opportunities and skills to become stronger and more self-reliant.

Objectives & activities

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

The Foundation is a grant-making trust that seeks to harness the goodwill, talents, and skills within Mears Group plc to benefit charities or good causes that provide practical help and support to vulnerable people in communities in the United Kingdom & Northern Ireland.

The Mears Foundation undertakes to raise money through charitable donations and fundraising activities. The income is then applied to such charities or good causes and for such charitable purposes as set out in our Grant Strategy below.

Activities 2022

2022 saw the Foundation continue to grow its income from donations and therefore managed to increase considerably the amount awarded to causes that support the building of communities in the United Kingdom by 140%.

This is mainly due to the successful launch of the Friends of Mears Foundation initiative that launched in 2021. This programme seeks partnerships

with corporate supporters to extend the Foundation's ability to support community projects for public benefit and for the Foundation to support its Friends' social value plans.

The Foundation received **99** applications for support, all of which were acknowledged.

The Foundation was pleased to award 70 grants to charities offering support to their communities, in addition to volunteer support by Mears Group plc staff.

We would like to thank the following Friends of Mears for their support:



WOLSELEY



Magnet
Better. By design



SAFPR 

 **BUILDBASE**



 **PLUMBASE**

JEWSON

Case Study

Savte Learners & Volunteers Support

The Foundation awarded a grant to SAVTE who in partnership with Mears employees are delivering English speaking sessions to service users in the Wakefield area. These sessions are to fill the gap for support that is not officially available until the service users have been in the UK for six months. The grant has been used to provide the learners with learning materials, volunteer recruitment, training and placement support.



Case Study

Clayburn Community Garden

Mears Foundation and local Mears colleagues have transformed an underused open space in Thurrock into a community garden and food growing space benefiting isolated residents and families, thanks to a partnership between the council and Mears Foundation

Mears Thurrock branch were approached by local residents who wanted to develop a community garden, to provide residents with a place to meet and socialise. There is an area of green space which is currently not being utilised to its full extent. With a variety of residents in this area from veterans to vulnerable residents, all benefitted from the area being re vamped.

“Community gardens are great places to meet and socialise. They provide places to grow plants, fruit and vegetables. They provide homes for wildlife and sensory spaces, you can simply sit back, relax and enjoy contact with the natural environment”

- Unnamed resident.

Case Study

FareShare

FareShare is the UK's only national surplus food redistribution charity. They turn the environmental problem of food waste into the social solution of feeding people in need. FareShare recover quality surplus food from the food industry and ensure it's redistributed to frontline charities. In 2020/21, FareShare provided enough food for 131 million meals.

As more people are turning to the voluntary sector out of necessity to access decent and healthy food in the wake of the cost-of-living crisis, small service provision charities like the ones FareShare gets food to are serving more people than ever before.

Food is playing a vital role in connecting people with the local services that can provide regular meals and wraparound support. FareShare food connects

people in need with the interventions that address the root causes of hunger, rather than just the symptoms

The Mears Foundation partnership with FareShare is helping to address the issue of food poverty. With the grant the Foundation has donated FareShare are able to

The partnership also allows colleagues from Mears branches get involved in volunteering opportunities such as the one run in December 22 where 36 staff volunteered for the Tesco Winter Food Collection. On average each volunteer collected enough donations to make up an additional 888 meals.



The Mears Foundation

Helping tackle food poverty.



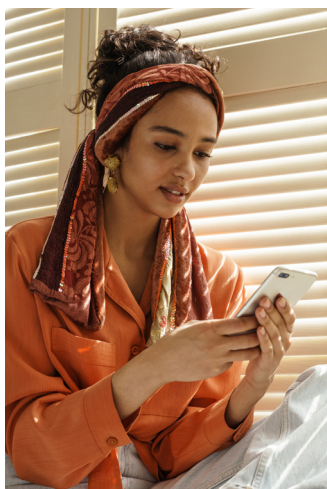
“Support from the Mears Foundation will make a huge difference to FareShare and to many thousands of people currently struggling for food in the cost-of-living crisis. Their generous grant will help us to scale up our activities and cover vital costs in transporting food, helping FareShare and the frontline charities we work with to get urgently needed meals out to vulnerable communities across the UK. A such a crucial time, when demand for food is skyrocketing, we cannot be more grateful for this valued new partnership.”

Lindsay Boswell, CEO, FareShare UK

Case Study

Curry's

Together with Curry's we were able to donate over 200 tablets to families, groups and individuals who have benefitted from being able to connect to essential services, local communities and their families we have also supported children access their schoolwork online.



Case Study

Asseal

Partnering with Rotherham-based engineering company AESSEAL the Foundation was able to support local service users to contact their family, friends and local community. Together we donated over 700 mobile phones helping those feeling isolated to reconnect.

Case Study

Winter Warmer Packs

In the winter of 2022 the Foundation supported several projects by supplying winter warmer packs that included scarfs, hats, gloves, warm throws, thermal socks and heat packs. The packs were distributed to elderly residents living in South Cambridgeshire District Councils sheltered living schemes, the elderly and vulnerable who receive extra support in deprived areas of

Milton Keynes, packs were also included in hampers that were given out to the isolated and elderly population in and around the MPS Maryport Brunswick House branch.

This project was particularly special as it was the wishes of Richard Relph who was employed by MPS who sadly passed away and his colleagues wanted to carry out this project for Richard.



The Mears Foundation
Helping tackle digital poverty.



Strategy Forward Look

Operating environment

2022 has been dominated by the cost-of-living crisis. Inflation ran at a double-digit pace, the highest in 40 years and far outpacing wage growth. Food prices were up almost 20% and the cost of heating a typical home has jumped more than 150%.

The crisis is even more acute for the poorest UK households, which typically spend a higher proportion of their income on food and housing costs. Based on forecasts from the Autumn Budget of 2022, real household disposable income in the UK will fall by 4.3 percent in the 2022/23 financial year, the biggest fall in living standards since the mid 1950s, when this type of data was first produced.

In 2023, the Mears Foundation will continue its work to build communities in the United Kingdom through grants and partnerships that alleviate the following issues.

1 Poverty

Food

The UK's food poverty rate is among the highest in Europe. Over 14 million people in the UK are struggling to get enough to eat – that is 1 in 5 of the UK's population. Meantime, millions of tonnes of good food is wasted by the UK food industry every year.

In 2023, we will seek to grow and develop our partnership with FareShare.

FareShare redistributes food industry surplus, which would otherwise go to waste, to the people who need it most.

FareShare is the UK's national network of charitable food redistributors, made up of 18 independent organisations. FareShare take good quality surplus food from right across the food industry and get it to nearly 9,500 frontline charities and community groups.

The food is distributed to charities across the UK, including school breakfast clubs, older people's lunch clubs, homeless shelters, and community cafes.

Over 3 million tonnes of the food that goes to waste each year is still edible – that's enough for 7 billion meals.

Figures from World Wide Fund for Nature and WRAP.

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.

Digital Poverty is a result of and a cause of financial hardship.

More and more people are accessing the internet through a smartphone only (21%), particularly those in lower socio-economic grades.

Those most likely not to have internet access at home:

those aged
75+ (26%)

those in DE households
(14%)

the most financially
vulnerable
(10%)

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

2 Social Isolation and Loneliness

Loneliness affects almost a quarter of the UK population. And its impact can be truly profound. Many studies demonstrate the link between loneliness and poor physical and mental health. Some claims suggest that it can be as harmful as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, and that loneliness can increase your overall risk of death by 26%.

The impact of loneliness reaches far beyond the individual. Recent studies have estimated that the economic & wellbeing cost of severe loneliness per person is equivalent to nearly £10k per year, because of the impact on people's wellbeing, health and productivity.

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.

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.



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.

Grant Strategy

The Mears Foundation awards grants to projects in the United Kingdom 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
 - ▶ 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 & 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
Ms Diana Green (resigned 23/12/2022)
Mr Patrick Grace
Mrs Judith Herbert
Ms Diane Keay
Mr Kevin Morrow (resigned 20/11/2022)
Ms Alison Wilkinson

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 **£302,130**.

From these funds, the £39,360 incidental running costs of the charity were met and grants of £206,411 given. The excess funds remain in the bank account to carry forward for future projects and grants.

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

X February 2023

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.

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.

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.

Grants receivable

Revenue grants are credited as incoming resources when they are receivable provided conditions for receipt have been complied with, unless

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

Accounting Policies

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 '22 (£)	Unrestricted Funds '21 (£)
Incoming resources			
Voluntary income	1	270,222	81,401
Activities for Generating Funds	2	27,603	39,606
Incoming resources from Charitable Activities	3	4,306	3,078
Total incoming resources		302,131	124,085
Resources expended			
Cost of Generating Funds	7	1,317	2,638
Charitable Activities	4	216,984	68,569
Salaries	8	38,043	36,028
Total resources expended		256,344	107,235
Net incoming resources for the period		45,787	16,850
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		51,051	34,201
Total funds carried forward		96,838	51,051

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 '22 (£)	Unrestricted Funds '21 (£)
Current assets			
Cash at bank		128,152	81,401
Debtor – Mears Group Match funding		21,417	39,606
		149,569	84,371
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(52,731)	(33,320)
Net assets		96,838	51,051
Funds			
General Funds		96,838	51,051
Total funds	10	96,838	51,051

For the year ending 31 December 2022 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 2nd February 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

Christine Losecaat MBE

Chair

Judith Herbert

Treasurer

Company Registration Number: **07021016**

Notes to the financial statements

1 Voluntary income	Total Funds '22 (£)	Total Funds '21 (£)
Donations	174,118	78,901
Friends of Foundation contributions	96,104	2,500
Total incoming resources	270,222	81,401

2 Incoming resources from activities for generating funds	Total Funds '22 (£)	Total Funds '21 (£)
Amazon Website Link	35	5
Sponsored Events	17,396	13,115
Mears Fundays	787	1,480
Collections / Raffles	9,385	25,006
	27,603	39,606

3 Incoming resources from charitable activities	Total Funds '22 (£)	Total Funds '21 (£)
Gift Aid	4,306	3,078
	4,306	3,078

4 Costs of charitable activities by fund type	Total Funds '22 (£)	Total Funds '21 (£)
Auctions & Raffles	180	206
Sponsored Events	10,148	5,456
Mears Fundays	245	279
Donations	140,479	62,628
Digital Poverty Campaign	35,932	
Fareshare Partnership	30,000	
Total incoming resources	216,984	68,569

5 Costs of charitable activities by activity type	Total Funds '22 (£)	Support costs (£)	Total Funds '22 (£)	Total Funds '21 (£)
Mears Fundays	245		245	279
Auctions & Raffles	180		180	206
Sponsored Events	10,148		10,148	6,059
Donations	140,479		140,479	62,628
Digital Poverty Campaign	35,932		35,932	
Fareshare Partnership	30,000		30,000	
Direct costs	216,984		216,984	69,172

Notes to the financial statements

6 Governance costs

Governance costs were met by Mears Group PLC.

7 Analysis of support costs

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Charity giving administration fee	872	1,008
Staff Expenses	181	992
Compliance Fees		35
Merchandise	124	603
PR Fees	140	
	1,317	2,638

8 Staff costs and emoluments

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Salaries	38,043	36,028
	38,043	36,028

9 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Salaries	52,731	33,359
	52,731	33,359

10 Analysis of net assets between funds

All funds are designated as General Funds.



www.themearsfoundation.org.uk



For more information on anything enclosed within this report please email heather.tyrer@mearsgroup.co.uk