# ACE (ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY)

England & Wales · Charity number 1150422

## Details

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|---|---|
| **Status** | Registered |
| **Legal form** | Charitable company |
| **Company number** | 07623914 |
| **Registered** | 2013-01-10 |
| **Register** | View on the Charity Commission register |

## Contact

| | |
|---|---|
| **Address** | ACE<br>Our Place: Dusty Forge<br>460 Cowbridge Road West<br>Cardiff<br>CF5 5BZ |
| **Phone** | 02920003132 |
| **Email** | info@aceplace.org |
| **Website** | www.aceplace.org |

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## Activities

**Objects:** 3.1. The objects of the Company shall be:a) To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged communities of Cardiff in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in societyb) The promotion for the public benefit of urban regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation in the area of Cardiff by all or any of the following means: i. the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit; ii. the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment; iii. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience; iv. The advancement of education in and appreciation of the arts, heritage culture and creative activities;v. the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help in setting up their own business, vi. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms; vii. the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities; viii. the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities; ix. the provision of public health facilities and childcare; x. such other means as may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.c) The relief of financial hardship among people living or working in Cardiff, South Wales by providing such persons with goods/services which they could not otherwise afford through lack of means.

**Activities:** ACE (Action in Caerau & Ely) is a Charity located in Ely and Caerau, Cardiff. ACE aims to bring the community together, support community groups, manage and develop local projects, and find ways of regenerating the local community.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Cardiff

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## Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025-03-31 | £1,202,518 | £1,360,790 | £1,770,298 | 35 |
| 2024-03-31 | £1,514,829 | £1,365,052 | £1,928,565 | 35 |
| 2023-03-31 | £1,198,348 | £1,549,544 | £1,788,789 | 39 |
| 2022-03-31 | £2,070,402 | £1,208,892 | £2,064,426 | 25 |
| 2021-03-31 | £1,342,043 | £1,020,241 | £1,202,916 | 25 |

## Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| **Marian Dixey** | Chair | 2017-05-01 |
| Dr Eva Elliot | | 2023-03-01 |
| James Roach | | 2019-11-28 |
| Janice Refalo | | 2023-03-01 |
| Jessica Davies | | 2024-10-28 |
| Leyton Devril Smith | | 2020-04-28 |
| Melvin Witherden | | 2017-04-01 |

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**ACE (ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150422

# Accounts

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07623914**
**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1150422**

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

# Financial Statements

## 31 March 2025

**GORDON DOWN & PARTNERS**
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Temple Court Cathedral Road Cardiff CF11 9HA
and 144 Walter Road Swansea SA1 5RW

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

**Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31 March 2025**


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# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

## Year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Chair's report**

The continuing cost of living pressures have impacted on funding ACE projects, with funders adjusting their criteria for eligibility. Some funders are unwilling to include a realistic core costs component when awarding funds, which has curtailed the scope of some projects. This has led to staff applying to some organisations for specific core cost funding.

Sadly ACE has had to finish ACE Arts activities at the end of this financial year after being unsuccessful in attaining any funding. The arts is always the first category to be cut when budgets are tightened, without recognising the resulting impact on people's health and wellbeing.

Once again ACE CAER and Cardiff University organised another successful summer dig in Trelai Park. National and local media reported on the finds, some of which were of international interest. Our links with the university have led to many opportunities for local people. The CAER heritage and learning centre has flourished with a number of courses run by other organisations hosted there. Some are being held in the evenings and at weekends to allow those in work to further their existing careers of of consider career changes.

With the ongoing pressures in living costs, and the growing importance of sustainability, the membership of the Benthyg Library of Things has increased further. The range of items available has also expanded. Another project which is promoting sustainability is the Repair Café, where residents can bring broken items to be repaired by a dedicated team of "fixers" rather than be consigned to the scrapheap. If a fix isn't possible, items can be sent for recycling where possible.

Our outdoor spaces have thrived due to a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Ely and Caerau has benefited from the work of the Postcode Gardener Community Greening project with input from Keep Wales Tidy, Upfront Gardens, and Grow Cardiff to create a lot of small green spaces that were previously neglected. Gardening is recognised as an important activity in improving mental health.

ACE continues to evolve to balance the needs of the community while endeavouring success to access much needed funding. The changes to employer National Insurance rules and the increase in the minimum wage from April 2025 will increase the financial pressures further.

**Marian Dixey**
**ACE chair**

### Objectives and activities

ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely is a community organisation located in West Cardiff. We had up to 35 staff during 2024-25, 50+ volunteers and several thousand participants and beneficiaries, many of whom are active contributors to local community development and regeneration efforts. Many of our staff live in Ely and Caerau, and many projects are run with or by our volunteers. We manage two community buildings and a community garden and deliver a range of community-based activities that help people.

Our vision is to create vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfillment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live.

### Charitable objectives

1. the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit;
2. the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;

3. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
4. the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
5. in setting up their own business,
6. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
7. the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;
8. the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
9. the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
10. such other means may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

### Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when setting ACE's aims and planning activities. ACE's purposes are advanced through programmes addressing poverty, education, health, and wellbeing in Ely, Caerau and wider Cardiff West. Public benefit is demonstrated through increased household incomes, improved wellbeing and skills, progression into work, access to affordable food, and participation in volunteering and community-led activities.

ACE will work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision.
- Co-producing services and activities that make use of assets and meet needs.
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive.
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience.
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities.

ACE will nurture and develop local assets and opportunities to meet needs through the following types of projects, activities and services:

- Community Support: Crisis support and financial capability.
- Training and support for the unemployed.
- Health & Wellbeing work including mental health support and training.
- Work with Children, Young People and Families.
- Community led activity
- Heritage, Arts and Culture projects.
- Social enterprise and local economic development.
- Community and citywide influencing and campaigning.

**New Projects 2024-25**

During 2024-25 we have developed a number of new projects and initiatives to respond to community needs. These include:

- Ely and Caerau Community Plan - funded jointly by Welsh Government, Cardiff Council and the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, ACE led a major listening project involving over 1,200 local residents to co-produce a new Community Plan for Ely and Caerau (completed in May 2024). Nine months of conversations and workshops with local people and partners identified 40 practical actions within six priority themes. ACE has received funding in 2024-25 to work with the established Community Steering Group to coordinate and monitor the delivery of actions within the Plan.

- ACE Arts - building on the success of the Explore Collective project, we secured additional 1 year funding from Arts Council Wales to deliver a new project in partnership with the South West Primary Care Cluster. This enabled ACE to deliver creative interventions at the Dusty Forge, Chapter Arts Centre using arts-based activities to support mental and physical wellbeing. The programme expanded opportunities for people experiencing health challenges to connect, express themselves and build confidence through accessible, high-quality creative work. Sadly lack of funding has since made it impossible to continue this project.

- Building on the Ehangu 'Early Learning Community' project that developed a place-based systems change approach, we have been funded by Save the Children to develop 'Dan y Coed', a new programme of creative outdoor play sessions for early years families. 24 sessions have been delivered to under-5s and their parents in 3 community gardens, through a new partnership with Ely and Caerau Children's Centre, and a network of community partners.

- Cardiff Anchor Organisations Network - funded by Building Communities Trust, ACE and C3SC are co-developing a new Cardiff Anchor Organisations network bringing together over 20 community anchor bodies from across the city. The network will share skills and learning, build collective evidence of impact and work together to influence policy for the benefit of local communities. This collaboration creates new opportunities for joint working, peer support and advocacy, positioning ACE as a key partner in in city-wide community development.

- YourSpace Cardiff West - During 2024-25 the service expanded this year into West Cardiff with additional funding from Cardiff and Vale UHB. This is a smaller service delivered by one part-time wellbeing connector and a part-time development worker which will support the development of community led wellbeing activities working with local community organisations and partners in the new area. We are now working in three areas of Cardiff on social prescribing and wellbeing support, with funding secured from Cardiff and Vale UHB until February 2026.

- Postcode Gardener Ely and Caerau - in October 2024, ACE was awarded two year funding from Friends of the Earth to host a 'Postcode Gardener', a new role to energise and support local community greening activities in Ely and Caerau, aiming to improve local biodiversity and involve local people in positive actions to improve the local environment.

- Practical support projects - in April 2024 ACE had to close our Local Pantry project due to funding and food supply challenges. To continue to provide support for local people struggling with food costs, ACE has secured funding from Greggs Foundation to develop a programme of food support activities, including free community meals and a community fridge in our new ReStore community shop to provide free access to healthy surplus and locally grown food.

- Good Food Hub - with funding from Hubbub and Move More Eat Well programme (Cardiff Council), we launched our Good Food Hub project, helping residents cook healthy, affordable, planet-friendly food. In partnership with the Cardiff and Vale Dietetics team, we ran five 5-week Agored-accredited courses and one bespoke 6-week course, supporting over 30 people to build their skills, knowledge and confidence to cook from scratch (15 achieving accreditation). We also delivered five community events and ten Living Well taster sessions with good food information and inspiration at the Dusty Forge centre.

- Hafan project - in June 2024, ACE started a new two year project funded by Wales and West Utilities (VCMA funding). This has developed activities and interventions promoting financial wellbeing to vulnerable members of our communities, with particular focus on patients who have health conditions exacerbated by fuel poverty. The project is closely integrated with our expanding health programme (YourSpace).

- ACE History - a small team of volunteers was established to explore developing an on-line history of the charity as a way to share with practitioners and policy-makers the features which have led to our success and the challenges which similar organisations need to overcome.

**The strategies employed for continuity are:**

- Building the capacity to deliver and develop: ACE has achieved an impressive track record for effective project delivery and innovation. It is also encouraging that we continue to develop new opportunities for growth. We will continue to capitalise on these strengths to create an ambitious programme to develop the charity, its activities, and our capacity for effective delivery.

- Providing services directly: ACE has developed a strong range of services based on identified needs which support the communities it serves. Many of these are well established but we also maintain the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances by developing new services to meet new needs.

- Continuing to diversify income streams: the majority of income realised by ACE is through grants and contracts. We have had continuation funding from an existing donor and this supports both core costs and delivery. We continue to work with our donors to increase our skills in attracting this kind of income.

- Strategies to ensure continuity: Building on our work to diversify income streams (outlined above) we continue to apply tried and tested methods towards income generation to enable continuity. Plans are under development to replace large grants that are coming to an end with new long term funded opportunities. With the increase in bank interest rates we are actively managing our cash reserves to maximise interest received.

- Buildings and space: we continue to run a wide range of activities and projects in the Dusty Forge including building on our long term partnership with HMPPS (His Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service), who run Grand Avenues, a community based probation service two days a week from the centre. The CAER Community Heritage Centre has continued to develop as an active hub for local learning opportunities. The centre also hosts the Love Your Hillfort heritage group, a volunteer-led community garden, Flying Start stay and play and family cooking skills sessions. We are developing and deepening our partnership with Cardiff University, who currently fund staff and project costs for the CAER centre through their Civic Mission fund to support further funding bids to the University and other funders. The Diana Garden community regeneration project continues to attract funding to support its delivery and staff costs, and provides a unique green community space for engagement, green volunteering and nature based play activities.

- Building partnerships: ACE continues to work with dozens of partner organisations on a wide range of projects. Examples of new partnerships established this year include: Save the Children and Ely and Caerau Children's Centre for new partnership delivery of early years activities (Dan y Coed); Cardiff Council Into work Services - co-delivering 'Shape Your Future' in-work progression mentoring and bursary scheme; Friends of the Earth - through hosting the Postcode Gardener community greening project. The long-term partnership with Cardiff University to progress the work of the CAER Centre remains crucial.

- Community network support: building on the engagement and consultation work for the Ely and Caerau Community Plan, ACE is developing new community networks (Greening Ely and Caerau and Ely and Caerau Community Food support). We are also supporting the Learning Partnership Board (LPB) network to attain charitable status to facilitate the development of collaborative funding bids.

- Utilising others' capacity and contributing to their services: a number of partner organisations have been providing essential services and activities alongside ACE or at ACE venues, including the following: Flying Start early years provision, Probation 1-2-1 sessions, Into work drop-in advice sessions, 1-2-1 support for young people with mental health challenges, family fitness activities, and Welsh classes.

- Maintaining our good name: the organisation has developed a strongly positive reputation across the city of Cardiff and is valued in communities, the third sector and the local authority. ACE will work to protect its good name by devoting appropriate resources to quality control and pro-active public relations.

- Mobilising ACE's reputation and influence: our successful track record and high reputation give ACE the potential to have a positive impact elsewhere. ACE will work to maintain its relationships, influence policies in the voluntary and public sectors, and advocate for the communities it serves at respective levels.

**The strategies employed for growth:**

- Creating opportunities to develop new work: ACE will continue to create income-generating initiatives to address the long-term threat posed by the inevitable funding gap, particularly regarding funding our core costs. ACE Way - Community Development Training and Mentoring is our training and mentoring offer that shares ACE's asset-based, co-produced approach with organisations across Wales and beyond. Since launching in April 2023 the project has worked with over 40 organisations, providing tailored support on Theory of Change, community organising, co-production and strategic planning. This work is helping other community groups, local authorities and charities to strengthen their practice, influence policy and embed community-led approaches in their own contexts.

- Expanding the area of operation: ACE's origins, history and goals are rooted deeply in the Ely and Caerau area of Cardiff. But our experience and our effective delivery of anti-poverty and wellbeing support programmes here has attracted interest in our services elsewhere. While retaining its primary commitment to improving the quality of life of Ely and Caerau residents, ACE will seek service delivery and contracting opportunities in other areas of Cardiff and beyond with the aim of generating income and building long-term sustainability. This will involve close collaboration with local community partners and networks such as the Cardiff Anchor Organisation Network.

- Expanding volunteering: ACE has comprehensively demonstrated the many personal and community benefits of voluntary work. ACE is building on the good practice we have developed through gaining the UK best practice award for volunteering, the 'Investing in Volunteers' award last year, showing our commitment and determination to make volunteering the most beneficial experience it can be. Volunteering within ACE is now fully embedded into our core values of community asset development and coproduction. We continue to actively promote volunteering and attract, train and support volunteers to undertake work within ACE and in the wider community.

- ACE Board of Trustees: membership of the ACE Board is influenced by the conscious need to preserve a balance between local representation and the skills needed for the governance of a dynamic charity. The focus has been to maintain our established balance of professional and community representation on the board.

**Criteria to measure success**

It is crucial that we gather information that tells us whether or not our Theory of Change, Strategic Plan and day-to-day activities are effective in meeting our aims and objectives and fulfilling our vision. ACE has continued to deliver our core work, building on it across the course of the year. This growth can be seen in the number of people engaged over the year.

Our Strategic and Operational Plans lay out a range of specific criteria to measure success. ACE uses a number of approaches to provide evidence against these criteria, including surveys, focus groups, 1-1 conversations, video interviews etc. One of the most powerful tools we use is the Most Significant Change (MSC) approach which uses personal stories of change to create learning conversations through panels of participants and staff. Examples of these are routinely documented in our annual reports. .
The collaborative learning from these approaches will be used to review and update the core work of ACE as outlined in the 7 Objectives within our current Strategic plan. In 2025-26 we will carry out an in depth review of our Operational Plan, and will make changes to our practice where necessary and will inform the new Strategic Plan for 2027-2030.

**Strategic report**

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

### Achievements and performance

2024-25 has been a busy year for ACE with all services delivering at full capacity. Our communities are still deeply affected by the ongoing cost of living crisis, which saw ACE diversifying activity and introducing new services such as the Hafan project supporting people with health conditions made worse by living in cold and damp homes. Some of what was achieved is outlined below:

- Advice and support work we have increased household income in the community by £195,406 supporting 686 households with 381 fuel vouchers issued, grants and unclaimed benefits.
- ACE Benthyg has a total of over 300 items available to hire with more items added monthly. There are 400 subscribed members, with an average of 40 'borrows' per month, over the year.
- The volunteer fixers in our repair café have checked out almost over 500 items in 5 years. Over ¾ of all items checked were repaired, all our customers leave feeling they have received a personal and friendly welcome.
- Our flagship Grand Avenues community probation partnership project supported 170 men on probation to claim a total of £227,282 in benefits, supported into work and able to access vital GP support on release from prison.
- Our Yourspace wellbeing support project working in partnership with Cardiff South West Primary Care Cluster provided support to improve wellbeing and self-confidence in Cardiff North (202), Cardiff South West (348) & Cardiff West (76).
- Our Compassionate Communities Project facilitated grief space peer support sessions for those experiencing grief and bereavement, with wellbeing boxes delivered.
- Weekly gardening sessions have been run with volunteers ensuring the ongoing development of the garden.
- Weekly gardening sessions have been run with volunteers ensuring the ongoing development of the garden.
- We continue to work with partners Grow Cardiff to provide weekly therapeutic gardening sessions in the Dusty Forge garden.
- ACE Arts delivered its arts / wellbeing project engaged with 25 regular participants.
- Shape Your Future supported 144 participants with mentoring / bursaries to overcome barriers to in-work progression.
- The Caer Community Heritage Centre provided a venue for a wide range of activities including heritage exhibitions, youth groups, afterschool clubs, volunteer groups, adult education classes and Flying Start groups. We ran another successful community archaeological dig in Trelai Fields over the summer, in partnership with Cardiff University and other community partners. Over 850 people attended a project open day to take part in activities and find out about this year's discoveries.

### Financial review

ACE's future continues to be exciting. We are a community-led charity which has a plan, purpose, and an extraordinary group of volunteers, trustees and staff. Over our last 14 years of operation, ACE has added over £14 million to the local economy across Cardiff West. From 2018-25 (post Communities First programme) income generated through direct ACE activities such as social enterprise activities, grant applications, contracts, fundraising and donations and legacies totals approximately £9.4 million.

ACE is a charity standing in its own right, working with residents to see meaningful change across communities. This is a huge achievement which continues to address an unfair stigma attached to Ely and Caerau, something residents of Ely and Caerau can be proud of. We have continued to build on a firm foundation of strong financial policy and effective financial management through 2024-25. Income in 2024-25 was spread across 54 projects which is greater than that of the previous year despite our income in this year being significantly lower than the year before due to the Caer Heritage Project having been completed. ACE has been successful in following its strategic plan objective to diversify income streams. During 2024-25 ACE received £1,202,518 income from numerous funders, contracts and donations. ACE also self-generated £106,334 via social enterprise such as rental, consultancy work and training.

ACE's financial performance and position going forward continues to be healthy in an increasingly challenging climate for the third sector. As with this year, future years are still going to be more challenging which is why it is so essential that ACE builds sufficient reserves to be able to meet any future liabilities. We will continue to regularly review the level of reserves and adjust accordingly. Interest rates have been encouraging throughout 2024-25 and we have taken advantage of this. In terms of expenditure we, along with everyone else, have seen our costs increase due to inflation.

An indication of ACE's perpetual financial prudence has been the decision to close the ACE Training enterprise which provided valuable commercial qualifications. The business has suffered increasing competition and reduced public sector contracts, and it was considered wise to cease trading while it was still breaking even.

### Transactions and Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net unrestricted surplus for the year of £49,543 and our unrestricted reserves stand at £614,807.

### Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the charity

Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in note 18 to the financial statements.

### Investment Policy and Returns

Higher interest rates have prompted us to evolve an entirely new approach to the investment of cash reserves through our use of the Flagstone investment platform. As well as providing enhanced interest returns, our policy of investing standard tranches in three-month bonds on a rolling monthly programme has ensured that we can easily respond where necessary to changing cash flow requirements. We continue to hold funds in deposit with the Co-operative Bank. Our residential property at 458 Cowbridge Road West generates modest rent income.

**Reserves policy and going concern**

We are continuing with the policy set in 2021 of setting aside a minimum of 18 months running costs of the organisation within our reserves - a strategy which appears increasingly well-grounded as funding for our sector becomes harder to secure. This has been achieved through the investment in property and the building of cash reserves, which now stand at an overall total of £672,173.

**Plans for future periods**

Looking forward, through careful planning, creative thinking and community based delivery, we will build on our success to date. ACE will enable community action through the direct provision of services, the development of community assets and social enterprise. We will access charitable, government, business and private funding to support our work, and will work with individuals, community groups, organisations and businesses, directing our resources in a sustainable and effective manner.

The prospects of a more difficult 2025-26 financial year mean that we may need to draw on reserves in the short term to sustain services, and to manage a more flexible approach to fundraising. A particular feature is likely to be an extension of our co-operation with partner organisations to raise funds together and run projects jointly. The trustees will continue to keep expenditure very closely under control, and will keep future prospects constantly under review and adapt our ongoing project programmes accordingly.

### Structure, governance and management

#### Governing document

ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 8 April 2011. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company.

#### Appointment of trustees

All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Trustees have the power to appoint additional trustees, as it considers fit to do so.

Directors/trustees are elected from the membership at an annual general meeting. Each year one third of the board of directors (those being the longest in office since their last election) stand down but are eligible for re-election without further nomination. The Memorandum and Articles of Association make allowances for an elected staff representative to sit as a full member of the board. The election of Chair takes place during the month following the AGM

#### Trustee induction and training

All new directors/trustees receive a comprehensive induction session and an induction pack with essential information. A full trustee training session is provided annually, as well as discussion and guidance on governance issues in the course of regular board meetings.

#### Organisation

The board of trustees, which can have up to 13 members, administers the charity. The board normally meets monthly. A Finance Committee is chaired by the Treasurer who is a trustee appointed by the board. It meets monthly to discuss investment, cash flow, audit and other financial management and policy issues. Ad hoc committees cover HR, funding and development. The ACE Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and community related activity.

#### Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of our trustees is entitled to receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity, and none did so during the year. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity, contractor, must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

#### Pay policy for staff

The ACE Director, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the company on a day to day basis. Trustees give of their time freely. They set the salaries of the Director and the senior management team. Details of Directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 9 and 19 to the accounts.

The pay of the staff is appraised annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other third sector organisations of a similar size, run on a voluntary basis. The remuneration bench-mark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles adjusted for a weighting of up to 30% for any additional responsibilities. If recruitment has proved difficult in the recent past a market addition is also paid with the pay maximum no greater than the highest benchmarked salary for a comparable role.

**Company policies**

An extensive range of company management policies has been developed over the years covering all significant areas. This is monitored constantly by the Director and the trustees, and is regularly updated to meet changing circumstances. A three-year Strategic Plan lays out core policies and objectives, and provides a framework for all aspects of management.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces;
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due, regular liaison with the bank, and active management of trade debtors and creditors balances to ensure sufficient working capital by the charity.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, IT security, market volatility, health and safety of staff and volunteers, and food hygiene. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

**Fundraising statement**

ACE complies with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice. No professional fundraisers or commercial participators were engaged in 2024-25. ACE received zero fundraising complaints (2024-25). Policies are in place to safeguard vulnerable people and respect donor preferences.

**Safeguarding and serious incidents**

ACE maintains up-to-date Safeguarding and Whistleblowing policies; staff and volunteers receive regular training and DBS checks where appropriate. No reportable serious incidents were notified to the Charity Commission in 2024-25.

### Reference and administrative details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Registered charity name** | ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely |
| **Charity registration number** | 1150422 |
| **Company registration number** | 07623914 |
| **Principal office and registered office** | Our Place: Dusty Forge<br>460 Cowbridge Road West<br>Cardiff<br>CF5 5BX<br>United Kingdom |

**The trustees**

| | |
|---|---|
| M Dixey | |
| E Elliot | |
| C Lannen | |
| J Refalo | |
| J Roach | |
| O Scott | |
| L Smith | |
| M Witherden | |
| O Atobatele | (Appointed 20 August 2024) |
| J Davies | (Appointed 28 October 2024) |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Company secretary** | S F Powell |
| **Auditor** | Gordon Down & Partners<br>Chartered accountants & statutory auditor<br>144 Walter Road<br>Swansea<br>SA1 5RW |

### Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102). They must prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the charity's affairs and incoming/outgoing resources. In doing so, they must:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the Charities SORP principles;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed; and
- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless inappropriate. Trustees are also responsible for keeping adequate records, safeguarding assets, and preventing fraud. Under s418 Companies Act 2006, each trustee confirms that they are not aware of any relevant audit information that has not been disclosed to the auditor.

**Auditor**

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 09/12/2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

M Dixey

M Dixey
Trustee

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Year ended 31 March 2025

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the entity and determined that the most significant are those that relate to: FRS102 Employment law
Tax & pension law
Charities SORP
Health & safety

We assessed the risks of material misstatement in respect of fraud as follows: We inquired with management about the existence of fraud and if there were any unusual transactions or relationships. We also performed various tests on the records to check for misstatement. We did not identify any issues.

We considered the risk of fraud through management override and, in response, we incorporated testing of adjusting entries into our audit approach.

Based on the results of our risk assessment we designed our audit procedures to identify and to address material misstatements in relation to fraud. We considered the possibility of fraudulent payments to third parties and also looked for segregation of duties.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC’s website at https: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Laurence S Cohen

Laurence S Cohen

Gordon Down & Partners
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
144 Walter Road
Swansea
SA1 5RW

09/12/2025

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

## Year ended 31 March 2025

| | Note | 2025 Unrestricted funds £ | 2025 Restricted funds £ | 2025 **Total funds** £ | 2024 Total funds £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income and endowments** | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | **5** | 186 | 9,383 | 9,569 | 17,940 |
| Charitable activities | **6** | 3,506 | 1,065,705 | 1,069,211 | 1,367,918 |
| Other trading activities | **7** | 87,134 | 19,200 | 106,334 | 122,946 |
| Investment income | **8** | 17,404 | – | 17,404 | 6,025 |
| **Total income** | | 108,230 | 1,094,288 | 1,202,518 | 1,514,829 |
| **Expenditure** | | | | | |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | **9,10** | 210,084 | 1,119,306 | 1,329,391 | 1,365,052 |
| Other expenditure | **13** | – | 31,399 | 31,399 | – |
| **Total expenditure** | | 210,084 | 1,150,705 | 1,360,790 | 1,365,052 |
| Net losses on investments | **14** | – | – | – | (10,000) |
| **Net (expenditure)/income** | | (101,854) | (56,417) | (158,272) | 139,777 |
| Transfers between funds | | 151,397 | (151,397) | – | – |
| **Net movement in funds** | | 49,543 | (207,814) | (158,272) | 139,777 |
| **Reconciliation of funds** | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 565,264 | 1,363,304 | 1,928,568 | 1,788,789 |
| **Total funds carried forward** | | 614,807 | 1,155,490 | 1,770,297 | 1,928,567 |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**The notes on pages 22 to 44 form part of these financial statements.**

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Statement of Financial Position

## 31 March 2025

| | Note | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | **19** | 878,333 | 969,224 |
| Investments | **20** | 210,010 | 210,010 |
| | | 1,088,343 | 1,179,234 |
| **Current assets** | | | |
| Debtors | **22** | 27,164 | 117,381 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 672,173 | 638,713 |
| | | 699,337 | 756,094 |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **23** | 17,382 | 6,763 |
| **Net current assets** | | 681,955 | 749,331 |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | 1,770,298 | 1,928,565 |
| **Net assets** | | 1,770,298 | 1,928,565 |
| **Funds of the charity** | | | |
| Restricted funds | | 1,155,491 | 1,363,300 |
| Unrestricted funds | | 614,808 | 565,266 |
| **Total charity funds** | **25** | 1,770,299 | 1,928,566 |

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the medium companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on ..09/12/2025...., and are signed on behalf of the board by:

M Dixey

M Dixey
Trustee

**The notes on pages 22 to 44 form part of these financial statements.**

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Statement of Cash Flows

## Year ended 31 March 2025

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | |
| Net (expenditure)/income | (158,272) | 139,777 |
| *Adjustments for:* | | |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 59,492 | 61,317 |
| Net losses on investments | – | 10,000 |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | (17,404) | (6,025) |
| Interest payable and similar charges | 703 | 661 |
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets | 31,399 | – |
| Accrued expenses/(income) | 8,189 | (41,871) |
| *Changes in:* | | |
| Trade and other debtors | 90,217 | 57,987 |
| Trade and other creditors | 2,435 | (165) |
| Cash generated from operations | 16,759 | 221,681 |
| Interest paid | (703) | (661) |
| Interest received | 17,404 | 6,025 |
| Net cash from operating activities | 33,460 | 227,045 |
| **Net increase in cash and cash equivalents** | 33,460 | 227,047 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year** | 638,713 | 411,667 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at end of year** | 672,173 | 638,714 |

**The notes on pages 22 to 44 form part of these financial statements.**

## 1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Our Place: Dusty Forge, 460 Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff, CF5 5BX, United Kingdom.

## 2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

## 3. Accounting policies

### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

### Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

### Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity’s accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

**3. Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

**Incoming resources**

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income from grants, whether capital grants or revenue grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Capital grants are released to the SOFA in the year of receipt. Fixed assets relating to capital grants are capitalised, and depreciation charged is offset against the grant income, in a restricted fund.

Rental and training income is invoiced and is recognised in the period to which the service was provided.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Income earned from interest is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

**3. Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

· expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.

· expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

· other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

**Tangible assets**

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Long leasehold property | - | 5% straight line |
| Plant and machinery | - | 10% straight line |
| Motor vehicles | - | 20% straight line |

**3. Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Investments**

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. The investments are assessed for impairment at each reporting date and any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

**Investment property**

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

**Investments in associates**

Investments in associates accounted for in accordance with the cost model are recorded at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

Investments in associates accounted for in accordance with the fair value model are initially recorded at the transaction price. At each reporting date, the investments are measured at fair value, with changes in fair value taken through income or expenditure. Where it is impracticable to measure fair value reliably the cost model will be adopted.

Dividends and other distributions received from the investment are recognised as income without regard to whether the distributions are from accumulated profits of the associate arising before or after the date of acquisition.

**Investments in joint ventures**

Investments in jointly controlled entities accounted for in accordance with the cost model are recorded at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

Investments in jointly controlled entities accounted for in accordance with the fair value model are initially recorded at the transaction price. At each reporting date, the investments are measured at fair value, with changes in fair value taken through income or expenditure. Where it is impracticable to measure fair value reliably the cost model will be adopted.

Dividends and other distributions received from the investment are recognised as income without regard to whether the distributions are from accumulated profits of the joint venture arising before or after the date of acquisition.

**3. Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Impairment of fixed assets**

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

**Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

**Defined contribution plans**

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

## 4. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The liability of the members in the event of the company being liquidated is limited to £1 per member.

## 5. Donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2025 £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Donations** | | | |
| Donations | 186 | 9,383 | 9,569 |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Donations** | | | |
| Donations | 2,056 | 15,884 | 17,940 |

## 6. Charitable activities

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2025 £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Grants** | | | |
| Arts Council of Wales | – | 21,060 | 21,060 |
| Asda | – | – | – |
| Bevan Foundation | – | – | – |
| C3SC | – | 2,250 | 2,250 |
| Cardiff and Vale University Health Board | – | 368,165 | 368,165 |
| Cardiff Council | – | 110,212 | 110,212 |
| Cardiff University | – | 61,993 | 61,993 |
| Cardiff South Wales Cluster | – | – | – |
| Care & Repair | – | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Charities Aid Foundation | – | – | – |
| Charities Trust | 500 | – | 500 |
| Citizens Advice | – | 12,639 | 12,639 |
| Cwmpas | – | 13,663 | 13,663 |
| Dusty Shed | – | 8,874 | 8,874 |
| Grow Cardiff | – | – | – |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | – | – | – |
| Independent Age | – | – | – |
| Invest Local Trust | – | 253,947 | 253,947 |
| Macmillan | – | – | – |
| National Lottery Community Fund | – | – | – |
| Save the Children | – | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Co-Operative | – | – | – |
| Greggs | – | 20,710 | 20,710 |
| HMRC | – | – | – |
| The Screwfix Foundation | – | – | – |
| St Vincent de Paul Society | – | – | – |
| TK Maxx & Homesense Foundation | – | – | – |
| Community Foundation in Wales | 3,000 | – | 3,000 |
| Awards For All | – | 19,866 | 19,866 |
| Friends of the Earth Trust | – | 7,600 | 7,600 |
| Good Things Foundation | – | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Hubbub | – | 16,000 | 16,000 |
| New Economics Foundation | – | 80 | 80 |
| Nisa | – | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Secretary of State for Justice | – | 53,066 | 53,066 |
| Simon Gibson Charitable Trust | – | 4,142 | 4,142 |
| University of South Wales | – | – | – |
| Wales and West Housing | – | 28,564 | 28,564 |
| WCVA | – | – | – |
| Welsh Government | – | 43,625 | 43,625 |
| | 3,500 | 1,063,456 | 1,076,525 |
| Sundry Income | 6 | 2,249 | 2,255 |
| | 3,506 | 1,065,705 | 1,069,211 |

### 6. Charitable activities *(continued)*

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Grants** | | | |
| Arts Council of Wales | – | 40,786 | 40,786 |
| Asda | 400 | – | 400 |
| Bevan Foundation | – | 390 | 390 |
| C3SC | – | 9,383 | 9,383 |
| Cardiff and Vale University Health Board | – | 294,185 | 294,185 |
| Cardiff Council | – | 88,224 | 88,224 |
| Cardiff University | – | 59,234 | 59,234 |
| Cardiff South Wales Cluster | – | 12,696 | 12,696 |
| Care & Repair | – | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Charities Aid Foundation | – | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| Charities Trust | – | – | – |
| Citizens Advice | – | 10,283 | 10,283 |
| Cwmpas | – | 40,860 | 40,860 |
| Dusty Shed | – | 7,307 | 7,307 |
| Grow Cardiff | – | 127 | 127 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | – | 15,724 | 15,724 |
| Independent Age | – | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Invest Local Trust | – | 329,658 | 329,658 |
| Macmillan | – | 13,865 | 13,865 |
| National Lottery Community Fund | – | 165,176 | 165,176 |
| Save the Children | – | 53,300 | 53,300 |
| Co-Operative | – | 1,901 | 1,901 |
| Greggs | – | 19,713 | 19,713 |
| HMRC | 5,736 | – | 5,736 |
| The Screwfix Foundation | – | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| National Grid | – | 9,857 | 9,857 |
| Social Farms and Gardens | – | 140 | 140 |
| Solva care | – | 30 | 30 |
| St Vincent de Paul Society | – | 44,520 | 44,520 |
| TK Maxx & Homesense Foundation | 500 | – | 500 |
| Community Foundation in Wales | 1,000 | – | 1,000 |
| Awards For All | – | – | – |
| Friends of the Earth Trust | – | – | – |
| Simon Gibson Charitable Trust | – | – | – |
| University of South Wales | – | 250 | 250 |
| Wales and West Housing | 1,250 | – | 1,250 |
| WCVA | – | 9,439 | 9,439 |
| Welsh Government | – | 44,224 | 44,224 |
| | 8,886 | 1,358,772 | 1,367,658 |
| Sundry Income | 260 | – | 260 |
| | 9,146 | 1,358,772 | 1,367,918 |

## 7. Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2025 £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rental Income | 25,083 | 10,289 | 35,372 |
| Generated Income | 62,051 | 8,911 | 70,962 |
| | 87,134 | 19,200 | 106,334 |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rental Income | 23,275 | 6,912 | 30,187 |
| Generated Income | 92,025 | 734 | 92,759 |
| | 115,300 | 7,646 | 122,946 |

## 8. Investment income

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2025 £** | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bank interest receivable | 17,404 | 17,404 | 6,025 | 6,025 |

### 9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2025 £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Direct charitable activities | 78,680 | 1,118,271 | 1,196,950 |
| Support costs | 131,404 | 1,035 | 132,441 |
| | 210,084 | 1,119,306 | 1,329,391 |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Direct charitable activities | 53,654 | 1,130,951 | 1,184,604 |
| Support costs | 169,123 | 11,323 | 180,448 |
| | 222,777 | 1,142,274 | 1,365,052 |

### 10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

| | Activities undertaken directly £ | Grant funding of activities £ | Support costs £ | **Total funds 2025 £** | Total fund 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Direct charitable activities | 939,956 | 256,994 | 125,498 | 1,322,448 | 1,355,537 |
| Governance costs | – | – | 6,943 | 6,943 | 9,515 |
| | 939,956 | 256,994 | 132,441 | 1,329,391 | 1,365,052 |

### 11. Analysis of support costs

| | Analysis of support costs £ | **Total 2025 £** | Total 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | 43,055 | 43,055 | 109,976 |
| Project Costs | 4,691 | 4,691 | – |
| Depreciation | 4,700 | 4,700 | 11,323 |
| Cleaning | 10,262 | 10,262 | 14,096 |
| Heat, light and insurance | 17,514 | 17,514 | 5,344 |
| Training | 628 | 628 | – |
| IT costs and telephone | 13,048 | 13,048 | 12,133 |
| Professional fees | – | – | 4,901 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 6,024 | 6,024 | 4,962 |
| Rent, rates, repairs and renewals | 19,597 | 19,597 | 6,624 |
| Motor, travel and subsistence | 5,979 | 5,979 | 1,574 |
| | 125,498 | 125,498 | 170,933 |

## 12. Analysis of grants

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Grants to institutions** | | |
| Ecsopa | 19,540 | 10,000 |
| Hope Trust | 172,901 | 213,818 |
| In It Together | 500 | – |
| Save The Children | 22,435 | – |
| Commonwealth Theatre | 4,500 | 300 |
| Family Fund Business Services | – | 24,048 |
| South Riverside Community Development | 4,000 | – |
| Together For Trowbridge | 1,375 | – |
| The Millbank Movers | – | 250 |
| The Sudanese Community in East Cardiff | – | 251 |
| Trowbridge Pantry Grant | – | 13,980 |
| Cardiff People First | 5,424 | 6,844 |
| Community Care & Wellbeing Service | 23,619 | 16,575 |
| Benthyg | 2,700 | – |
| | 256,994 | 286,066 |
| **Grants to individuals** | | |
| Grants to individuals | – | 250 |
| Total grants | 256,994 | 286,316 |

## 13. Other expenditure

| | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2025 £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets held for charity's own use | 31,399 | 31,399 | – | – |

## 14. Net losses on investments

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2025 £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gains/(losses) on investment property | – | – | (10,000) | (10,000) |

## 15. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting):

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 59,492 | 61,317 |
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets | 31,399 | – |

### 16. Auditors remuneration

| | **2025** | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | £ |
| Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements | 6,240 | 6,000 |

### 17. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

| | **2025** | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 685,034 | 675,664 |
| Social security costs | 53,183 | 42,934 |
| Employer contributions to pension plans | 22,243 | 14,575 |
| | 760,460 | 733,173 |

The average head count of employees during the year was 33 (2024: 39). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

| | **2025** | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | **No.** | No. |
| Number of staff | 33 | 39 |

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

**Key Management Personnel**

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £51,709 (2024:£69,481).

### 18. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustees received remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity during the current or prior year.

No trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior year.

## 19. Tangible fixed assets

| | Long leasehold property £ | Plant and machinery £ | Motor vehicles £ | **Total £** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | | | | |
| At 1 April 2024 | 1,132,343 | 3,630 | 33,094 | 1,169,067 |
| Disposals | (36,499) | – | – | (36,499) |
| **At 31 March 2025** | 1,095,844 | 3,630 | 33,094 | 1,132,568 |
| **Depreciation** | | | | |
| At 1 April 2024 | 170,952 | 3,630 | 25,261 | 199,843 |
| Charge for the year | 54,792 | – | 4,700 | 59,492 |
| Disposals | (5,100) | – | – | (5,100) |
| **At 31 March 2025** | 220,644 | 3,630 | 29,961 | 254,235 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | | |
| **At 31 March 2025** | 875,200 | – | 3,133 | 878,333 |
| At 31 March 2024 | 961,391 | – | 7,833 | 969,224 |

## 20. Investments

| | Investment properties £ | Shares in group undertakings £ | **Total £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost or valuation** | | | |
| **At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025** | 210,000 | 10 | 210,010 |
| **Impairment** | | | |
| **At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025** | | – | – |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| **At 31 March 2025** | 210,000 | 10 | 210,010 |
| At 31 March 2024 | 210,000 | 10 | 210,010 |

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

**Investment properties**

Investment property comprises a residential property purchased in October 2020 by the charity for rental appreciation. The fair value of the investment property has been arrived based on the valuation of a local estate agent in May 2024.

Contained in the above are amounts totalling £nil (2024: £nil) in relation to land.

### 21. Investment entities

**Subsidiaries and other investments**

The charity holds the entire issued shared capital of 1 ordinary share of £10 in ACE Community Enterprises Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales.

The company was incorporated on 07 February 2014 and remains dormant, company Number 08881835, registered office, Dusty Forge, Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff, CF5 5BZ.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of undertaking:** | ACE Community Enterprises Ltd |
| **Registerd office:** | England and Wales |
| **Nature of business:** | Dormant |
| **Class of shares held:** | Ordinary |
| **% Held:** | 100% (direct) |

### 22. Debtors

| | **2025** | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | £ |
| Trade debtors | 13,897 | 105,998 |
| Other debtors | 13,267 | 11,383 |
| | 27,164 | 117,381 |

### 23. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | **2025** | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | £ |
| Amounts owed to group undertakings | 7 | 12 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 17,375 | 6,751 |
| | 17,382 | 6,763 |

### 24. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

**Defined contribution plans**

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £22,243 (2024: £14,575).

### 25. Analysis of charitable funds

**Unrestricted funds**

| | At 1 Apr 2024 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | Gains and losses £ | **At 31 Mar 2025** £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General funds | 170,578 | 108,230 | (205,384) | 151,398 | – | 224,822 |
| Dusty Forge Redevelopment | 95,007 | – | – | – | – | 95,007 |
| Fixed asset fund | 89,679 | – | (4,700) | – | – | 84,979 |
| Investment property | 210,000 | – | – | – | – | 210,000 |
| | 565,264 | 108,230 | (210,084) | 151,398 | – | 614,808 |

| | At 1 Apr 2023 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | Gains and losses £ | At 31 Mar 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General funds | 117,883 | 132,527 | (218,077) | 138,247 | – | 170,580 |
| Dusty Forge Redevelopment | 95,007 | – | – | – | – | 95,007 |
| Fixed asset fund | 94,379 | – | (4,700) | – | – | 89,679 |
| Investment property | 220,000 | – | – | – | (10,000) | 210,000 |
| | 527,269 | 132,527 | (222,777) | 138,247 | (10,000) | 565,266 |

**Dusty Forge Redevelopment:** Comprise those funds set aside for future redevelopment work at the Dusty Forge building.

**Fixed asset fund:** relates to the net book value of the charity's unrestricted fixed assets.

**Investment property:** relates to the value of the property held for investment to generate unrestricted rental income for the charity.

**Restricted funds**

| | At 1 Apr 2024 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | Gains and losses £ | **At 31 Mar 2025** £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACE Cares | – | 13,663 | (12,361) | (1,302) | – | – |
| ACE Community Support | 12,742 | 23,469 | (3,569) | (6,611) | – | 26,031 |
| ACE Food | 13,805 | – | (486) | (5,635) | – | 7,684 |
| ACE Giving | 18,474 | 1,737 | (7,455) | 430 | – | 13,186 |
| ACE Health | 75,365 | 176,474 | (160,946) | (48,145) | – | 42,748 |

### 25. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arts Council of Wales | (1,507) | 6,060 | (6,757) | 2,204 | – | – |
| Baring | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Benthyg | 10,133 | 19,930 | (23,669) | (3,817) | – | 2,577 |
| Bereavement Support | 7,327 | 43,625 | (38,936) | (4,853) | – | 7,163 |
| Bevan Foundation | 9,218 | – | – | (9,218) | – | – |
| Caer Enterprises | 3,502 | 10,289 | (12,805) | 2,014 | – | 3,000 |
| Children in Need | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Creative Grow | 1,006 | – | – | (1,006) | – | – |
| Diana Gardens | 7,333 | 4,142 | (10,152) | (614) | – | 709 |
| Dusty Shed | 2,880 | 8,874 | (10,986) | (388) | – | 380 |
| Grace Project | – | 53,066 | (46,128) | (6,938) | – | – |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | 648,813 | – | (68,819) | 28,144 | – | 608,138 |
| Independent Age | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Macmillan | 12,606 | – | (1,795) | (10,811) | – | – |
| Memorial Garden | 2,800 | – | (1,009) | – | – | 1,791 |
| Moondance Foundation | 4,758 | 436 | (151) | (4,758) | – | 285 |
| Redress and Cardiff Council Hardship Fund | 10,768 | – | (9,128) | – | – | 1,640 |
| Save the Children | 2,400 | – | – | (2,400) | – | – |
| Shape your Future | 5,917 | 50,000 | (46,977) | (7,267) | – | 1,673 |
| Summer of Smiles | 6,502 | 5,248 | (4,885) | (6,864) | – | 1 |
| Together Trust | 37,775 | 255,648 | (225,856) | (7,791) | – | 59,776 |
| WCVA | – | – | (868) | 868 | – | – |
| Welsh Gov - Communities Facilities Programme | 246,456 | – | (15,274) | 12 | – | 231,194 |
| Western Power | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Working Well and Helping Working Families | 107,024 | – | (54,940) | (25,846) | – | 26,238 |
| Workplace Youth | (3,007) | – | – | 3,007 | – | – |
| Youth Innovation | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Pantry | – | 10,394 | (2,492) | 3,470 | – | 11,372 |
| Voluntary Sector Recovery | – | 28,564 | (17,674) | (720) | – | 10,170 |
| Trelai Deg | 1,197 | 12,800 | (13,082) | 1,860 | – | 2,775 |
| Community Plan | 11,216 | 52,712 | (52,635) | (3,250) | – | 8,043 |
| Yourspace N | 19,554 | 145,033 | (145,949) | (8,360) | – | 10,278 |
| Ehangu - Save the Children | 35,593 | – | (33,015) | (2,579) | – | (1) |
| Euroclad | 2,000 | 210 | (2,572) | 362 | – | – |
| Tea Fund | – | 3 | (1,186) | 1,183 | – | – |

**25. Analysis of charitable funds** *(continued)*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yourspace W | – | 46,158 | (38,876) | (2,849) | – | 4,433 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | 7,308 | – | – | (7,308) | – | – |
| Greggs Foundation | 7,000 | 20,710 | (1,463) | (1,914) | – | 24,333 |
| Voices of Caer | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Co-op Local Community Fund | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Caer Centre Development | 36,346 | 47,887 | (43,110) | (5,000) | – | 36,123 |
| Community Food Hub | – | 10,500 | (9,726) | (774) | – | – |
| Being Human | – | 1,306 | (712) | (154) | – | 440 |
| Volunteer Delivery Budget | – | – | (56) | 56 | – | – |
| Nisa | – | 1,000 | (130) | – | – | 870 |
| Community Cohesion | – | 2,000 | (1,411) | (589) | – | – |
| ACW Arts & Health | – | 15,000 | (12,115) | (2,885) | – | – |
| Good Things Foundation | – | 1,000 | (970) | (30) | – | – |
| MMEW | – | 2,500 | (1,841) | (659) | – | – |
| Postcode Gardener | – | 7,600 | (2,400) | (2,149) | – | 3,051 |
| ACE History | – | 2,500 | – | – | – | 2,500 |
| Warmspaces | – | 1,500 | – | (1,500) | – | – |
| Period Poverty | – | 4,000 | (3,978) | (22) | – | – |
| C3SC Substance Misuse | – | 2,250 | (1,020) | – | – | 1,230 |
| Nature Hubs | – | 6,000 | (340) | – | – | 5,660 |
| | 1,363,304 | 1,094,288 | (1,150,705) | (151,396) | – | 1,155,491 |

| | At 1 Apr 2023 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | Gains and losses £ | At 31 Mar 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACE Cares | – | 40,861 | (38,144) | (2,717) | – | – |
| ACE Community Support | 4,814 | 33,060 | (15,692) | (9,440) | – | 12,742 |
| ACE Food | 13,805 | 9,735 | (6,058) | (3,677) | – | 13,805 |
| ACE Giving | 14,020 | 4,634 | (180) | – | – | 18,474 |
| ACE Health | 53,769 | 210,530 | (171,502) | (17,433) | – | 75,364 |

**25. Analysis of charitable funds** *(continued)*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arts Council of Wales | 26,483 | 40,914 | (67,929) | (975) | – | (1,507) |
| Baring | 2,244 | 3,750 | (5,049) | (945) | – | – |
| Benthyg | 2,365 | 10,174 | (1,547) | (860) | – | 10,132 |
| Bereavement Support | – | 44,224 | (34,419) | (2,478) | – | 7,327 |
| Bevan Foundation | 11,957 | – | (2,570) | (169) | – | 9,218 |
| Caer Enterprises | 6,352 | 6,912 | (12,180) | 2,418 | – | 3,502 |
| Children in Need | 6,328 | – | (5,028) | (1,300) | – | – |
| Creative Grow | 1,006 | – | – | – | – | 1,006 |
| Diana Gardens | 3,338 | 9,390 | (5,916) | 521 | – | 7,333 |
| Dusty Shed | 3,870 | 7,307 | (8,073) | (224) | – | 2,880 |
| Grace Project | 1,697 | 44,520 | (39,421) | (6,796) | – | – |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | 698,357 | – | (49,544) | – | – | 648,813 |
| Independent Age | 18,395 | 20,000 | (35,240) | (3,155) | – | – |
| Macmillan | – | 13,865 | (1,159) | (100) | – | 12,606 |
| Memorial Garden | 2,800 | – | – | – | – | 2,800 |
| Moondance Foundation | 4,758 | – | – | – | – | 4,758 |
| Redress and Cardiff Council Hardship Fund | 32,655 | – | (21,887) | – | – | 10,768 |
| Save the Children | 2,400 | 8,300 | (7,360) | (940) | – | 2,400 |
| Shape your Future | – | 55,000 | (40,821) | (8,262) | – | 5,917 |
| Summer of Smiles | 6,502 | – | – | – | – | 6,502 |
| Together Trust | – | 329,658 | (274,580) | (17,303) | – | 37,775 |
| WCVA | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Welsh Gov - Communities Facilities Programme | 253,529 | – | (7,073) | – | – | 246,456 |
| Western Power | – | 9,383 | (9,360) | (23) | – | – |
| Working Well and Helping Working Families | 78,972 | 177,872 | (116,605) | (33,215) | – | 107,024 |
| Workplace Youth | (3,007) | – | – | – | – | (3,007) |
| Youth Innovation | 14,111 | – | – | (14,111) | – | – |
| Pantry | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Voluntary Sector Recovery | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Trelai Deg | – | 11,600 | (9,803) | (600) | – | 1,197 |
| Community Plan | – | 75,989 | (60,903) | (3,870) | – | 11,216 |
| Yourspace N | – | 77,362 | (50,702) | (7,106) | – | 19,554 |
| Ehangu - Save the Children | – | 45,000 | (6,757) | (2,650) | – | 35,593 |

**25. Analysis of charitable funds** *(continued)*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Euroclad | – | 2,000 | – | – | – | 2,000 |
| Tea Fund | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Yourspace W | – | 5,043 | (4,496) | (547) | – | – |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | – | 15,974 | (8,666) | – | – | 7,308 |
| Greggs Foundation | – | 19,713 | (11,713) | (1,000) | – | 7,000 |
| Voices of Caer | – | 850 | (654) | (196) | – | – |
| Co-op Local Community Fund | – | 1,902 | (807) | (1,095) | – | – |
| Caer Centre Development | – | 46,784 | (10,438) | – | – | 36,346 |
| Community Food Hub | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Being Human | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Volunteer Delivery Budget | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Nisa | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Community Cohesion | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| ACW Arts & Health | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Good Things Foundation | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| MMEW | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Postcode Gardener | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| ACE History | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Warmspaces | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Period Poverty | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| C3SC Substance Misuse | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Nature Hubs | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | 1,261,520 | 1,382,302 | (1,142,274) | (138,248) | – | 1,363,300 |

**25. Analysis of charitable funds** ***(continued)***

**Arts Council of Wales:** This money was used to fund a project to engage young people from 14-16, 16-18 and 16-24 age categories.

**ACE Cares:** This national lottery funding pays for community development activity aimed at exploring the community's role in supporting people with care and support needs and unpaid carers within the Ely and Caerau communities.

**ACE Community Support:** This money is to the support a programme to provide information, practical support and advice to vulnerable community members in Ely and Caerau.

**ACE Food:** Budget for developing community food projects including Dusty Community Kitchen, Cafe Barr and Food for Life Get Togethers.

**ACE Giving:** An opportunity for individuals to make a financial contribution to ACE's charitable work through donations, sponsorship and fundraising activities.

**ACE Health:** This money was for the development and delivery of health and wellbeing initiatives, including social prescribing, community development, participation and engagement work.

**ACE Housing:** Provision of a high quality, affordable, well maintained rental home to a local family, with additional support through ACE services where necessary.

**Benthyg:** WCVA Landfill Trust this funding supported the development of a new library of things project (ACE Benthyg), offering a range of household items for community members to borrow at low cost.

**Bereavement support:** This grant pays for a multi-partner project with ACE, CCAWS and Cardiff People First, delivering a mix of direct counselling, bereavement courses and development of peer support approaches, aimed at engaging groups who have been traditionally under-represented in mainstream bereavement support services.

**Bevan Foundation:** This funded 1 day a week staff time to bring about systems change through community engagement contributing to various consultations to inform policy change.

**Caer Enterprises:** Development of social enterprise and income generating activity related to ACE's CAER Heritage project, including sales of CAER T-shirts and art.

**Children In Need:** This money is to fund a project which uses local heritage and history as inspiration for experimental and exploratory STEM activities and projects.

**Creative Grow:** This money was used Delivery of indoor art/garden sessions, room hire & materials.

**Diana Gardens/ Grapevine:** This money is to support the development of the ‘Diana Gardens’ site, community activity on and around the site and community capacity building with local volunteers.

**Dusty Shed:** This money was used to support a Men's Shed project based at the Dusty Forge.

**Grace Project:** This project supports men in the community who are involved with the criminal justice system. The Grand Avenues project is a partnership between HMPPS, SVP and ACE.

**25. Analysis of charitable funds** *(continued)*

Funding was used to fund a staff member for 3 days a week, a staff member 1/2 day a week, project costs and management costs to support the men on the project address issues around health, income and housing.

**Heritage Lottery Fund:** This money was used to deliver the CAER Heritage Project.

**Independent Age:** This project supports older people in the community to stay warm in their homes, through income maximisation and energy support. This income has funded a full time Older Persons Caseworker.

**Macmillan:** A project exploring how community development approaches can be used to increase the range of supportive care available for people who are dying, those supporting someone who is dying and people who are facing or experiencing bereavement.

**Memorial Garden:** This project is developing a new community garden to support activities that bring people together and support community connection and wellbeing.

**MIND (Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund: Wales)** A project to increase the capacity and reach of the Phone Friends project and to make it more accessible for people with a learning disability, working in partnership with Cardiff People First.

**Moondance Foundation:** This money is to fund the Caer Heritage Project.

**Pantry:** This money is to support the membership food club providing affordable food shop for members in food poverty / insecurity. The project includes running a community food shop and delivery service using surplus food supplied by Fareshare project to support struggling working families to get involved in the design and delivery of community projects tackling in work poverty.

**Redress Warm and Cardiff Council Hardship Fund:** Affordable warmth advice and support for community members in / at risk of fuel poverty delivered through drop in / case work sessions.

**Save the Children:** This was used to fund a series of art workshops over the summer holidays for children and young people living in Ely and Caerau. If Ehangu to work with community partners to develop new initiatives that support early years projects in Ely and Caearau.

**Summer of Smiles:** Income was used to provide a range of inclusive activities for children and young people across the communities of Ely and Caerau.

**Tier 0:** This money is to support a mental health service which provides psychological interventions through 1-1 guided self-help sessions and the delivery of psychoeducational courses.

**Together Trust:** This money is to deliver Building Communities Trust (BCT) invest local programme.

**Voluntary Sector Recovery:** This project supported volunteers to re-engage with ACE after the Pandemic disruption, providing staff time to run reintegration sessions and follow up support, training and update our volunteer processes to help volunteers with overcome barriers to contributing to projects.

**WCVA:** This funding was to diversify the income of ACE Training through the development of a website to increase sales and promote to a wider audience, particularly targeting the private

### 25. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

sector. It also funded consultants to conduct market research and develop a training package bespoke to ACE underlining ACE's approaches in Asset Based Community Development, Community Organising and Co-production. The training is now being offered to the public, statutory and third sector who wish their teams to to learn about the afore mentioned principles and how to put them into practice as it relates to their work.

**Welsh Government Communities Facilities Programme:** This is a capital fund to support the refurbishment and renovation of community buildings.

**Western Power:** This funds our advice provision supporting those in fuel poverty/fuel crisis.

**Working Well and Helping Working Families:** This is a partnership project with Tempo and Citizens Cymru to combine asset based community development with community organising approaches to enable sustainable solutions to in work poverty to be identified, piloted and developed.

**Workplace Youth:** This funding through Waterloo Foundation was used to engage with young people aged 16 to 25yrs in a series of woodwork sessions, and Level 1 Health and Safety in a Construction Environment Training. The aim of the funding was to support young people into work.

**Youth Innovation:** This money was used to support local groups, organise and support voluntary youth activities.

**Transfers:** Relates to capital spend where the conditions of the grant has been fulfilled, management charge overhead allocation and internal project recharges. Where projects have incurred an overspend the board have agreed for unrestricted funds to cover the deficits.

### 26. Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2025 £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tangible fixed assets | 84,979 | 793,354 | 878,333 |
| Investments | 210,010 | – | 210,010 |
| Current assets | 337,200 | 362,137 | 699,337 |
| Creditors less than 1 year | (17,382) | – | (17,382) |
| **Net assets** | 614,807 | 1,155,491 | 1,770,298 |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tangible fixed assets | 93,009 | 876,215 | 969,224 |
| Investments | 210,010 | – | 210,010 |
| Current assets | 269,010 | 487,085 | 756,095 |
| Creditors less than 1 year | (6,763) | – | (6,763) |
| **Net assets** | 565,266 | 1,363,300 | 1,928,566 |

## 27. Analysis of changes in net funds

| | At 1 Apr 2024 | Cash flows | **At 31 Mar 2025** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | **£** |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 638,713 | 33,460 | 672,173 |
| | 638,713 | 33,460 | 672,173 |

## 28. Charges on assets

The National Heritage Memorial Fund have a registration of charge over the leasehold of Caerau Evangelical Church, Church Road, Caerau, Cardiff, CF5 5LQ.

## 29. Related parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

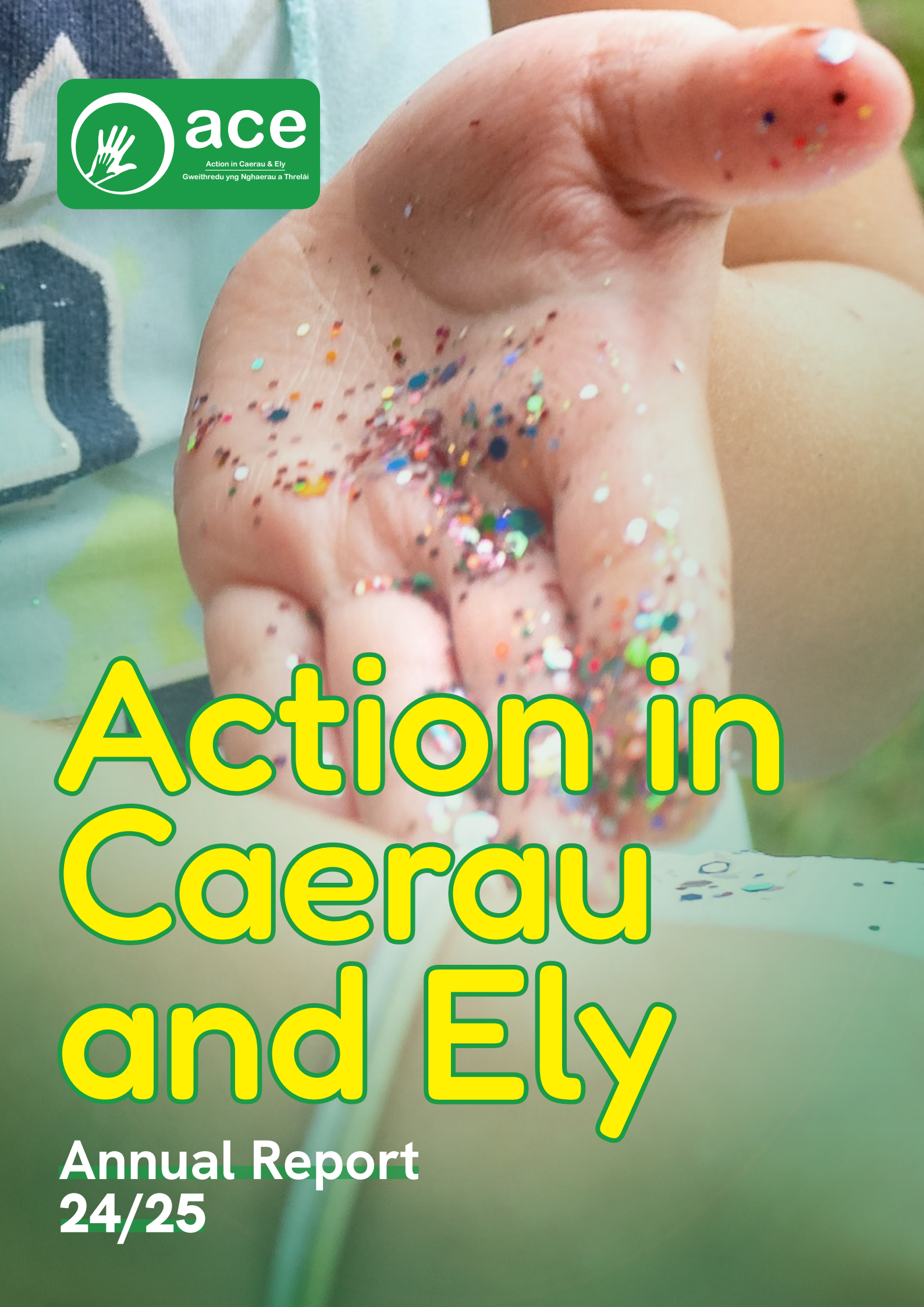
**The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.**

| | **2025** £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Brought forward | (921,448) | (1,330,435) |
| | **2025** £ | 2024 £ |
| **Income and endowments** | | |
| **Donations and legacies** | | |
| Donations | 9,569 | 17,940 |
| **Charitable activities** | | |
| Arts Council of Wales | 21,060 | 40,786 |
| Asda | – | 400 |
| Bevan Foundation | – | 390 |
| C3SC | 2,250 | 9,383 |
| Cardiff and Vale University Health Board | 368,165 | 294,185 |
| Cardiff Council | 110,212 | 88,224 |
| Cardiff University | 61,993 | 59,234 |
| Cardiff South Wales Cluster | – | 12,696 |
| Care & Repair | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Charities Aid Foundation | – | 55,000 |
| Charities Trust | 500 | – |
| Citizens Advice | 12,639 | 10,283 |
| Cwmpas | 13,663 | 40,860 |
| Dusty Shed | 8,874 | 7,307 |
| Grow Cardiff | – | 127 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | – | 15,724 |
| Independent Age | – | 20,000 |
| Invest Local Trust | 253,947 | 329,658 |
| Macmillan | – | 13,865 |
| National Lottery Community Fund | – | 165,176 |
| Save the Children | 5,000 | 53,300 |
| Co-Operative | – | 1,901 |
| Greggs | 20,710 | 19,713 |
| HMRC | – | 5,736 |
| The Screwfix Foundation | – | 2,500 |
| National Grid | – | 9,857 |
| Social Farms and Gardens | – | 140 |
| Solva care | – | 30 |
| St Vincent de Paul Society | – | 44,520 |
| TK Maxx & Homesense Foundation | – | 500 |
| Community Foundation in Wales | 3,000 | 1,000 |
| Awards For All | 19,866 | – |
| Friends of the Earth Trust | 7,600 | – |
| Good Things Foundation | 1,000 | – |
| Hubbub | 16,000 | – |
| New Economics Foundation | 80 | – |
| Nisa | 1,000 | – |
| Secretary of State for Justice | 53,066 | – |
| Simon Gibson Charitable Trust | 4,142 | – |
| University of South Wales | – | 250 |

| | **2025** | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | £ |
| Brought forward | (921,448) | (1,330,435) |
| Wales and West Housing | 28,564 | 1,250 |
| WCVA | – | 9,439 |
| Welsh Government | 43,625 | 44,224 |
| | 1,076,525 | 1,385,598 |
| Sundry Income | 2,255 | 260 |
| | 1,069,211 | 1,367,918 |
| **Other trading activities** | | |
| Rental Income | 35,372 | 30,187 |
| Generated Income | 70,962 | 92,759 |
| | 106,334 | 122,946 |
| **Investment income** | | |
| Bank interest receivable | 17,404 | 6,025 |
| **Total income** | 1,202,518 | 1,514,829 |

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure** | | |
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | | |
| Wages and salaries | 685,034 | 675,664 |
| Employer's NIC | 53,183 | 42,934 |
| Pension costs | 22,243 | 14,575 |
| Rates and water | 971 | 3,522 |
| Light and heat | 12,130 | 16,205 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 32,583 | 12,374 |
| Insurance | 6,895 | 5,841 |
| Motor vehicle expenses | – | 1,431 |
| Other motor/travel costs | 6,520 | 1,645 |
| Legal and professional fees | 6,240 | 13,755 |
| Other office costs | 7,691 | 8,093 |
| Depreciation | 59,492 | 61,317 |
| Other interest payable and similar charges | 703 | 661 |
| Training | 628 | 2,262 |
| Equipment and room hire | 9,340 | 4,624 |
| Project Costs | 144,399 | 166,339 |
| Cleaning | 10,262 | 14,096 |
| IT costs & telephone | 14,083 | 33,398 |
| | 256,994 | 286,316 |
| | 1,329,391 | 1,365,052 |
| **Other expenditure** | | |
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets held for charity's own use | 31,399 | – |
| **Total expenditure** | 1,360,790 | 1,365,052 |
| **Net losses on investments** | | |
| Gains/(losses) on investment property | – | (10,000) |
| **Net (expenditure)/income** | (158,272) | 139,777 |

| | 2025<br>£ | 2024<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | | |
| **Direct charitable activities** | | |
| ***Activities undertaken directly*** | | |
| Wages/salaries | 641,979 | 565,688 |
| Employer's NIC | 53,183 | 42,934 |
| Pension costs | 22,243 | 14,575 |
| Rates & water | 904 | 2,818 |
| Light & heat | 1,511 | 12,964 |
| Repairs & maintenance | 13,053 | 6,454 |
| Insurance | – | 3,738 |
| Other motor/travel costs | 541 | 1,502 |
| Other office costs | 1,667 | 3,131 |
| Depreciation | 54,792 | 49,994 |
| Training | – | 2,262 |
| Equipment and room hire | 9,340 | 4,624 |
| Project Costs | 139,708 | 166,339 |
| IT costs & telephone | 1,035 | 21,265 |
| | 939,956 | 898,288 |
| ***Grant funding activities*** | | |
| Grants payable | 256,994 | 286,316 |
| ***Support costs*** | | |
| Wages/salaries | 43,055 | 109,976 |
| Rates & water | 67 | 704 |
| Light & heat | 10,619 | 3,241 |
| Repairs & maintenance | 19,530 | 5,920 |
| Insurance | 6,895 | 2,103 |
| Motor vehicle expenses | – | 1,431 |
| Other motor/travel costs | 5,979 | 143 |
| Legal and professional fees | – | 4,901 |
| Other office costs | 6,024 | 4,962 |
| Depreciation | 4,700 | 11,323 |
| Training | 628 | – |
| Project Costs | 4,691 | – |
| Cleaning | 10,262 | 14,096 |
| IT costs & telephone | 13,048 | 12,133 |
| | 125,498 | 170,933 |
| **Governance costs** | | |
| Governance costs - accountancy fees | 676 | 650 |
| Governance costs - audit fees | 5,564 | 8,204 |
| Bank charges | 703 | 661 |
| | 6,943 | 9,515 |
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | 1,329,391 | 1,365,052 |



ace
Action in Caerau & Ely
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

# Action in Caerau and Ely

## Annual Report 24/25

# Our Ambitions, For Our Community,

# Through Our Own Efforts.

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# Message from the Chair

ACE continues to work with a multitude of organisations to make a positive difference to the residents of Ely & Caerau and those in other parts of Cardiff.  Funding has been difficult to secure, as many charities have seen this year. ACE has linked up with other organisations to deliver projects through partnerships and maximize funding opportunities. Sadly the ACE Arts project has had to close due to lack of available funding.

The CAER Heritage and Learning Centre has become well used by groups such as Flying Start and Love Our Hillfort, and hosted a number of courses run by Cardiff Council Adult Learning and Cardiff Met to name a few. The course subjects have ranged from Bookkeeping and Starting your own Business to Paediatric First Aid and Creative Writing. A number of successful cooking and healthy eating courses have been hosted by the Centre. The annual dig in Trelai Park yielded more intriguing objects and was well supported by Cardiff University, local schools, and a large number of enthusiastic volunteers.

The development of our outdoor space at Diana Garden has continued, with the help of dedicated volunteers, and groups from firms that have volunteering programmes. It has become a venue for outdoor activities run in partnership with Ely & Caerau Children's Centre and various ACE projects, as well as providing a supply of fruit and vegetables for the community fridge and the café.

Our new Postcode Gardener community greening project has supported work around the area, and assisted in the development of gardens at the Trelai Pavilion with the Grand Avenues project, and the Peace (formerly Memorial) Garden at the Dusty Forge. The latter project has had input and funding from Keep Wales Tidy, Grow Cardiff, and Community Payback teams.

Our Community Support team has been very busy and has worked with the Yourspace social prescribing teams in the South West, West, and North Cardiff clusters, and the Grand Avenues team, as well as the local community. They have been successful in helping many people get benefits and support that they are entitled to which has greatly improved their wellbeing.

Everyone at ACE is determined to continue to work together with our community to make life better and bring positive change. Thank you for your support, as always.

*Marian Dixey - Chair*

# Equal

SUPPORT
protecting Nature
strength
freedom
Hopeful
Home
relaxing
caring
FAMILAITY
sunshine
happy

# About ACE

## Our Vision

To create 'vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live'.

## Our Values

- **Local people know their community best.**
- **Everyone has something unique to contribute.**
- **Everyone's contribution should be valued equally.**
- **Poverty should not be accepted as a fact of life.**
- **Social injustice should be challenged and changed.**

## How We Work

**We work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:**

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision.
- Co-producing projects and services that make use of assets and meet needs.
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive.
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience.
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities.

# Resilient

# Ely and Caerau Community Plan

With input from 1,234 people, the Ely and Caerau Community Plan brought people together to make a positive difference at a local level. Each of the 40 actions in the Community Plan were designed in response to needs and ideas shared by the community. The work was completed in March 2024 and a full report on the impact of all 40 actions can be found on our website: www.aceplace.org/community-plan/

The Community Plan directed approximately £2 million of grant funding, secured from various sources including the Welsh Government, the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, and Cardiff Council, into the area. You can find a breakdown of funding on the same webpage.

We also shared highlights on the Community Plan Facebook page.

A dedicated group met 4 times to review the progress of all 40 actions during 2023 and 2024, offering support and challenge where needed. The Community Steering Group is made up of local residents (3 adults and a young person) and representatives from schools, churches, Cardiff Youth Service, Police, GP surgeries and charities active in the local area including ACE, Save the Children, Citizens Cymru and Barnardo's. They heard regularly from staff in Cardiff Council on the actions they were responsible for, including parks and community safety teams.

Many groups who came together to make this happen have continued working together on new projects to support the community, creating a legacy of collaboration that will continue into the future. We want to say a big thank you to everyone involved in this work - together we made a lot of positive change happen for people of all ages across Ely and Caerau.

**Community Action 6.4**
**Celebrating our community**
4 Festivals and fun days were attended by over 1,300 people, plus another 12 community fun days took place over 2024, with thousands enjoying coming together as a community.

**Community Action 2.3**
**Bike safety**
16 young people took part in a week-long motocross event, learning new skills. Legal and safety rules for e-bikes were shared through all local secondary schools and on social media.

**Community Action 2.4**
**Action on Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspots**
South Wales Victim Focus installed free video doorbells for 20 residents experiencing the effects of anti-social behaviour. CCTV and local street lighting was also upgraded.

**Community Action 3.2**
**New Youth Space**
Cardiff West Community High School opened a brand new community Youth Space in the school, with regular youth club nights run by Cardiff Youth Service (extra to existing clubs).

**Community Action 1.9**
**Parent Power Place**
A group of parents and carers with experience of children's services come together regularly to talk, listen and share experiences and advice.

**Community Action 4.1**
**Barnardo's YEWS**
Barnardo's Youth Engagement and Wellbeing Service supported young people to gain essential life skills. One young person said 'I can open up and talk about how I am feeling".

COMMUNITY PLAN
ELY & CAERAU

Ely and Caerau Community Plan
Full report available now!
www.aceplace.org/community-plan

SCAN ME

# ACE Partnerships
## with the LPB (Learning Partnership Board)

In the last few years, ACE has developed closer relationships with Ely and Caerau Children's Centre (ECCC), Save the Children, and the local Learning Partnership Board (LPB).

In the collaborative 'Ehangu/Dan y Coed' project in 2023, local families worked with us to design a project to create spaces suitable for outdoor play for families with children aged 0-5. We worked together to design and deliver creative outdoor play activities in nature, in three outdoor spaces that we developed for the purpose. The project was a great success, with 160 adults and 244 children benefiting from outdoor play. We then applied together for lottery funding, which enabled us to continue Dan y Coed play activities on 2 sites in 2024/25.

Save the Children reflected on the strength of these partnerships in their report:
"Effective collaboration... relies on shared values, trusting in the process and others, being open to working differently and shifting mindsets – with a desire to connect and strengthen relationships."

This strong partnership is now working together to ensure that local families' voices are heard and acted on in our Learning Partnership Board. Save the Children secured funding from Welsh Government for 'Camau Bach, Newid Mawr/Little steps, Big change'. Together we listened to 81 children and young people and 88 parents and carers about how they share their ideas and how they want their voices to be heard. Now we are testing a new way of working across 7 local schools, where school councils and parents groups will share their views directly with the Learning Partnership Board meetings each term. Through effective partnerships, the LPB can respond to these ideas and help bring about real change.

Through being open minded, sharing values and learning to work together, we are collaborating in really exciting work that brings the voice of the community to the heart of the Learning Partnership board, and beyond to a growing network of organisations and campaigns where local voices can have an impact.

# The Big Dig
# Trelai Park

## More secrets revealed at archaeological dig in Trelai Park

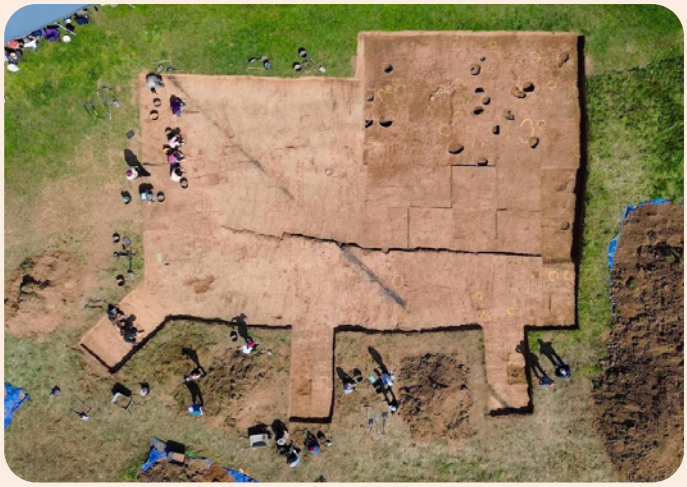

Photo: Vivian Thomas

CAER Heritage took to Trelai Park again this summer for another fascinating four-week community archaeology dig to explore the Bronze Age settlement that is beautifully preserved beneath the park. The CAER team, along with 430 volunteers, 9 local schools with 224 pupils, 6 community groups and Cardiff University students all got their hands dirty, continuing the exciting string of discoveries by uncovering a second Bronze Age roundhouse, a Bronze Age burial ground containing cremations and evidence from the Roman Period, giving us a fantastic window into the lives of Ely & Caerau residents over the last 3,500 years. The big dig community open day brought hundreds of people together at the site to find out more about the heritage of the park, see the ancient artefacts that were unearthed, and have fun with creative activities and games. In all, 1423 people attended the dig in 2025!

The dig this year produced plenty of exciting finds including flint tools, pottery, part of a Bronze Age axe, a flint arrowhead, a quern stone, and other objects that were used by the people that lived there. All the finds have been taken to the CAER Heritage Centre where the post-excavation work is taking place with the Love Our Hillfort volunteers helping to clean and analyse them.

Volunteer Hannah Secker, a student completing her A-Levels who would like to study Archaeology said: "It's unbelievable finding artefacts that could be 3,000 years old and thinking about the people that have walked on this ground before us".

Love Our Hillfort volunteer and Cardiff University Archaeology student Dan Queally said: "It's not just the archaeology I've learned about, it's about seeing the difference a project like this can make to people here and now".

CAER has been running for almost 15 years now. It's brought together archaeologists and students from Cardiff University with ACE members, local schools, residents, community groups and more. This year's dig has really put Trelai Park on the archaeological map and we're so grateful for the ongoing support from Cardiff Council, who gave us permission to dig in the park, and above all the local community, without whom nothing that CAER has done would have been possible.

If you're interested in your local history, we're at the CAER Centre every Wednesday from 10am-12pm cleaning finds from the dig. Everyone is welcome to come and get involved.

CAER Volunteer Hannah with the quern stone from the Bronze Age!
Photo: Vivian Thomas

# CAER Heritage & Learning Centre

In 2025 the CAER Centre has flourished as a hub of learning in our community, hosting higher education and training courses, school group visits and regular community groups, providing a variety of opportunities for learning for all ages and continuing to explore our community's fascinating heritage.

Weekly groups include CAER Carers Club, Love Our Hillfort and the CAER Gardening group. Flying Start runs weekly wellbeing sessions and toddler groups. Other regular community courses, activities, and events, include 'Get Cooking' sessions and 'New Era' music workshops for young people.

We hosted several community days in partnership with Cardiff University's School of Music, the School of History, Archaeology and Religion and the Postcode Lottery.

In partnership with Cardiff University we also hosted several courses. These included Community Archaeologist Specialist Training courses, accredited training courses hosted with 'Reaching Wider', Cardiff University's adult learning outreach programme, including the popular 'Health & Social Care', 'Starting Your Own Business', 'Criminology', 'Archaeology Ceramics', 'Excel and Computer Skills' and 'Careers in Childcare', with more planned for the rest of the year, all based on local people's interest and needs. The NHS brought their Dietary Requirements cooking course and their Recovery & Wellbeing College to the CAER Centre. We have also hosted other courses on making healthy meals where attendees take home with them the food they make during the course.

The dedicated volunteers at CAER Heritage Love Our Hillfort group have facilitated Archaeology themed Open Days at the centre and have been taking part in the Council for British Archaeology's Catalysts for Change project, aimed at bringing together community archaeology groups from across the U.K. to share their experiences and knowledge of co-creating research. They also showcased the vibrant heritage centre garden at events and co-produced and implemented several garden projects, including beginning work on a Roman medicinal garden outdoor educational resource and making several improvements to the garden that will support wellbeing through improving accessibility to outdoor activities.

**Treasures of Trelai Park.**
The exhibition was open to the public on Mondays and Wednesdays in the CAER Centre from 2nd February until 1st May. We were delighted to welcome visitors to see the wonderful finds from the dig and the beautiful art inspired by those discoveries on display. The exhibition was co-created by local young people and community members, including the amazing ACE Arts Youth Group, Cardiff West Community High School students, Love Our Hillfort volunteers, and MIGHTY Community Artist Programme participants.

Photo: Vivian Thomas

# Community Support

"It opened my mind to healthy, planet-friendly eating and unusual ways to make things. Thank you so much, this has been 2 hours of happiness each week.

## Good Food Hub

In 2024/25 we set up our new Good Food Hub, promoting our food, nutrition and health work in the community. Our database now has 60 people, many of whom regularly attend events to improve their health and well-being.

**Let's Get Cooking!**
With funding from Hubbub and Cardiff Council, we launched a series of 'Get Cooking' courses at the Caer Heritage Centre, helping residents cook easy, healthy, affordable food. In partnership with Cardiff & Vale Dietetics Team and our Community Food Practitioner, Caroline Holroyd, we ran four 5-week Agored-accredited 'Preparing a Healthy Meal' courses with different interactive themes including 'Fakeaway', 'Tasty Budget', 'Autumn Seasonal & Winter Warming Cooking'. Hubbub also funded the development and delivery of our own bespoke 6 week programme, 'Food for Health & Planet', on healthy, sustainable, planet-friendly cooking.

We supported 30 people to build their skills, knowledge and confidence to cook from scratch, with 15 achieving an Agored entry level 3 qualification. We are now working to build this interest in cooking, health and nutrition with National Lottery community funding secured for our Good Food Club until July 2026. Our Hubbub programme is also set to continue with additional funding awarded to run workshops on improving community health through cost effective, balanced and wholesome cooking ideas.

**Living Well**
Our 'Living Well' project addressed healthy eating and exercise through 7 workshops. Funded by Cardiff & Vale Health Board via C3SC as part of their Good Food & Movement Framework, these sessions included food demos, nutrition education, quizzes and games alongside Yoga, Tai Chi, Qigong and garden activities. 30 people from the local community attended our sessions. 98% said they would be encouraged to try cooking a similar dish at home and everyone learned more about healthy food and nutrition. Cookery books were kindly donated by the National Literacy Trust. Through the project we have also set up a new Food Network for Ely and Caerau, which will build links and collaboration between local food projects.

**Community Events**
During summer 2024 we teamed up with our amazing community partners to host three family-friendly food events, which welcomed over 60 adults and children, creating opportunities to cook, learn, and connect around healthy food.

- A 'Wild Cooking' workshop at Diana Garden with Ely & Caerau Children's Centre where children cooked outdoors on our rocket stove creating a tasty, healthy lunch.
- Our 'Family Grow & Create' event with Grow Cardiff in the Dusty Garden mixed hands-on foodie crafts, healthy snack-making, and lessons in growing your own food.
- A 'Creative Food & Fun' session with Herbert Thompson Primary School brought families together for nature exploration, healthy cooking, and playful foodie games.

## ACE Advice and Support

Hafan is a new project that began in 2024, aligned with YourSpace, our successful social prescribing project. Referrals are made directly by local GP's for patients with health conditions, exacerbated by living in cold homes. They receive bespoke energy advice, benefit checks and help that eases immediate pressures and builds lasting solutions by increasing household income through unclaimed benefits and energy efficiency. The project has generated £987,000 in unclaimed benefit income, creating £19.75 value for every £1 invested.

## ACE Benthyg

Our library of things, ACE Benthyg, continues to grow, with 600+ active members and around 50 items borrowed each month. Our carpet cleaner and hedge trimmer remain our most commonly borrowed items, and DIY and gardening tools are still the most popular categories. Our library stock is ever-growing - from children's bug-hunting kits and party-ready chocolate fountains to cement mixers and wood chippers. Membership is free. We're open Monday and Friday mornings in the Restore space, and alongside the Repair Café on the fourth Saturday of each month. You can also browse and reserve items online (see web address and QR code below) and we welcome drop ins, where you can ask questions, and see what's available.

**ace.benthyg.cymru**

## Restore

Restore at the Dusty Forge is open every Wednesday morning, offering free fresh and ambient food from our Community Fridge, affordable toiletries and cleaning products, and a pet food bank. By redistributing quality surplus food, we cut waste and support our community as we all face rising costs. Over the last year we diverted 2,500 kg of food from landfill and welcomed 500 visits from local residents. We aim to extend opening hours in the year ahead.

"It makes such a difference you being here, you should all be really proud of what you do." - Drew

## Grand Avenues

Grand Avenues is a partnership between ACE and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). As part of the project, people on probation are supervised in local community hubs by a small, dedicated team of probation practitioners. Working alongside community partners, they provide a wide range of support to people on probation and their families, including with finance, training and employment, and healthcare. Grand Avenues supports and encourages people to meaningfully contribute to the local community.

## Café Barr

Café Barr continues to provide a warm, welcoming space at the Dusty Forge, where people can connect over delicious and healthy food. Local volunteers cook three free community meals each week:

- Monday evening three-course meal with FoodCycle
- Tuesday community lunch club
- Wednesday breakfast freshly cooked by volunteers with the Grand Avenues team (our HMPPS partnership).

Volunteers and participants build cooking skills and gain accredited qualifications. Anyone can drop in. 60 - 100 people join weekly, reducing isolation and helping stretch household budgets.

## The Dusty Shed

The Dusty Shed now runs four weekly sessions: 10-12 men and women participate in each woodworking and social activity session on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as well as Wellbeing Wednesdays for men to discuss the challenges they face in later life and offer peer-to-peer support. We're also sharing skills, constructing bird boxes and planters for organisations and schools developing 'green' community spaces.

## Repair Café

For six years our Dusty Repair Cafe team has 'popped up' monthly. Our dedicated team of volunteer fixers have shared their skills free of charge to check out 700+ broken items and

mended three-quarters of them! Our friendly fixers' skills range from repairing everyday electrical household items and garden equipment to offering IT software advice and undertaking basic bike and scooter repairs. Family heirlooms restored have included specialist woodwork and ceramics as well as revival of elderly soft toys and specialist textiles. 'Kind, friendly – helpful above and beyond' reported one satisfied customer.

# Together
## for St. Mellons and Trowbridge

Together for Trowbridge and St. Mellons (T4TSM) is one of 13 Invest Local Programmes in Wales funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. It is a 10-year programme that builds on the strengths, skills and talents in the community to create positive and long-lasting change. ACE acts as grant-holder for a steering group of local residents and representatives from community-based organisations, who lead on the delivery of the programme.

During 2024-25 the staff member working for the programme moved into another local role and the steering group have been exploring ways that they can meet the aims of the programme without a member of staff, which has included providing grants and support to local groups and organisations and paying for sessional hours to carry out localised community development activities in the Trowbridge area.

## Dylan's Story

# Gardening pulls me back on track

I got involved in the garden here at Trelai Pavillion about 5 months ago. I come down here to see my probation officer; they told me about the garden. Because I haven't got a garden of my own, to have this on your doorstep is a good alternative.

It just allows me to switch off. I don't have a built in release valve. So I have to do something to switch myself off, it doesn't come easily to me. So doing something with my hands takes my mind off life's stresses. I don't know the nuts and bolts of it, I just know it works.

The planters were put in by Keep Wales Tidy and the lads on probation. I come in and maintain what we've set up - do a bit of watering, a bit of weeding. I've planted some cucumbers and tomatoes, the herb garden, some strawberries. As it's our first season, I think we are all learning as we go along and learn from each other as well. I'm not an expert but I have got an NVQ in gardening, I did it in prison. It's out of date now but when you're qualified, you're qualified!
We'll always keep learning, and I'll always be here at the garden.

I think the social interaction is what I enjoy most. Because I have problems switching off from life. I suffer with my mental health, with anxiety and depression, I've had it for over 30 years. Sometimes it gets out of hand and I can't get it back, and I feel like I'm in a vicious circle of anxiety, and I think situations are worse than they are. For me, gardening pulls me back on track. I don't think my life would be as good without the gardening. I don't have much family that I'm in contact with so I have worked at putting things in place, having some community around me. It's a lot to build your life again from scratch.

We're only getting started here, we've been here less than a year, but in 5 years this garden will be just as amazing as the one in the Dusty Forge. We're trying to get some lavender in for the bees... we've already got lots of bees in here but I don't think you can ever have enough wildlife.

I would say to anyone thinking of getting involved in gardening, give it a try, you might like it. I like it. There's no pressure and you might enjoy it and you might make some good friends too. I certainly have.

*Dylan (not his real name) is a volunteer with a community garden group supported by Grand Avenues Project and HM Prison and Probation Service, and ACE's Postcode Gardener project.*

# Diana Garden

In the last twelve months community engagement has gone from strength to strength in Diana Garden. We have had regular twice weekly gardening sessions with ten community volunteers attending regularly to maintain the garden, prepare beds and plant and harvest a range of fruit and vegetables. Weekly gardening sessions not only help maintain the garden but also act as an important way of connecting with others and improving self confidence and self esteem. We learn from each other and develop new skills.

We also organised various seasonal community events with community members contributing to the activities and providing refreshments. We will continue to organise  events for the coming year with collaboration from other providers

We feel that Diana Garden is more than a green space: it is a community-led sanctuary where residents of all ages can learn, connect, and thrive in nature. With

mentoring from the Egin programme, we have created an action plan to address some of the challenges of the space, such as the lack of electricity and water supply, ensuring the garden continues to grow as a model of urban regeneration, biodiversity, and local resilience. We are applying for Egin funding to take the next step in the development of the garden. The Egin programme is a Wales-wide initiative that supports and empowers community groups to take action on climate change and live more sustainably. The word "Egin" means "shoots" or "sprouts" in Welsh, reflecting the program's goal of helping new community ideas for climate action to generate and take root.

# Postcode Gardener

In partnership with The Co-operative Bank, Friends of the Earth has funded ACE to employ a Postcode Gardener. Postcode Gardeners inspire people to get together, get planting and keep growing. They help grow plants for flowers, food and wildlife along streets and in public spaces where people can enjoy them. At the project launch in March 2025, local people participated in planting trees, sowing seeds, and mapping out potential areas for greening. So far, we have grown plants in 19 places - from sunflowers in Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau to vegetables at the pavilion in Trelai Park. We've planted wild flowers near the CAER centre and made bird boxes with families at Diana Garden.

154 community members have got involved in growing with our Postcode Gardener. We've worked with 19 groups, including Upfront Gardens CIC, Urban Long Forest, Coed Caerdydd, Sow the Sun, Love our Hillfort group, Diana Garden and CAER centre garden volunteers, Dusty Shed, Cardiff West Community High School, Grand Avenues, Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau, Grow Cardiff and St. Vincent de Paul (SVP). Dozens of people have taken home hundreds of seeds in small pots through our 'seed blitz' activities at family fun

days and festivals over the summer.

A highlight for summer 2025 was our Diana Garden Family Fun day - 258 people attended! Together with partners we helped people enjoy pebble painting, leaf bunting, portraits, wild cooking, bird box making and planting. The new planters at CAER Courtyard helped us bring together wood working volunteers at Dusty Shed, CAER garden volunteers and young children with their parents at 'Flying Start' to create accessible growing experiences for all ages. Our local 'Green Spaces Network' is a great source of ideas for where to plant next, and these connections continue to flourish.

# Peace Garden

The Peace Garden began with an idea for a quiet space to remember ACE colleague Caroline Barr, and other loved ones who have passed away. We wanted to create a calm place for people to reflect and take time to look forward with hope. We now have a beautiful garden buzzing with life, which seems a positive space and a good fit for that purpose.

The initial focus group met in October 2022, standing in an overgrown semi-wilderness. To say it was overwhelming was an understatement. However, ideas and plans were abundant, and with the hard work of the Diana Garden staff and volunteers, Charlotte, John and Tang, and strong partnerships with the Probation Community Payback team and Keep Wales Tidy, the wildlife garden came to fruition in spring 2025. We opened the Peace garden officially in July, as part of the celebration of 10 years at the Dusty Forge.

We were supported in the development of the wildlife garden by a Keep Wales Tidy grant and they have supplied growing boxes, a pond, seating, bee friendly plants, shrubs and trees.

We were keen to make the space wheelchair friendly. This was made possible by the Probation Community Payback team and volunteers who constructed a solid path, giving access to the garden for all. The woodworking skills of John Naylor and The Dusty Shed members also provided a secure fence and gate to the Peace garden. Local community members who are keen to be custodians of the Peace garden will maintain the space alongside ACE staff.

"Working with Steve at ACE on the Peace Garden project has been an absolute joy. To see a piece of waste ground turned into a thriving, peaceful haven has been truly inspiring. It's now a place where nature is welcomed, wildlife can flourish, and people can find a moment of calm and quiet reflection. Watching that transformation take shape has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had.

I'm so grateful to Steve and the amazing volunteers who put their energy, heart, and passion into making this vision a reality. I can't wait to work with Steve again on future projects that bring even more positivity and beauty into our communities."

**David Foley**
**Keep Wales Tidy – Roving Officer for Cardiff**

"I am overall better, as things are much more positive compared to when I last went to the GP at the start of the year. I'm glad I'm back doing something with my days, it's relieving."

"It makes such a difference to know someone is reaching out. They might not have all the answers but I feel listened to."

"Thank you for just being there, it's refreshing to be able to speak to someone and just be able to get things off my chest which I find difficult to express to my family."

# Health and Wellbeing

## Yourspace Wellbeing Support

Yourspace is a social prescribing and community development service, providing 1:1 wellbeing support and developing new community-led wellbeing activities. The service is commissioned by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and we work closely with local GP's and health services to support people with a range of health, social and wellbeing needs. Referrals are seen promptly and wellbeing connectors offer a range of signposting options with an engaging person-centred approach.

The service started in South West Cardiff in 2019 and has supported 296 people in this area during 2024-25 to improve their wellbeing. Our development workers have been adept at developing a range of activities to meet needs, including events, outings and activities such as walking and support groups. A sample of 70 people completed a wellbeing scale, which showed 83% had improved their wellbeing.

In 2024-25 the Yourspace service in North Cardiff grew, following a smaller scale pilot in this area. With more Wellbeing Connectors and a Community Development Worker now on the North Cardiff team we have been able to provide direct support to 172 people during 2024-25, as well as setting up wellbeing groups including a walking group, men's group and a neurodiversity support group. A sample of 64 people completed a wellbeing scale, which showed 86% had improved their wellbeing.

During 2024-25 the service also expanded into West Cardiff, with a smaller service delivered by one part-time wellbeing connector and a part-time development worker. Following work to identify needs and local partnership opportunities, the team started a walking group, bereavement support group and financial wellbeing drop-in for the area; and provided direct support to 46 people. A sample of 9 people completed a wellbeing scale, which showed 78% had improved their wellbeing.

# A Day in the Life of a Wellbeing Connector

It's an early start this morning, as the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meeting begins at 8:30 am. The MDT is a crucial forum, organised by Cardiff North Primary Care Cluster, that brings together professionals such as GP's, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Pharmacists, and Independent Living Services. With patient permission, we use this virtual roundtable to discuss appropriate and holistic care plans. Our Wellbeing service is represented here, offering an ideal opportunity to better understand the roles and contributions of our fellow professionals.

Yourspace is allocated three new referrals today, with patient details securely delivered via an electronic database.

This is where our direct work begins. These three individuals will be contacted within the next three days, marking the start of their journey to improved wellbeing.

The Wellbeing Connector has three scheduled visits for the day.

- One appointment is a supporting visit to help a patient access assistance from the local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).
- The second visit is a crucial first face-to-face appointment, offering an opportunity to discuss the patient's goals and aspirations for their wellbeing.
- The final appointment is unfortunately cancelled by the patient and rescheduled for a later date.

Following the visits, it's back to the office for a quick sandwich, followed by typing up case notes and making any necessary follow-up calls. There are always messages and emails from colleagues to address. As the day draws to a close, there's a valuable opportunity to have a quick catch-up with other connectors, sharing insights and best practices.

## Bereavement Support

ACE leads on a partnership project, funded by Welsh Government, to enhance bereavement support in Cardiff for people from ethnic minority communities and those with a learning disability, both groups that are less likely to access existing support. Our partners at Community Care and Wellbeing Service provide bereavement counselling, courses and support groups which are sensitive to people's culture and faith and available in a range of languages. Our partners Cardiff People First have been active in setting up peer support groups and activities for people with a learning disability.

In 2024-25 the project provided bereavement counselling for 101 people and ran 14 bereavement and mental health workshops, working with local faith centres and community organisations. Over 230 people attended courses, from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds including Pakistani, Somali, Syrian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Egyptian, Arabic, Bengali, Palestinian, Sudanese, Italian and Welsh. The courses were successful in breaking down barriers and 'taboo' around discussing sensitive topics and have also resulted in the setting up of peer support groups where people could come together and support each other through grief. 34 local residents with a learning disability took part in peer support activities, providing informal and safe settings for them to talk about people they had lost and their feelings around a bereavement.

# ACE Places

We run two community centres and a wildlife garden. These vibrant and welcoming spaces host a range of activities to help people in financial crisis, provide holistic wellbeing support and social prescribing, help overcome barriers to learning and employment, make art, celebrate our local heritage, bring people together through cooking, growing and food, volunteering and much more! We also support a thriving network of community groups for all ages that promote mutual support and positive wellbeing.

# Our Place: Dusty Forge

460 Cowbridge Rd West, Ely, Cardiff CF5 5BZ

## A place for help and support

At the heart of the building sits our 'community living room', a friendly, informal and flexible space with a constant supply of tea and coffee and the buzz of folk getting to know each other and hatching new plans and visions. The Dusty Forge acts as a base for a wide range of projects, groups and activities run by staff and local volunteers.

### Practical Support

Our practical support includes Crisis Hour, ACE Benthyg community hire, Re-Store's reuse and recycle hub, and the monthly Repair Cafe. We have a weekly ACE meal and a community fridge.

### Health and wellbeing

A range of wellbeing and social groups and activities take place here, including our own 'Yourspace' service (page 18) as well as community-led groups.

### Green space at the Dusty Forge

'Grow Well' is a therapeutic gardening project led by Grow Cardiff, sharing gardening skills. The Peace Garden is our memorial garden, a calm space to take time out, to reflect and have time to look forward with hope.

### Room Hire at the Dusty Forge

The Dusty Forge offers a range of rooms for all your meetings and events needs. For further enquires: T: 029 20003132, or E: dusty@aceplace.org.

### Also based at the Dusty Forge

#### Dusty Shed

The Dusty Shed aims to promote health and wellbeing by reducing the loneliness and isolation of individuals, particularly but not exclusively men aged 50+. Individuals can share, learn and socialise with each other in an inclusive environment.
Visit www.thedustyshed.org.uk.

#### Repair Cafe

The Dusty's Repair Cafe runs monthly pop-up events offering a friendly free repair and re-use service supported by Repair Café Wales. Volunteer hosts and fixers welcome customers bringing broken items and share their skills on the spot. The repair cafe is every 4th Saturday, each month.

# CAER Heritage

Church Rd, Caerau, Cardiff CF5 5LQ

## Working with people to discover more about their local heritage

The CAER Heritage Centre on Church Road in Caerau is a hub for heritage activity and community learning, as well as hosting a number of community groups and activities.
The Caerau And Ely Rediscovering (CAER) Heritage Project, launched in 2011, is a collaboration between ACE, Cardiff University, local schools, residents and community groups. Local people explore a rich landscape that includes an Iron Age hillfort, Neolithic causewayed enclosure and the medieval church of St Mary's. They take part in archaeological excavations, historical research, artefact analysis, exhibitions, art, heritage trails, accredited courses and experimental archaeology.

### What's On

We have weekly activities including:

- Love our Hillfort
- Gardening Group
- CAER Carers Club
- Flying Start Stay & Play

We have regular courses from Cardiff University, and other community activities and events.

### Venue Hire

The centre has a main hall, smaller meeting rooms and facilities, that are available for hire. You can email caerheritage@aceplace.org to find out about booking a space

# Diana Garden

Hiles Rd, Ely, Cardiff CF5 4JB

## A Community Garden Where You Can Grow, Eat & Thrive Together

Diana Garden is a remarkable example of how local people can revive and re imagine public space. Once a derelict playground, the garden has been transformed into a thriving, green community hub - where people of all ages grow food, learn new skills, and connect with nature and one another.

### Your Community Space

This isn't just about gardening. Diana Garden is a hub where you can:

- Learn new skills through hands-on experience
- Support your wellbeing with therapeutic outdoor activity
- Make genuine connections with your neighbours
- Contribute to something meaningful in your local area
- Find out more every Tuesday - 1pm to 4pm.

# ACE Volunteers

ACE has worked with over 80 volunteers, spread across 20 different areas of work at the Dusty Forge, CAER Heritage Centre, Diana Gardens and the Yourspace Team in Cardiff North. The volunteers are dedicated, supportive, passionate and determined to help improve the lives of people living in Caerau, Ely and the wider areas of Cardiff.

ACE would like to say a continued THANK YOU to all our volunteers for another year of incredible commitment, compassion and hard work. We currently have seven Lead Volunteers who provide extra support to staff in the running of the volunteer projects. Ten Volunteer Trustees sit on our ACE Board, providing strategic oversight of our activities.

This year the Volunteers and Project Leads have grown their projects and started new groups. ACE has showed appreciation and gratitude to them during both Student Volunteering Week and Volunteers Week, where all volunteers were invited to a series of celebration events and all received a personalised award, homemade with love gifts and a personalised pen.

This year the volunteers took part in the ACE volunteering survey where:

- 100% of volunteers said they feel supported in their volunteering role(s) by ACE staff.

- 100% of volunteers said they feel valued and appreciated as an ACE volunteer.

Some of the volunteers have shared their positive experience(s) they have had while volunteering with ACE:

*'I had to reinvent my life and community, I did this by volunteering at ACE.'*

*'I have been given many opportunities whilst volunteering with ACE one of which led to employment.'*

*'Connecting with the community every week and getting to see the real difference that archaeology and heritage can make, invaluable to my enjoyment and pride in my degree.'*

## Volunteer Focus

This year ACE has focused on each volunteer's journey, making sure each volunteer is on the right path for them. With support from the Volunteer Development Officer and Project Leads, ACE can ensure the best volunteering opportunities and experiences.

Sarah from the Tuesday Lunch Club expresses how this method has supported her in reaching her goals for employment and community support.

*'Volunteering with the ACE lunch club has enabled me to regain my confidence in a working kitchen after a long break caring for a disabled parent and raising young children. I have since signed up for culinary school and look forward to once again working in the industry. Helping the community by making meals for them is very rewarding and living locally with young children has helped to connect me to the community where I live. Utilising my skills and knowledge to produce meals from food that would otherwise be wasted has regained my passion for food and definitely propelled me forward to rejoin the culinary workforce going forward'.*
**Sarah Standring, Tuesday Lunch Club Lead Volunteer**

# Vibrant

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MALAYSIA

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Cardiff South West Cluster
FOLLOW
10,000 likes
Cardiff.SW #CareHub #HealthyLiving

# ACE Arts

ACE Arts continued weekly workshops throughout spring and summer of 2024, with an average of 10-12 participants per week. The groups worked on a piece commissioned by the Carer's group, which was displayed at their summer event. A series of art workshops hosted by Welsh National Opera were a great success. Participants created small models and characters which were displayed in the Dusty Forge art corridor.

ACE received Arts and Health Funding from Arts Council Wales for six months from Sept 2024 - March 2025, for a new partnership with Cardiff South West Primary Care Cluster, Yourspace and Chapter Arts centre and Disability Arts Cymru. Arts and Wellbeing sessions were held weekly at Chapter Arts Centre and the Dusty Forge.
The 'Creating SpACE' project enabled us to work with patients from the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board cardiology department and community members during our regular art sessions.

During this time, ACE Arts hosted a therapeutic artist from the University of South Wales and 6 freelance and voluntary artists, including one artist recommended by our partners at Disability Arts Cymru. The project was complimented so well by Yourspace Wellbeing Connectors, who supported sessions and sign-posted participants to the sessions.

The project culminated in a beautiful exhibition at Chapter Arts Centre, showcasing work created by participants. We invited our friends at Valleys Kids in Porth to join our celebratory exhibition, who brought 14 people to see the art work and celebrate ACE Arts.

In the last 6 months of ACE Arts, we hosted over 60 creative workshops and welcomed over 80 participants who attended regular activities, and over 200 during exhibitions and celebratory events such as our creative winter garden party and arts activities at our Dan Y Coed outdoor play sessions and summer festival event.

Despite valiant efforts, ACE was unable to secure ongoing funding for art projects, and we sadly closed ACE Arts in March 2025, after more than 9 years of regular art activities at the Dusty Forge. Our Artist in Residence, Nic Parsons, continues to work with ACE occasionally on a freelance basis and contributes to the success of our Dan y Coed project with young families. We continue to seek opportunities for our art workshop to be used to bring creative activities to our communities at the Dusty Forge.

# Shape your Future

Shape Your Future provides flexible 1:1 mentoring and small bursaries to help residents overcome barriers to work. In partnership with Cardiff Council's Into Work Service, we're tackling in-work poverty in Ely and Caerau. Support is tailored to each person's goals - funding training, qualifications, equipment and costs that unlock better-paid, flexible and more meaningful work, including self-employment. Between April 2024 and March 2025, 144 residents received bursaries to gain qualifications or purchase essential tools to progress their careers.

## K's Pathway Back to Work

**Overview**
K's journey back into construction shows what is possible when practical help and belief in someone come together. With focused mentoring, hands-on employment support and close employer liaison, K moved from uncertainty about his future into a skilled Telehandler role with Kier Construction, backed by a Blue CSCS Tradesman card.

**Background**
Referred by his Probation Officer through the Grand Avenues programme, K was working as a turkey farmer after time at Prescoed Prison. He knew his future was in construction, drawing on previous Lantra training and site experience.

**Tailored Support**
We began with an honest conversation about K's skills, confidence and goals, followed by a visit to Kier's Fairwater site so he could picture himself back on site.

Shape Your Future funding covered the cost of securing a birth certificate when ID barriers blocked progress. When Kier could not accept his Lantra qualification, we arranged an accredited course with Barry Training Services, which K passed with full marks. Medical clearance delays with his GP were overcome by booking an independent assessment and Fit for Work certificate. Regular contact with Kier's Project Manager kept everyone focused on the end goal.

**Outcomes**
On 9 June 2025 K started as a Telehandler with Kier, with his Blue CSCS Tradesman card in hand and a clear route back into his chosen trade.

K's story shows how joined-up, person-centred support can turn barriers into stepping stones, opening the door to a skilled job, renewed confidence and a genuine second chance.

**Donna Hurley, Shape Your Future Lead:**
The Shape Your Future Bursary has been a vital resource in offering rapid, flexible support in a non-stigmatising approach, focusing on exploring interests, identifying and developing skills, building confidence and employment progression. The Shape Your Future support model has also demonstrated the effectiveness of personalised mentoring in reducing reoffending and supporting reintegration.

# The ACE Way

ACE continues to share all that we've learnt from 14 years at the heart of Ely and Caerau through our 'ACE Way' training and mentoring programme. Relationships are being built with community organisations right across Wales leading to new opportunities to collaborate, share knowledge and influence government to better support communities.
A few highlights from this year include:

- **Training:** Providing community development training for our friends in Blaenau Ffestiniog who are leading the way in building local economic activity in their community.
- **Mentoring**: Working with Caerau Development Trust in Bridgend to write a business plan in support of their ambition to take on the local community centre through an asset transfer.
- **Networking**: Co-facilitating Cardiff CAN (Community Anchor Organisation Network) with C3SC. This collaboration of 15 community based organisations is busy sharing learning and building a research programme to evidence our shared impact in Cardiff.
- **ACE History**: Developing a series of podcasts and written material sharing ACE's history and key lessons along the way. We started by hosting a reunion of community development 'legends' from Ely's recent past!

*'I'd like to just get in touch to be able to say a massive thank you for the training, it was great and gave everyone a chance to really think about their practice and how we create a vision with community voice being central. We look forward to discussing the idea of connecting with communities across Wales and the community democracy idea.'*
*- Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog*

Ely legends! Community workers from the last 50 years gather to reminisce in CAER Heritage Centre at the beginning of the ACE History project (from left to right: Dave Wyatt, Nigel Billingham, Eva Elliott, Barry Doughty, Lee Patterson, Gloria Yates, Mark Drakeford, Howard Williamson, John Winslade, Mel Witherden, John Rose and Dave Horton).

*'I have just gone through the business plan in full and I just want to say thank you for your work with us! I have learnt loads, I can see things a lot clearer and concise now too. I'm really grateful to you for the effort you've put in with us and I can't wait to start putting some of the plans we have set out in motion now and hopefully get the centre to where I know we can get it!'*
*- Caerau Development Trust, Bridgend.*

The Cardiff CAN network on a visit to Cathays Community Centre (a CAN member).

## Sara's Story

# Regaining Hope

### (with ACE by my side)

Sara, an accomplished artist, first linked in with Yourspace Social Prescribing at ACE in May 2025. Before this, she was struggling with pain from a previous injury, feeling lonely and isolated, and struggling to leave her house at all. Having left a violent relationship and experienced the death of her closest friends, her mental health deteriorated.

Eventually Sara explained her situation to her GP, saying "I'm struggling, not coping, feeling so lonely". The GP made a referral to Yourspace, and within a few days Sara met Danielle, one of our Wellbeing Connectors, in a nearby cafe. Danielle suggested Sara join the Roath Park walking group that had been set up by Yourspace. Danielle picked up Sara and they joined the walk together for the first time. Sara said, "I wouldn't have gone unless Danielle had given me a lift and joined in with the walk".

The weekly walk is the highlight of Sara's week. She has made friends with a fellow walker, who now gives her a lift. She has been to an art exhibition with another artist in the group, and they have plans to visit the Wales Millennium Centre together. Sara described the safety of the group:
"It's nice to be in a group where everyone has issues. We listen to each other's stories and are supportive of each other, so I don't have to hide behind a mask. It's early days yet, but already I feel a little happier. I'm enjoying getting to know different characters and some people in the group are becoming friends."

"Before coming to ACE, I had lost hope, then the walk was the only thing I did", said Sara. "The walking has improved my pain, and increased my mobility. I now take care of myself better. It is lovely to be able to wear clothes in my wardrobe for the first time in years."

"Also, ACE has also helped with hidden secrets. I've never spoken about the violence and all that before. It's been a good way to practice, gently, opening up, speaking my truth to the walking group with the support of ACE."

Previously, Sara's painting would sometimes be obsessive work, without sleeping or eating. "Now painting holds hope for me, my work has become lighter and more colourful".

"Yourspace is an excellent service for people who feel isolated," said Sara. "They are supportive, kind and very friendly. If you need support or clarity over anything, Connectors are there. The whole team is lovely. I feel I can tell them anything without feeling judged."

Painting by Sara Allwright.
Top: 'Girding Waking Splinters'.
Right: 'Spirits to Move'.

# Our impact
## in numbers

### Advice and Support

ACE has supported **186 households** through our drop in and casework service. This resulted in a total of **£987,000** additional income being received by community members through benefits advice, grants, and crisis support.

**£987,000**
**total additional income received by community members**

That's an average of
**£5,306**
**per household**

### CAER Heritage

**1423**
**People**

**1423 people** visited the archaeological dig in Trelai park last summer. **430 volunteers** got their hands dirty at the dig, helping discover our unique heritage.

### YourSpace Wellbeing Service

**514**
**People**

514 people accessed 1:1 support to improve their wellbeing.

#### Improved wellbeing

**84%**

A sample of 143 people completed a wellbeing scale, which showed 84% had improved their wellbeing.

### Bereavement Support

ACE leads on a partnership project, funded by Welsh Government, to enhance bereavement support in Cardiff for people from ethnic minority communities and those with a learning disability.

**101**
**People**

In 2024-25 the project provided bereavement counselling for 101 people.

**230 people from a range of diverse cultural backgrounds**

attended 14 bereavement and mental health workshops.

**34 local residents**

with a learning disability took part in peer support activities.

## Shape Your Future

**- in work progression**

# 144 People

have received mentoring and bursary support to overcome barriers, moving forward in work.

**114 people** — increased income through work progression or self-employment.

**108 people** — gained a qualification through bursary support.

**10 people** — progressed within their existing role.

**21 people** — attended non-accredited training.

**90 people** — gained new employment.

## ACE Volunteers

**ACE worked with over**

**80**
**regular volunteers**

who worked across 20 projects, which had 7 Lead Volunteers.

## ACE Benthyg - Library of Things

Number of times items borrowed in 2024/25

**473**

ACE Benthyg has seen a big jump in numbers of people borrowing items from our library - saving members money and helping the environment. Our numbers increased to 473, an increase of approximately 90% from the previous year.

Active Memberships (up from 400 last year)

**600**

## ACE Arts

**80 participants** took part in creative activities supporting wellbeing and mental health.

# Communities

# ACE Trustees

As of October 2025

**Marian Dixey (Chair)** lives in Fairwater. She is an active volunteer.
**Mel Witherden** is a retired third sector/charity consultant.
**Oonagh Scott** grew up in Ely. She is a successful business woman.
**James Roach** lives in Ely. He is an active volunteer and contributes finance skills.
**Chris Lannen** is a qualified Financial Advisor.
**Leyton Smith** lives in Caerau. He is an active local volunteer.
**Eva Elliot** is an Honorary Research Fellow at Cardiff University School of Social Sciences.
**Janice Refalo** lives in Caerau. She is an active local volunteer.

**Omobonike Atobatele** lives in Ely. She is an active volunteer and student.
**Carol Owen** has 30 years of experience as a Senior Public Health professional with the NHS.
**Jessica Davies** grew up in Ely and Caerau and is an active volunteer.

# ACE Volunteers

**Project Volunteer**
Afia Ali (Poppy)
Alice Clarke
Andrew Williams Way
Ann Thomas
Auriol Miller
Blanca Lidea Castro Salas
Catherine Naamani
Doris Lau
Dylan Bond
Em Collins
Frances McCarthy
Gareth Howells
Gemma Carleton
Glyn Everett
Gillian Pugh
Helen McCarthy
Irene Jones
Jeff Clarke
Kyle Thomas
Mary Cleaton
Matthew Cunnah
Michael Hack
Patrick Barry
Penny Owens
Rhian Phillips
Scott Bees
Sian Davies
Steve Lyons
Suzanne McEwan
Tania Clarke
Victoria Misell
Wai Keung Tang

**Student Volunteers**
Nadia Aslam
Jay Lloyd-Evans
Sirui Li
Hannah Huxley
Kwan Yw Chow (Tony)
Sophie Bell
Dan Queally
Joesph Daniel

**Lead Volunteers**
Diane Katy (Lead)
Diane Matheson (Lead)
Sarah Standring (Lead)
Frankie Curtis (Lead)
Janice Refalo (Lead)
Kathleen Wolfe (Lead)
Penny Smith (lead)
Charlotte Ross (Lead)

**Trustees**
Mel Witherden
James Roach
Oonagh Scott
Marian Dixey
Leyton Smith
Janice Refalo
Eva Elliot
Omobonike Atobatele
Jessica Davies
Carol Owen

**Many thanks to previous volunteers who supported us in 2024-25**
John Naylor
Robert White
Jack Wyatt
Christina Dunn
Doug Smith
Doug Stowell
Scott Morgan
Danny Westcott
Jessica Rudd
Helen Green
Derek Cleaver
George Stunderland
Chez Allen
Frances McCarthy
Liubov Yurtsuniak
Benjamin Wainwright
Kyle Bebb
Natasha Hayes
Jacquie Young
Caroline Woodman

**Community members volunteering on the CAER Big Dig**
Malcolm Thomas
Megan O'Brien
Marianne Piper
Claire Newbery
Cathy Nowell
John O Sullivan
Sharon Parry
Anne Jones
Andy Evans
Kim Iannucci
Anthony Morgan
Lynn Glaister
Alexander Franklin
Alison Jenkinson
Sara Shiel
Jessica Hughes
Ellen Perry
Kirsten Mcternan
Mike Hellyar
Richard Shearman
Euryn Davies

# ACE Staff

## As of October 2025

**Core**

**Michelle Powell**
ACE Director
**Dave Horton**
ACE Learning and Training Director
**Hazel Cryer**
Operational Development Manager – Health Portfolio
**Sam Froud-Powell**
Operational Development Manager – Community Support Portfolio
**Julie Evans**
HR & Admin Coordinator
**Hasan Roap**
ACE Finance Officer
**George Keane**
Communications and Web Content Officer / Dusty Shed Officer
**Dale Ovenstone**
Estates Officer
**Sharon McGrath**
ACE Receptionist
**Julie McDowell**
ACE Receptionist
**Maria Ross**
Assistant Administrator
**Taela-Mae Davies**
Volunteer Development Officer

**Health**

**Ann Bailey**
Community Health Development Worker
**Clare Westcott**
Wellbeing Connector
**Danielle Afferion**
Young People's Wellbeing Connector / Wellbeing Connector
**Ginny Brink**
Wellbeing Connector
**Marged Ioan**
Wellbeing Connector
**Mags Lyons**
Service Coordinator Wellbeing Support
**Louise Gray**
Service Coordinator Community Development
**Sam Deere**
Community Health Development Worker
**Scott Bees**
Community Health Development Worker
**Sabrina Driscoll**
Wellbeing Connector
**Sophia Farrugia**
Wellbeing Connector
**Robert Jones**
Yourspace Monitoring and Admin Assistant
**Susan Beese**
Wellbeing Connector
**Suki Shinto**
Wellbeing Connector

**Community Support**

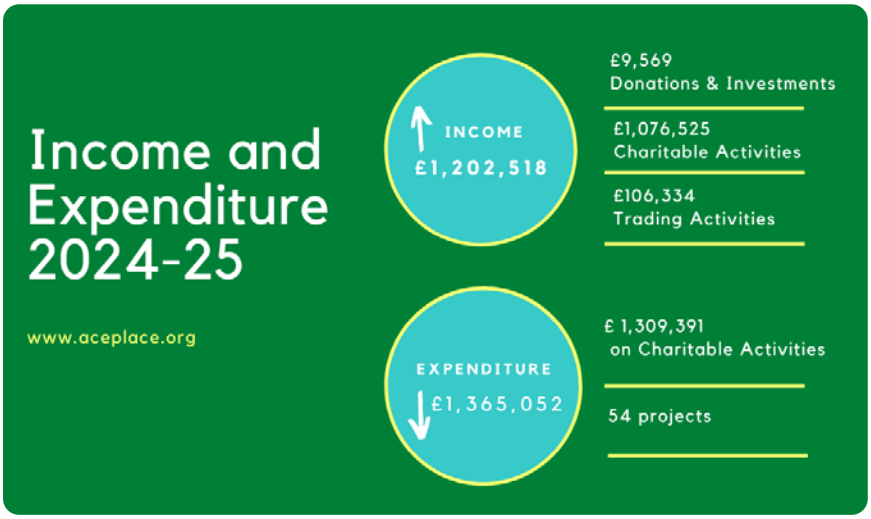
**Nerys Sheehan**
Community Support Coordinator / Grand Avenues Coordinator
**Stacie Leek**
Hafan Project Development Officer
**Megan O'Brien**
Community Support Admin Assistant

**Heritage and Environment**

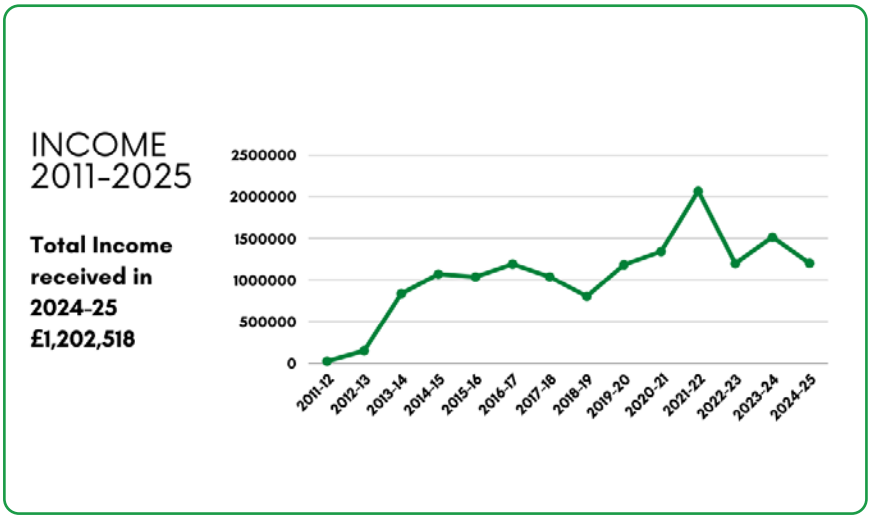
**Lois Atkinson**
Caer Centre Development Officer
**Steve Lyons**
Diana Garden Development Officer
**Becky Matyus**
ACE Partnerships Coordinator
**Rob Fuller**
Postcode Gardener / Community Health Development Worker

**Thanks to the former ACE Staff who have moved on in the last year:**
Chris Farr
Eileen Ellis
Holly Findlay
Rachel Hart
Jamie Hallett
Ruth Mumford
Nicola Parsons
Hannah Bees

# Financial Report

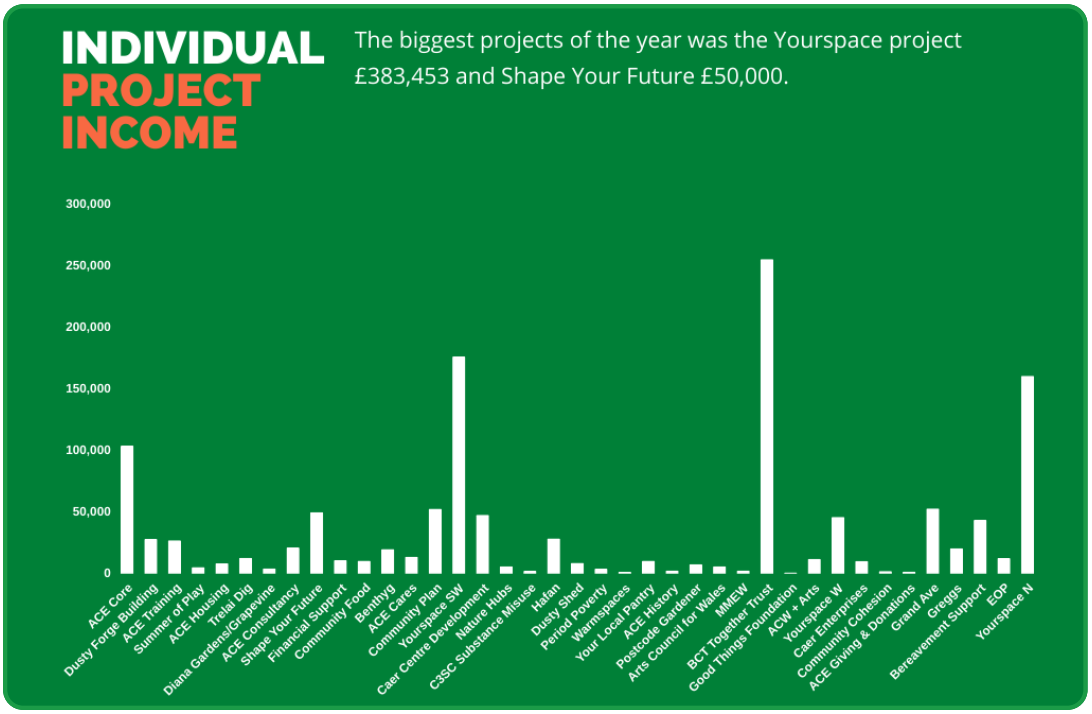



ACE received a total income of £1,202,518 in the 2024 - 25 financial year. Income was generated primarily through charitable activities (£1,076,525), supported by £106,334 of self-generated trading income through social enterprise, rental, consultancy and training activities, and £9,569 in donations and investment income. Total expenditure for the year was £1,365,052, with £1,309,391 spent directly on charitable activities. Funding during 2024 - 25 supported 54 projects, maintaining a similar level of delivery to the previous year.




Some of the biggest projects delivered this year included the Yourspace project (£383,453) and Shape Your Future (£50,000), alongside a wide range of community, wellbeing, family and engagement programmes.

Over the last 14 years, ACE has contributed more than £14 million to the local economy. From 2018 - 25, income generated through direct ACE activities - including social enterprise, grant funding, contracts, fundraising, donations and legacies - totals approximately £9.4 million



# Funders and partners

## ACE Funders

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

CRONFA GYMUNEDOL COMMUNITY FUND

CRONFA DREFTADAETH HERITAGE FUND

De Cymru Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu Police and Crime Commissioner South Wales

BBC Children in Need

Save the Children

Good Things Foundation

HM Prison & Probation Service

Community Foundation Wales

Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru Arts Council of Wales

CAF Charities Aid Foundation

WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION

energy saving trust

nationalgrid

WALES&WEST UTILITIES

Nisa making a difference locally

GREGGS

CARDIFF CAERDYDD

Tai Wales & West Housing

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES Cardiff West Primary Care Cluster

C3SC Cardiff Third Sector Council Cyngor Trydydd Sector Caerdydd

cyngor ar bopeth citizens advice Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg Cardiff & Vale

University of South Wales Prifysgol De Cymru

The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust

National Literacy Trust Change your story

WCVA CGGC

Buddsoddiad Cymdeithasol Cymru Social Investment Cymru

Ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru Funded by Welsh Government

Care & Repair Cardiff and the Vale Gofal a Thrwsio Caerdydd a'r Fro

Friends of the Earth

The co-operative bank

Working together to bring back nature

Cydweithio i ddod â natur yn ôl

EUROCLAD

SCREWFIX

grow cardiff

Cynllun Cymunedau y Dreth Gwarediadau Tirlenwi WCVA CGGC Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme

## ACE Partners

food Cardiff

Cardiff foodbank Banc Bwyd Caerdydd

FareShare Cymru South Wales

Museum of Cardiff Amgueddfa Caerdydd

GTAT

ewmpas

fuelbank FOUNDATION

THE DUSTY SHED CARDIFF

BENTHYG CYMRU

Cardiff South West Primary Care Cluster Health & Wellbeing in your Community

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

SPORTCARDIFF Cardiff Met developing sport Met Caerdydd yn Datblygu Chwaraeon

Dechrau'n Deg Flying Start

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES Cardiff North Primary Care Cluster

PCF Training & Consultancy Solutions Ltd

national museum wales amgueddfa cymru

Tempo

CCAWS Community Care and Wellbeing Service Gwasanaethau Gofal Cymunedol a Lles

Remploy Operated by Maximus

cavamh Gweithredu dros Iechyd Meddwl Caerdydd a'r Fro Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health

CARDIFF WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Living Wage Week

Cardiff People First Disability is not inability!

Disability Arts Cymru 40 1982-2022

St Vincent's

UNITY

TOGETHER FOR TROWBRIDGE & ST MELLONS

ace

Action in Caerau & Ely

Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

# Action in Caerau and Ely

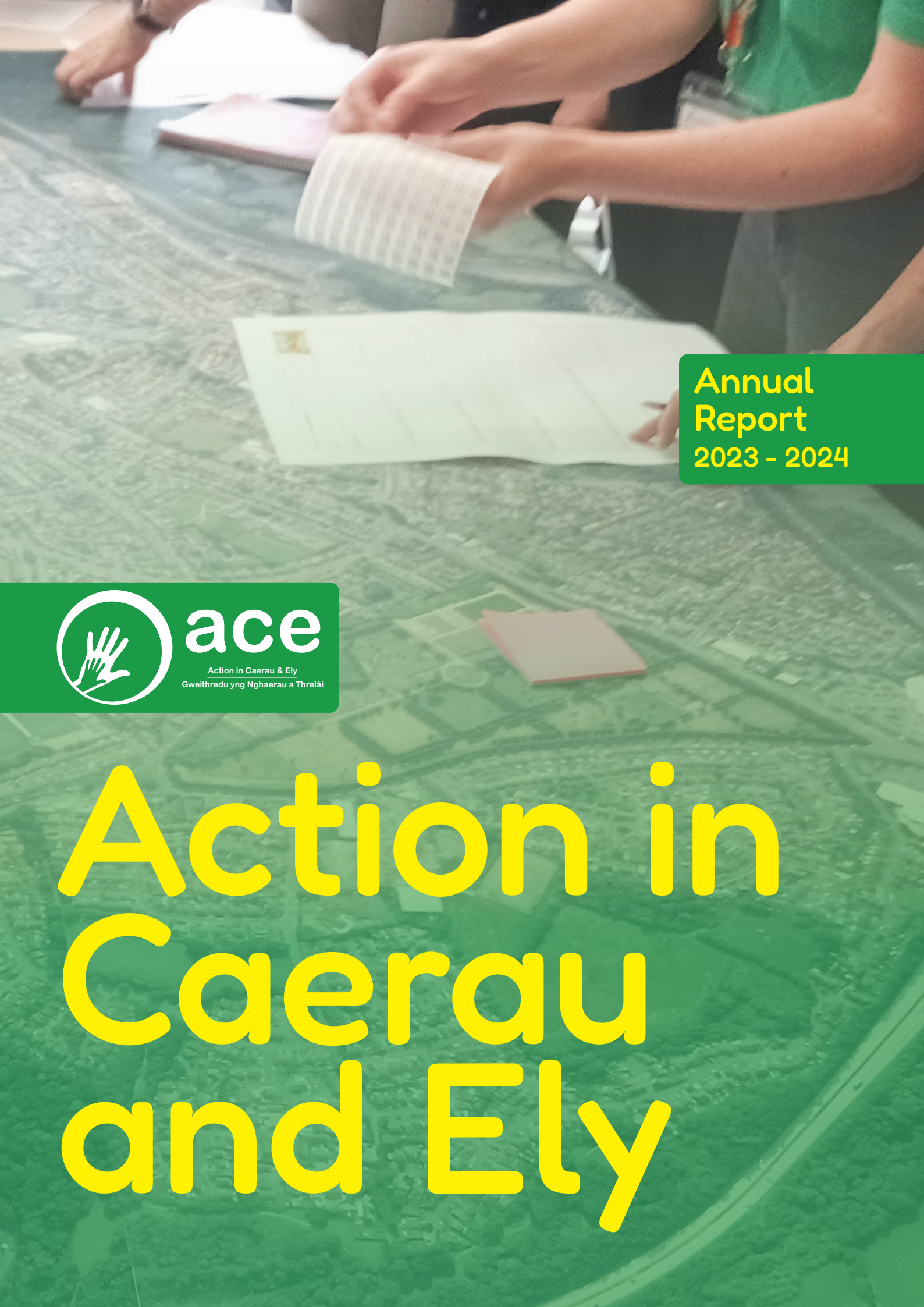

Our Place: Dusty Forge
460 Cowbridge Rd West, Ely
Cardiff CF5 5BZ
Tel: 029 2000 3132

info@aceplace.org
www.aceplace.org
ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely
actionincaerauandely

**ACE (ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150422

# Accounts



Annual Report
2023 - 2024

ace
Action in Caerau & Ely
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

# Action in Caerau and Ely

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# erau and Ely

"Our Ambitions For Our Community Through Our Own Efforts"

# Message from the Chair

Once again it's been another busy year for ACE, with increasing pressures on funding for charities. Staff are working hard to secure funding throughout the year, meaning we have a diverse mix of funding streams that support ACE's work. Some projects have ended due to lack of funding, sadly including the ACE Pantry, whilst new projects and partnerships are in development.

Welsh Government, the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and Cardiff Council commissioned ACE to facilitate a community listening exercise which had a huge response and identified six broad themes. This led to a Community Plan with 40 actions funded by a variety of organisations. This has enabled ACE to spend more time out in the community, nurturing long-standing relationships and establishing new connections.

In addition to this, a stronger partnership with Cardiff University was established with the funding of two posts for three years at the CAER Heritage and Learning Centre to increase learning opportunities and links between the community and the university. The 2023 summer dig in Trelai was featured in the TV programme "Digging for Britain" presented by Professor Alice Roberts. Some of the finds are exhibited in the Museum of Cardiff and have great significance in local history. A heritage garden has been developed by dedicated volunteers who are growing produce for use by the community and ACE projects.

After several months of uncertainty, ACE was awarded the contract to run the Yourspace social prescribing project in the Cardiff South West, Cardiff West, and Cardiff North GP clusters by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. Patients in these areas can be referred or self-refer to the project and receive help and advice from the Wellbeing team.

The Grand Avenues project, which is a partnership with His Majesty's Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS), has led to the reopening of the café, initially one day a week. It has given an opportunity for clients of the project to use and further develop skills which could lead to paid employment. A number of those who have accessed the Grand Avenues project have become mentors for newly released inmates.

Developing partnerships with other organisations has been crucial in continuing to ensure ACE's ongoing work in an increasingly difficult funding climate. ACE is increasingly exploring multi-agency approaches, and we're excited to see what will come of these new partnerships.

*Marian Dixey - Chair*

# Equal

# About ACE

## Our Vision

To create 'vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live'.

## At ACE, we believe

- Local people know their community best.
- Everyone has something unique to contribute.
- Everyone's contribution should be valued equally.
- Poverty should not be accepted as a fact of life.
- Social injustice should be challenged and changed.

**We work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:**

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision.
- Co-producing projects and services that make use of assets and meet needs.
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive.
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience.
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities.

**Our Theory of Change**

Need:
We tackle poverty, disadvantage and related complex needs on all fronts using a fully integrated approach.

Solutions:
Co-produced initiatives build confidence, skills, capacity and resilience, improving mental health and promoting supportive social networks.

Outcomes:
Local people report a range of outcomes including improved wellbeing, securing employment, completing training, stronger social networks and greater aspirations.

Impact:
Local people who have developed confidence, skills and energy contribute these to collective approaches to community development.

At ACE, the way we work is just as important as the things we do. Watch 'The ACE Way' to get a feel for how we work with and alongside people in our community.

*In April 2024 we launched our Strategic Plan 2024 – 27. The plan sets out a clear direction for project focus and activities supporting ACE's vision to work with communities to achieve lasting and positive change.*

# Resilient

This is BEN
ITEM
to BO
FR
REG
To borrow an item
Register at Ace.B
Look at huge list
No internet ask for
Donations of working ite
Small electricals accepte
waste
ISUZU

# Ely and Caerau Community Plan

**4,000 comments**

**across 47 engagements.**

People of all ages across the community, 1200 of us, have contributed to a Community Plan for Ely and Caerau. The plan was launched in May 2024 after 9 months of conversations. We asked 3 simple questions: What do we have? What do we need? What do we want to change?

Through these conversations, and reflecting on the 4000 comments gathered, we decided on 6 themes that were felt to be most important to residents:

- Children and young people
- Community safety and safeguarding
- Spaces and the environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Employment, living standards and the cost of living
- Communication and community building

In the spring of 2024, we brought together around 150 people in 7 workshops to design actions to bring about positive changes within each of these themes. The actions were developed by small groups of people including residents and people who work in our communities in the public sector (e.g. schools, the council) and third sector (e.g. charities and support services).

Together, we designed 40 positive, tangible actions across each of the six themes.

"We need more support for people struggling with the cost of living."

Many of the issues impacting people in Ely and Caerau have their roots in problems we don't have much control over - we can't sort out the cost of living or complex crime issues. But we have focused on what we CAN change, and brought people together to make a positive difference at a local level. Each of the 40 actions in the Community Plan directly responds to the needs and ideas shared by the community. Thank you so much to everyone who got involved!

The plan was agreed by the Community Steering Group, which includes representatives from residents, schools, churches, community groups, charities, South Wales Police, and Cardiff Youth Service. They met every month while the plan was being developed, and will continue to meet 4 times before March 2025 to make sure that the actions are making a difference. They said:

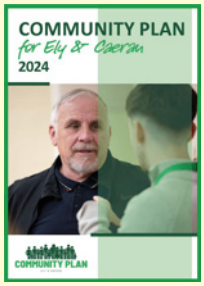
"At every step, this community plan has been co-created with residents of all ages, people who work here, public services and Cardiff Council. Many of the actions are for the council or public services (including local schools and the police) to undertake; some are for local groups and charities to lead on. All of them respond to the needs and ideas shared by the community. Together we have produced a plan that we believe can make a significant positive difference."

The Welsh Government, Cardiff Council, and the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner jointly funded ACE's Community Engagement team to support the community in developing the plan. The 40 actions outlined in the plan will direct approximately £2 million of grant funding, secured from various sources including the Welsh Government, the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, and Cardiff Council, into the area over the next year.
Local groups are already coming together to make plans for the future, creating a legacy of collaboration that will continue far beyond the completion of the community plan in March 2025.

**In spring 2024, we convened 96 residents and 52 public and third-sector partners across 7 community workshops to delve deeper into these issues and design actions for the plan.**

"This is a close - knit community, full of nice and kind people. We need to focus on the strengths of local residents and invest in them."

"We need more activities for young people, older people and to bring everyone together."




Copies of the Community Plan can be found at most community centres and GP surgeries across Ely and Caerau, and it's available for anyone to read using the QR code or at: www.aceplace.org/community-plan/

Photo: Vivian Thomas

# CAER Heritage

## Archaeological dig in Trelai Park reveals new secrets

CAER Heritage returned to Trelai Park this summer to continue the community archaeology dig exploring a 3,500-year-old Bronze Age settlement. Back in 2022, the CAER team, along with hundreds of local people, discovered a fantastically well-preserved roundhouse buried under a football pitch on the south side of the park – currently the oldest known house in Cardiff! Excavations continued in 2023 and were featured on the BBC's 'Digging for Britain' TV show.

This year, over 1,500 people visited the dig including 272 pupils from seven local schools and 271 volunteers who all got their hands dirty actively participating in the archaeological discovery. A big community open day brought hundreds of people together to find out more about the heritage of the park, have fun with creative activities, games and even to taste some real Roman food!

The dig produced lots of exciting finds including flint tools, pottery and other objects that were used by the family that lived in the roundhouse. All of the finds have been taken to the CAER Heritage Centre where a team of volunteers are helping to clean and analyse them. Working with CAER artist Nic Parsons, they put on an exhibition at the Museum of Cardiff to show off the findings to thousands of people. Volunteer Sian Davies, a retired care worker, who found an arrowhead at the site said: "To be given the chance to come down here and dig and delve into history means an awful lot. Finding something like an arrowhead is a joy."

CAER has been running for over 10 years now. It's brought together archaeologists from Cardiff University with ACE members, local schools, residents, community groups and many more. This year's dig has been the most successful yet and we're so grateful for the ongoing support from Cardiff Council, who gave us permission to dig in the park, but above all the local community without whom nothing that CAER has done would have been possible.

If you like your local history, we're at the CAER Centre every Wednesday from 10am-12pm and everyone is welcome to come and get involved.

Photo: Vivian Thomas

# CAER Heritage & Learning Centre

In 2024 a new team was recruited at the CAER Centre with two full time posts funded in partnership with Cardiff University. Lois Atkinson as CAER Centre Development Officer and Tom Hicks as CAER Community Partnership Co-ordinator have successfully established the Centre as a space for learning and opportunity in Caerau and Ely. The CAER Centre is now a hub of activity, hosting regular groups and training courses and exploring our community's fascinating heritage.

Weekly groups include ACE Cares, Love Our Hillfort, Caer Gardening group and ACE's Umbrella (neurodiversity) group. These run alongside our community courses, activities and events and a weekly Flying Start toddler group. We hosted several family fun days for the community in partnership with The Literacy Trust, Greggs and Cardiff Metropolitan University.

In partnership with 'Live Local Learn Local', Cardiff University's outreach programme, we have hosted accredited training courses including the popular 'Starting Your Own Business' course and 'Careers in Childcare' course, with many more planned for Autumn, based on local people's interest. The NHS has brought their Dietary Requirements cooking course and their Mental Health Wellbeing Recovery College to the CAER Centre. In addition to this we have delivered other courses relating to cooking on a budget, how to use an air fryer and making healthy meals where attendees took home with them the healthy food they had made that day.

The dedicated volunteers at CAER Heritage Love our Hillfort group have facilitated Archaeology themed Open Days at the Centre. They have

shared their archaeological research and knowledge with the community through an exhibition at The Museum of Cardiff and with school group visits to the centre. They also showcased the flourishing heritage garden at the CAER Centre Garden Open Day and co-produced several garden projects, including planning a Roman medicinal garden that will be an educational resource and will support wellbeing through outdoor activities.

CAER Heritage was chosen as one of four heritage organisations across the UK to take part in the Council for British Archaeology's Reconnecting Archaeology project - sharing learning to help make archaeology more accessible to the public.

# Community Support

"I can't thank you enough for all you have done, I couldn't have done this by myself, it was so stressful."

## ACE Advice and Support

The ACE Community Support team provides a friendly and welcoming drop in and casework service, helping people in financial crisis to access foodbank vouchers, fuel support, manage debt, support benefit claims and challenge unfair benefit decisions.

We supported 411 households in 2023-24, focusing our efforts on increasing household income through accessing unclaimed benefits and grant support, building resilience and reducing the likelihood of further financial crisis. Our support has enabled households in Ely and Caerau to receive a total of £614,553 in additional income, making a huge impact on wellbeing.

"I have been awarded Personal Independence Payment for 10 years. This is life-changing and I can't thank you enough for what you have done." Mrs L had her benefit claim declined despite chronic and progressive illness that impacted her mobility and her ability to perform daily living activities. We challenged this decision and an award was made to the total value of £89,440.

## Restore - Community Shop

The ACE Community Shop at the Dusty Forge had to close in October 2023. We are still running a Community Fridge and pet food bank, and low cost toiletries and cleaning products are available for community members at the ReStore Space. Following feedback from community consultation on food support available in our community, we are planning to set up a new Food Hub project, building on our Community Fridge project. This will bring together a number of community food initiatives including cooking courses, community food events and local growing projects. We would like to thank all the shop volunteer team for all their hard work helping people in our community.

## Café Barr

After a period of being closed due to lack of available staff to support, Café Barr reopened in November 2023 as a new partnership project between ACE and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). The café is open on Wednesdays serving community members, volunteers and staff at the Dusty Forge. This project gives people in our community the opportunity to learn cooking skills and gain qualifications, while providing affordable and tasty meals.

## Umbrella Group

The Umbrella Group supports families through peer support and developing understanding of neurodiversity. 15 people in the group were also supported to access Disability Living Allowance, and 4 people were successful in claiming Personal Independence Payment with help from ACE.

## ACE Benthyg

ACE Benthyg has gone from strength to strength this year, and we've seen a huge leap in the number of people registered to borrow items to 400 active memberships and over 50 borrows per month. The carpet cleaner and hedge trimmer remain the most popular items, but our library continues to grow, and now includes a range of new items supporting health and wellbeing. ACE Benthyg has been opening alongside the Repair Café each month, giving borrowers increased opportunities to visit, and pop up events have happened throughout the year, to show communities what the library has to offer.

ACE Benthyg website

One very happy borrower told us: "without borrowing these items, I could not have been able to afford to have better surroundings in my home. I am beginning to feel I can invite my family and friends over now."

## Your Local Pantry

From 2019, Your Local Pantry at the Dusty Forge served over 150 members each week with a low cost food shop, making an important contribution to supporting our community members struggling with ever increasing food prices. Sadly, the Pantry had to close in April 2024, due to lack of funding and challenges to sourcing sufficient healthy and diverse food. We would like to thank Sarah Whitfield and her team of hard working volunteers for all they have done over 5 years of successfully running the Pantry!

"Very friendly people here, the food tops up my cupboard for the week. I look forward to my weekly visit for a chat."
Anonymous member

## Grand Avenues

> "I've never had this help before. It's always been in and out (of prison). I hope that with this help that I can keep myself straight and focus on changing things for the better."

The Grand Avenues project is an innovative partnership between His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and ACE that embeds the Probation Service in the community. Grand Avenues supports men involved in the Criminal Justice System and their families to instill a sense of belonging and ensure that their immediate needs are met upon release. We ensure that they have access to a GP and support with health, employment, and volunteering opportunities. We seek to stabilise their income through benefit support where there are physical or mental health needs identified and work with services to ensure that underlying health needs are addressed. Many of the men on the project are neurodiverse, and it is important that we work with appropriate services to ensure the men are supported correctly as often their conditions have been contributing factors in their offending behaviors. Evidence shows that financial stability can directly reduce re-offending through ensuring men and their families have access to support needed. Over the last year, 49 men were supported to claim health-related benefits they were entitled to, a total of £234,892 into the community. By breaking the cycle of offending, closing the revolving door that so many men find themselves trapped in, we hope to help make Ely and Caerau safer communities.

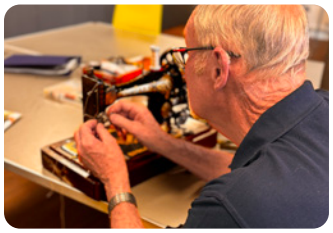
## The Dusty Shed

The Dusty Shed is an independent charity, run by its members, with a mission to combat the issue of loneliness and social isolation among our community's older residents.

In our ongoing commitment to safety and well-being, several of our members completed training in First Aid and Mental Health Awareness.

Furthermore, we enhanced outdoor security of our premises by installing a sliding door and an additional lockable door at the rear.

ACE's open day showcased our work to our local community. Alongside community projects, we aid ACE's Repair Café, Library of Things, and undertake minor maintenance tasks at the Dusty Forge.



## Repair Café

Our Dusty repair cafe launched five years ago and over this time our team of volunteer fixers have checked out 500+ broken items and mended three-quarters of them! Our monthly free service has saved many items from landfill and electrical items beyond repair have been recycled via Cardiff Council's e-waste collection service. Our friendly fixers have tackled portable electrical items, gardening tools, woodwork and ceramics, basic bike repairs, and textile repairs (including reviving elderly soft toys). We also have specialist fixers offering advice on laptops, phones and tablets, who can 'speak human', helping people with a wide range of IT issues. We look forward to welcoming customers for many more years!

# “I want to say a big thank you.” – Anne’s story

Moving to this new place, my son suggested I hop on the bus to find stuff. One day, the bus passed by, and there was something about painting that caught my eye. That's how I stumbled into the Dusty Forge. I hadn't touched crafts since school - hairdressing took over my life until I moved here about seven years ago.

Slowly, I eased into the knit and natter sessions on Thursdays. I saw crafts I hadn't touched since school, and it was like rediscovering an old friend. Mum used to knit and do embroidery, but life took me down a different path. Mostly, I've been into this printing thing during the Monday class. It’s mostly been printing; different styles of it. I’ve learned new skills, definitely. The class just pulls something out of you. You can forget the tension at home, dive into what the tutor shows us, and I've tried my hand at everything she throws at us.

The best part is it takes your mind off things. My husband has dementia, and one day, I walked in upset. One of the girls took me aside, talked me through it – made me realize this was a place to escape, no matter how I felt. There's something about this place, I can't put my finger on it. People say I'll find another hub when I move, but it won't be the same. I've got to try, though.

It’s amazing completing something and having someone say, 'Wow, you're clever.' I'm not, though.

"ACE Arts revived my passion and became a lifeline during tough times."

It's the people here who taught me. The Monday sessions help bring out that creativity. I never got the chance to go to art college; my dad couldn't afford it. But now, I'm learning here. The class works as a team, and never leaves you alone. They show you different ways if you're struggling. It makes me feel like I can tackle anything.

I'm happy to come here. It's a good morning, a chance to learn and keep my brain going. They welcome you no matter what you're going through. It's a real community – different characters, different disabilities. The hub is like a honeycomb with lots of channels feeding into you.

I’m going to miss the girls themselves the most. They treated me like I was the same age, never as an 83-year-old. They encourage you to try things and don't force you into anything. I want to say a big thank you. My whole week revolves around the Dusty. They've been my lifeline. It's not just about the art; it's about the community and the support. ACE Arts revived my passion and became a lifeline during tough times. I'm incredibly thankful for that.

# Diana Garden

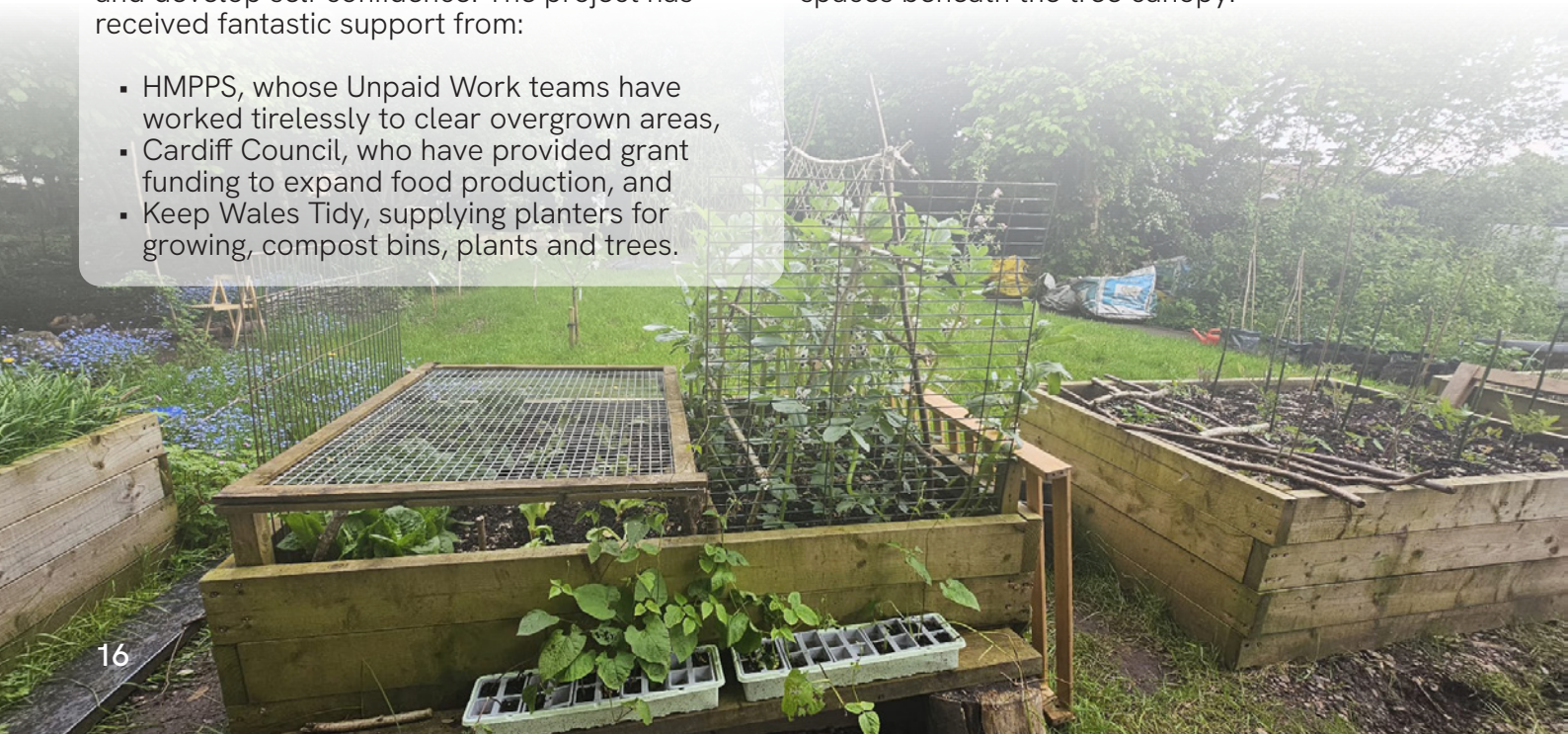
Diana Garden, off Hiles Road in Ely, was originally a playground opened by Princess Diana in 1992 but was vandalised and closed, becoming overgrown and derelict for many years. Since 2016, ACE has been working with local residents and partners to transform the space into an amazing 'green oasis' for our community. Diana Garden now inspires people of all ages to enjoy nature and gardening, while growing their skills and knowledge around healthier eating, exercising and looking after our environment.

Volunteers from all walks of life now regularly work in the garden. Gardening is increasingly recognised as an effective way to improve physical and mental health, reduce social isolation and develop self confidence. The project has received fantastic support from:

- HMPPS, whose Unpaid Work teams have worked tirelessly to clear overgrown areas,
- Cardiff Council, who have provided grant funding to expand food production, and
- Keep Wales Tidy, supplying planters for growing, compost bins, plants and trees.

This has enabled our volunteer team to expand food production at the garden and in the coming year we will be able to use our new polytunnel for all-year growing and to grow plants from seed. Food grown in the garden is now increasingly used in our community café. We will also support other community green spaces, by supplying plants to the Caer Heritage Garden and to our developing memorial garden at the Dusty Forge.

Alongside community growing, we are developing Diana Garden as a venue for a wide range of activities for all ages. We host regular 'booknics' (picnics with books supplied by the National Literacy Trust), and family open days where local residents can enjoy activities or just relax in green spaces beneath the tree canopy.



## Dan y Coed - outdoor play

Through our Dan y Coed (Under the Trees) project, supported by Save the Children Fund Cymru, we've created a dedicated all-weather area for early years play activities including planters, muddy kitchen and a green willow dome for story-telling. We have developed a programme of outdoor play sessions in Diana Garden, in partnership with Ely & Caerau Children's Centre, which have brought families together to experience nature through play.

Dan y Coed (initially called 'Ehangu') delivered 24 play sessions at 3 community gardens, attended by 233 children and 152 adults. Parents and children gave great feedback:

"Fantastic Place! Safe and supportive environment for little ones! Would love to come along regularly!"

"Beautiful garden and loads of fun and engaging activities."

This collaborative project has highlighted the huge potential for developing a wider range of environmental initiatives, education and wellbeing activities at the site, for example, to develop an environmental action programme with children and young people. We also plan to use the garden as an additional pick up point for borrowing gardening equipment from ACE Benthyg (library of things). These developments will be vital to secure this unique community garden for future generations.

# Health and Wellbeing

## ACE Cares

In June 2024 we completed a two-year project, in partnership with Cwmpas, to work with the local community to explore community-led care in Ely and Caerau. Our local communities have explored with us how we can strengthen a caring community in Ely and Caerau, identifying local assets and the role that service-providers and decision-makers need to play.

During 2023-24 the project helped to develop a local carers group, established in the previous year. The group continues to grow, and it is now constituted. They have been successful in a second funding application for 'short break' activities for unpaid carers. A dementia café was set up with a local care provider, Bluebird Care; and developing partnerships with our local care home, Forge Care Centre, has helped to encourage residents to access activities at the Dusty Forge.

"It's a great space to meet. It's open. I can talk and unload about things about me."
- A member of Caer Carers Club

"I feel like I have made some real friends here in ACE; I love coming to the coffee morning, chatting with the members. I was so lonely before, I never used to leave the house."

## Yourspace Wellbeing Support

Yourspace is a social prescribing and community development service, providing 1:1 wellbeing support and developing new community-led wellbeing activities. We work closely with local GP's and health services to support people with a range of health, social and wellbeing needs. Referrals are seen promptly and wellbeing connectors offer a range of signposting options with an engaging person-centred approach.

The service started in South West Cardiff in 2019 and has supported 409 people in this area during 2023-24 to improve their wellbeing. Our development workers have been adept at developing a range of activities to meet needs, including events, outings and activities such as walking and Tai Chi. A sample of people completed a wellbeing scale, which showed 89% had improved their wellbeing.

In 2023-24 we piloted a smaller scale service in North Cardiff, alongside wider developments with health services in this area. During this pilot year we have worked with 112 people and delivered a number of community pop-up events in partnership with fellow community organisations and groups, using these opportunities to get to know the area and build relationships with both patients and partners.

During 2024-25 the service will be expanding into West Cardiff, with a much smaller service delivered by one part-time wellbeing connector and a part-time development worker. We have already discovered a host of community organisations and partners in this new area. We are now working in these three areas of Cardiff, commissioned by Cardiff and Vale UHB, with funding secured until February 2026. As of October 2024, we have 7 Wellbeing Connectors and 3 Community Health Development Workers and the team will continue to grow.

## Bereavement Support

ACE leads on a partnership project, funded by Welsh Government, to enhance local bereavement support for people from ethnic minority communities and those with a learning disability, both groups that are less likely to access existing support. Our partners at Community Care and Wellbeing Services provide bereavement counselling, courses and support groups which are sensitive to people's culture and faith and available in a range of languages. Our partners Cardiff People First have been active in setting up peer support groups and activities for people with a learning disability.

In 2023-24 the project trained 14 additional volunteer counsellors and interpreters with different language skills; developed new peer support groups in partnership with religious and cultural centres and worked to develop peer leaders with a learning disability who could facilitate groups and support for others. In total 113 people accessed faith and culture-sensitive bereavement counselling; 68 people attended a faith-informed bereavement course; 72 people accessed peer support groups; and 38 community leaders were upskilled to feel confident talking to people about bereavement.

# Together for St. Mellons and Trowbridge

Together for Trowbridge and St. Mellons (T4TSM) is one of 13 Invest Local Programmes in Wales funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. It is a 10 year programme that builds on the strengths, skills and talents in the community to create positive and long-lasting change. This year we have continued to support Hope St. Mellons with core and capital funding. As a result community activity at the Beacon Centre has increased creating more opportunities for local people in a building that has benefited from essential repairs and maintenance. We have supported some new groups including The Bike Hut, In It Together and Conservation Volunteers of St. Mellons and Trowbridge and collaborated with Hope St. Mellons and Trowbridge Pantry to run a popular coach trip to Weston-Super-Mare. We also hosted an Introduction to Community Organising with Citizens Cardiff and contributed to an evaluation report on the Invest Local Program.

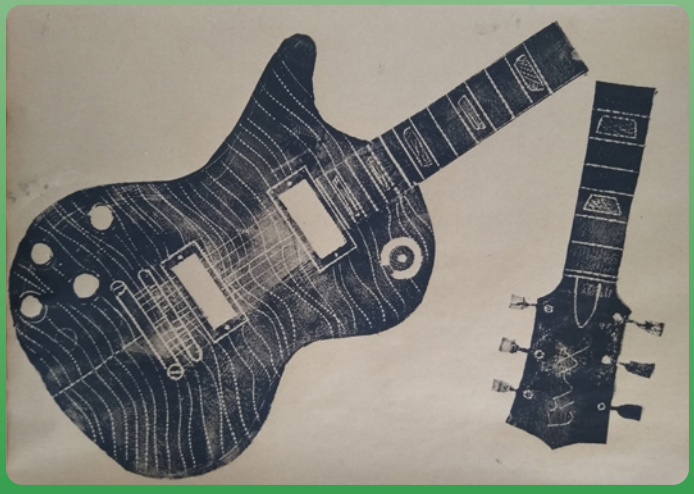
# ACE Volunteers

ACE has approximately 50 volunteers, spread across 12 different areas of work at the Dusty Forge, CAER Heritage Centre and Diana Gardens. The volunteers are dedicated, supportive, passionate and determined to help improve the lives of people living in Caerau & Ely. THANK YOU to all our volunteers for another year of incredible commitment, compassion and hard work. We currently have five Lead Volunteers who provide extra support to staff in the running of the volunteer projects. These are Penny Smith: Repair Cafe, Diane Katy: Retreat, Kathy Wolfe: Walking Group, Frankie Curtis: Caer Gardening Group and Janice Refalo: Coffee Morning.

Volunteers have gained numerous qualifications to develop and improve their skills and to help support the community more effectively. These include: Food Hygiene, Safeguarding, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid, Equality and Diversity, Communication Skills, GDPR, Managing Conflict, Manual Handling and Health and Safety.

Several of our amazing volunteers were nominated in various categories at the Cardiff Volunteer Awards organised by C3SC. The nominees were invited along to enjoy the ceremony supported by staff from ACE. Many of the volunteers attended a fun Christmas party at Dusty Forge, with games, a quiz, a buffet and a raffle. It was a fantastic opportunity to show our gratitude to the volunteers for their efforts through the year.

# Vibrant



# ACE Arts

During the past 2 years ACE Arts, in partnership with Valleys Kids, has collectively delivered over 300 creative workshops and regularly engaged with 132 participants, supporting day-to-day well-being, mental and physical health and providing the opportunity to learn new skills and re-engage with art.

We are proud to report on the success of our core 'Explore Collective' project, funded by an Arts Council Wales 'Connect and Flourish' grant. Our project brought together a thriving partnership between ACE, Valleys Kids, Disability Arts Cymru, Straeon Research and an incredible team of freelance creatives. Through the funding we were able to support a variety of trips, mentor University of South Wales Therapeutic Arts Students, install five collaborative art exhibitions throughout the year at a variety of venues and run an exciting programme of weekly art workshops with Artists Anne Culverhouse-Evans, Nic Parsons and Becci Booker, along with pop-up workshops and guest artist talks with photographer Suzie Larke and Poet Rachel Carney.

Watch this video of our trip to view our artwork in the 'Art in the Attic' gallery in Porth.

"The exhibition was exciting. It's nice to show our work and get feedback from visitors. I enjoyed seeing my art on display and explaining our art to the people who came. We're really grateful for the teachers. It's not just about helping us get creative; it's about helping us be ourselves."

Read Anne's story on page 15.

"I think I just come in and drink up the session. It's just really nice to be doing something... this is a space for pure enjoyment. I think the good thing about this is no matter how you do it, you're not made to feel inadequate, you're made to feel very adequate. You do go out feeling like an artist, don't you?"

Listen to the collaborative poem by Rachel Carney: What Is Art?

Visit the Explore Collective website to see photos and artwork.

The project finale was celebrated with an impressive launch event and a public exhibition, showcasing a wide selection of work from participants who had attended workshops in both Porth and the Dusty Forge during the 24-month project. The exhibition named 'Freedom to Create' ran for almost 3 months at Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay and included a variety of poetry, photography, painting and print, exploring themes such as self-identity, pocket treasure and nature.

We are delighted to announce that we've received Arts, Health and Wellbeing funding from Arts Council Wales, working in partnership with South West Primary Care Cluster, which will help us deliver creative interventions at the Dusty Forge, Chapter Arts Centre and other venues across Cardiff beginning in October 2024. With this funding ACE Arts will continue to inspire and support participants and creatively respond to a variety of health challenges within our communities.

You can visit the Dusty Forge and ask to view our 'Explore Collective' project book or contact nicolap@aceplace.org to find out about our future plans.

# Shape your Future

Shape your Future provides flexible 1:1 support and mentoring, offering employment advancement for people living in Ely and Caerau, making a key contribution to tackling in-work poverty. It offers bespoke training opportunities and financial support, enabling individuals to progress into better paid, more fulfilling employment.

The demand for support has increased as we develop stronger relationships with partners and in the community. Many people locally struggle with the lack of sustainable employment/training opportunities. This has had an impact on their health, wellbeing and future prospects.

Between April 2023 and April 2024, 177 individuals have been supported through the programme, including:

- 81 people gained a qualification
- 27 people attended non-accredited training

- 11 people gained new employment
- 31 people progressed within existing role
- 9 started their own business
- 42 people increased income / work through self-employment as a result of support provided.

"Donna and the Shape Your Future project has had a huge impact on people on probation in the Ely and Caerau area. Her warm approach, prompt action and ability to adapt her approach to the person breaks down barriers and keeps people engaged. She is brilliant at feeding back to the Probation Practitioners and the people she supports have tangible outcomes - they are in work, and they are happy in work. From a probation perspective, this support has a significant impact on the likelihood of re-offending."

- Probation team, Grand Avenues.

# ‘Cooking for the community’ - Tyrell’s story

Tyrell was originally volunteering for a local charity, supporting a community kitchen to produce quality food for local residents on a budget. He has shown a passion for cooking and enjoyed supporting others.

Through a Shape Your Future bursary, Tyrell has gained all the basic qualifications in Food Safety, Health & Safety and First Aid needed to work in catering and now works part time for a local Community Food Van project, supporting local sports and community groups by providing affordable snacks and drinks. We also provided work clothing to help boost his confidence. Tyrell is also keen to gain further qualifications in Hospitality which will support him to progress further in his career.

“I’m really grateful for all these opportunities. I’ve been able to do some training and learn essential kitchen skills, and I’ve learned loads of practical skills. I’m passionate about working in the catering industry and all this support is helping me along the way. One day I want to start my own business and be my own boss.

I love giving back to the community. I’ve had experience now cooking for my community at the Dusty Forge Cafe, at St. Vincents and in the Caerau Cabin at the rugby matches with Caerau Ely RFC. I’ve also been able to teach other people cooking skills at the Dusty Forge. I love engaging with people, connecting with people... I find it fulfilling. One step at a time and I’ll reach my goals.”

- Tyrell.

The Grow Cardiff Team working on an organisational 'Theory of Change'.

# ACE Way

## Community Development Training and Mentoring

At ACE we have 13 years' experience at the heart of our community. We know the theories, but we also understand the challenges of putting them into practice. The ACE Way project seeks to share this learning with communities throughout Wales (and beyond!)

Since launching the project in April 2023, we have worked with over 40 organisations. Highlights have included:

- Development of an organisational Theory of Change with a local charity.
- One day online training exploring Asset Based Community Development, Co-production and Community Organising, and how we can use them to make change in communities.
- Training for Cardiff Council's Public Services Group, helping them plan co-design sessions to support local engagement in the Ely and Caerau Community Plan.
- Mentoring with community organisations in North Wales, helping them develop aims, objectives, strategic and funding plans, evaluation and governance.
- Creation of an influencing strategy supporting a community organisation in Leeds to improve housing services for refugees.

The ACE staff team explore community development approaches together during internal training.

'Community Anchor' organisations from Cardiff gather to plan future collaboration, led by ACE and C3SC.

The project is opening up new and exciting opportunities for collaboration with other communities. ACE and C3SC have been funded by Building Communities Trust (BCT) to develop a 'Cardiff Anchor Organisations' network that will see over 20 organisations work together, and with other networks in Wales, to share skills, build evidence of impact, and influence government policy for the good of our communities.

'We were delighted to spend a day with ACE. The vision, people and spaces at the Dusty have inspired us to think more deeply about our role in Rhondda. We were given space to re-evaluate our own approaches, to challenge assumptions and to explore a wide range of approaches to community development. We came away feeling excited about the emerging possibilities of being a locally owned and run charity which is at the start of its community journey in Rhondda.' – James Hall (People and Work).

# ACE Training

ACE Training is a local enterprise training company that also serves as a CITB ITC (Internet Test Centre). We provide different training options for the QNUK Level 1 Health and Safety in a Construction Environment certification, as well as the online Health, Safety and Environment (HS&E) test.

This helps individuals obtain a CSCS card, allowing them to work on construction sites throughout the UK. 188 CSCS cards were ordered during this period.
From April 2023 to March 2024, we trained 224 learners in collaboration with 6 employment support organisations, 8 businesses, and 12 individuals.

*Unfortunately, due to financial pressures, ACE ceased operating ACE Training in August 2024.*

# Our impact in numbers

ACE has a huge impact in our communities.
Our work includes over **25 projects, community groups and services** that support over **2,500 community members** each year. The numbers below highlight the difference we make in some of our main areas of work.

## Advice and Support

ACE has supported **411 households** through our drop in and casework service. This resulted in a total of **£61,455** additional income being received by community members through benefits advice, grants, and crisis support.

**£61,455**
**total additional income received by community members**

That's an average of **£1,495** **per household**

## YourSpace Wellbeing Service

521 people accessed 1:1 support to connect with local resources to meet their social, emotional and practical needs.

**Improved Wellbeing**
**89%**

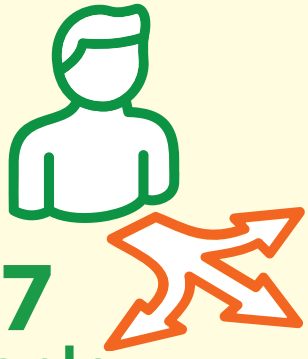
From our survey of 109 respondents, 89% saw an improvement in their wellbeing.

## CAER Heritage

**1500 people**

**1500 people** visited the archaeological dig in Trelai park last summer. **271 volunteers** got their hands dirty at the dig, helping discover our unique heritage.

## Shape Your Future - in work progression



**117 People**

have received mentoring and bursary support to overcome barriers, moving forward in work.

**42 people** increased income through work progression or self-employment.

**31 people** progressed within their existing role.

**27 people** attended non-accredited training.

**9 people** their own business.

**81 people** gained a qualification.

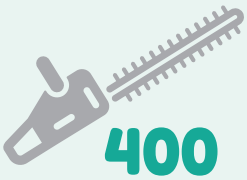
**11 people** gained new employment.

## ACE Benthyg - Library of Things

**Number of times items borrowed in 2023/24**

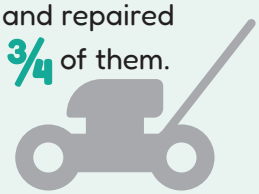
**249**

ACE Benthyg has seen a big increase in people borrowing items from our library - saving members money and helping the environment.



**400** active memberships.

Since our monthly repair cafe opened 5 years ago, we have checked out **500+** broken items, and repaired **¾** of them.



## ACE Volunteers

ACE worked with over **50 regular volunteers** making a huge impact on our community.

## ACE Arts

**132 participants** took part in creative activities supporting wellbeing and mental health.

## Bereavement Support

No. of people engaged in Bereavement Support **291**

Across three project partners ACE, CCAWS and Cardiff People First, 291 people accessed bereavement support activities.

**113 people** accessed faith and culture-sensitive bereavement counselling.

**72 people** accessed peer support groups or other types of peer support around bereavement.

**68 people** attended a faith-informed bereavement course.

**38 community leaders** were up-skilled to feel confident talking to people about bereavement.

## Dan y Coed (Under the Trees) - creative outdoor play

**233 children** and **152 adults** attended **24 creative outdoor play sessions** for under 5s and their parents in 3 community gardens.

# Communities

# ACE Trustees

**As of October 2024**

**Marian Dixey (Chair)** lives in Fairwater. She is an active volunteer.
**Mel Witherden** is a retired third sector/charity consultant.
**Oonagh Scott** grew up in Ely. She is a successful business woman.
**James Roach** lives in Ely. He is an active volunteer and contributes finance skills.
**Chris Lannen** is a qualified Financial Advisor.
**Leyton Smith** lives in Caerau. He is an active volunteer on ACE community health projects.
**Eva Elliot** is an Honorary Research Fellow at Cardiff University School of Social Sciences.
**Janice Refalo** lives in Caerau. She is an active local volunteer.
**Omobonike Atobatele** lives in Ely. She is an active volunteer and student.

*We would like to thank Dave King, Natasha Hayes and Penny Smith who stood down from the ACE board of trustees in the last year.*

**In Loving Memory of Anne O'Regan.**

# ACE Volunteers

A big thank you to all our current volunteers

Afia Ali
Alexis Gayle
Alice Clarke
Andrew Way
Auriol Miller
Carol Coyle
Catherine Naamani
Charlotte Ross
Chez Allen
Christina Dunn
Clive Ward
Danny Westcott
Derek Cleaver
Diane Katy
Doug Smith
Doug Stowell
Elaine Harris
Frances McCarthy
Frankie Curtis
Gareth Howells
Gillian Pugh
Helen Hunt
Irene Jones
Jack Wyatt
Jacquie Young
Janice Refalo
Jeff Clarke
John Naylor
Kathy Wolfe
Kyle Webb
Kyle Thompson
Liubov Yurtsuniak
Mari Dunphy
Mary Cleaton
Matthew Cunnah
Michael Hack
Natasha Woodland
Nicholas Bodsworth
Patrick Barry
Penny Smith
Sian Davies
Steven Elliott
Suzanne McEwan
Tang (Wai Keung)
Tania Clarke
Victoria Misell

# ACE Staff

## As of October 2024

### Core
**Michelle Powell**
ACE Director
**Dave Horton**
ACE Learning and Training Director
**Hazel Cryer**
Operational and Development Manager – Health Portfolio
**Sam Froud-Powell**
Operational and Development Manager – Community Support Portfolio
**Julie Evans**
ACE Senior HR Administrator
**Hasan Roap**
ACE Finance Officer
**George Keane**
Communications and Web Content Officer / Dusty Shed Officer
**Dale Ovenstone**
Estates Officer
**Sharon McGrath**
ACE Receptionist
**Julie McDowell**
ACE Receptionist
**Maria Ross**
Assistant Administrator

### Health
**Taela-Mae Davies**
Yourspace Project Coordinator
**Clare Westcott**
Wellbeing Connector
**Danielle Afferion**
Young People's Wellbeing Connector
**Hannah Bees**
Community Health Development Worker
**Jamie Hallett**
Wellbeing Connector
**Lynette Hartman**
Wellbeing Connector
**Mags Lyons**
Senior Wellbeing Officer
**Sabrina Driscoll**
Wellbeing Connector
**Sophia Farrugia**
Wellbeing Connector
**Rachel Hart**
Community Health Development Worker
**Robert Jones**
Yourspace Monitoring and Admin Assistant
**Susan Beese**
Wellbeing Connector

### Community Support
**Nerys Sheehan**
Project Coordinator / Grand Avenues Coordinator
**Ruth Mumford**
Benthyg Development Officer
**Stacie Leek**
Hafan Project Development Officer
**Steve Lyons**
Diana Garden Development Officer

### Arts
**Nicola Parsons**
Community Arts Coordinator

### Community Plan
**Becky Matyus**
Community Engagement Coordinator
**Hywel Squires**
Community Engagement Officer

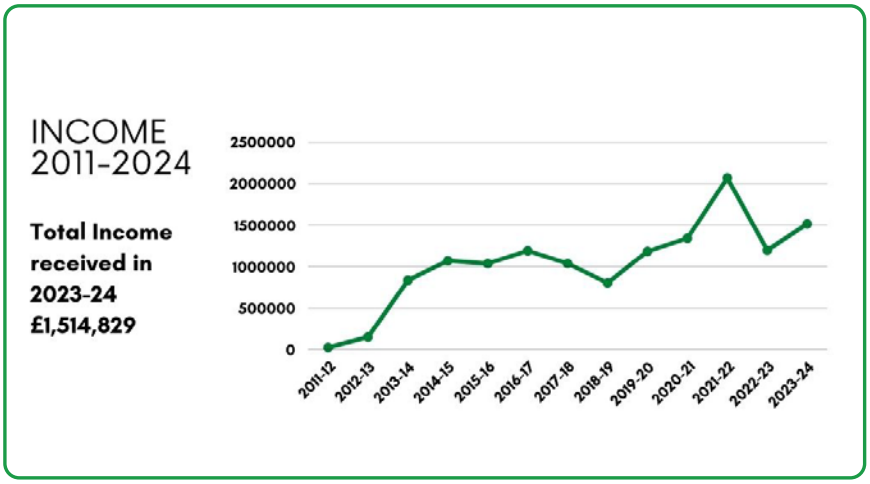
### Community Development
**Sarah Griffiths**
Together for Trowbridge and St. Mellons Development Officer

### Caer Heritage and Learning Centre
**Lois Atkinson**
Caer Centre Development Officer

**Thanks to the former ACE Staff who have moved on in the last year:**
Fiona McCormick
Helen Bull
Becci Booker
Sarah Griffith
Vaida Barzdaite
Sarah Whitfield
Beth Leek
Samirah Phillips
Jackie Dix
Catherine Boult

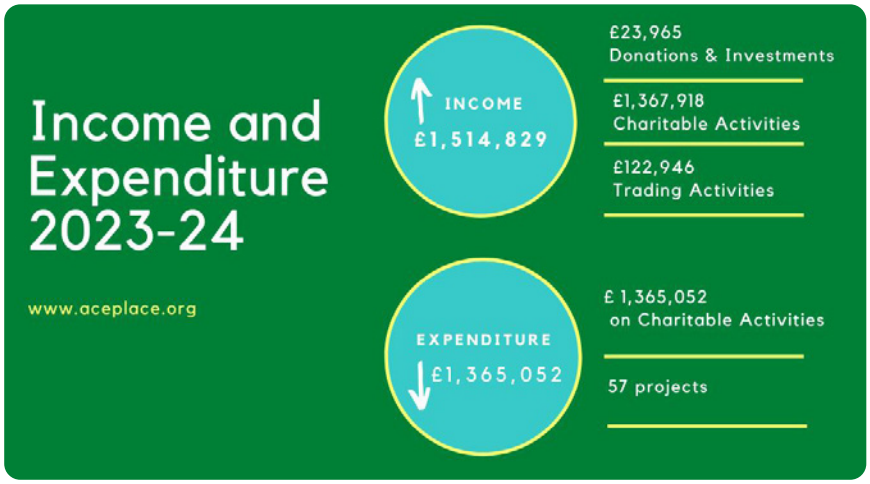
# Financial Report

ACE received a total income of £1,514,829 in the 2023–24 financial year, an increase of £316,481 (26%) from the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by a rise in grants, contracts, and income generated through enterprise activities. Of this total income, £1,365,052 (90%) was spent on charitable activities, ensuring a significant portion of resources directly supported our mission.

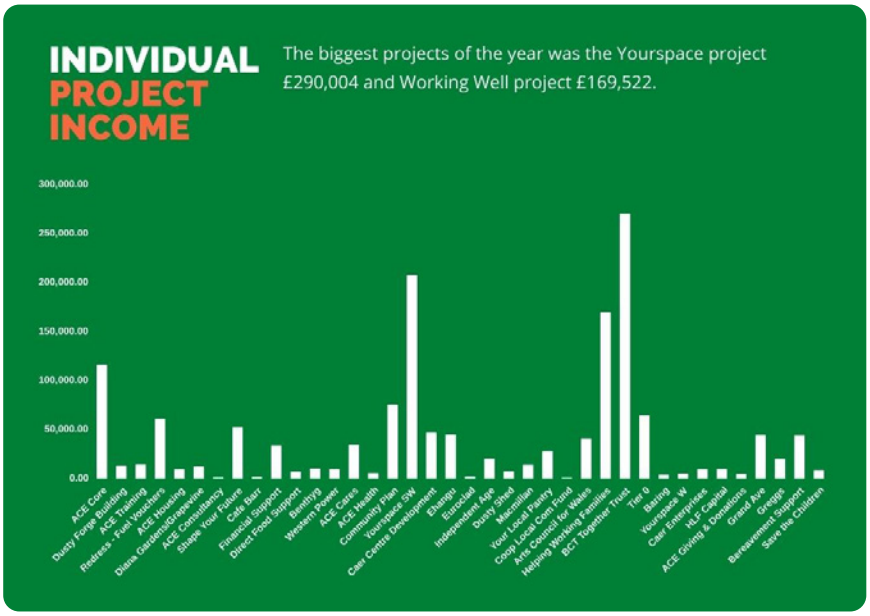



Some of our most significant funders for the year included:
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Community Development (YourSpace) project: £290,004 (19% of total income)
- National Lottery Community Fund Working Families project: £169,552 (11% of total income)

The income for 2023–24 was distributed across 57 projects, a 12% increase compared to the previous year.




Over the past 12 years, ACE has contributed more than £13 million to the local economy in Cardiff West. From 2018 to 2024, income generated through ACE's direct activities - such as social enterprises, grant applications, contracts, fundraising, donations, and legacies - amounted to approximately £8.1 million, representing 62% of ACE's total historical income.



# Funders and partners

## ACE Funders

## ACE Partners

ace
Action in Caerau & Ely
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

# Action in Caerau and Ely


Our Place: Dusty Forge
460 Cowbridge Rd West, Ely
Cardiff CF5 5BZ
Tel: 029 2000 3132

info@aceplace.org
www.aceplace.org
ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely
@elycaerau_ACE
actionincaerauandely

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07623914
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1150422

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Financial Statements

## 31 March 2024

**GORDON DOWN & PARTNERS**
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Temple Court Cathedral Road Cardiff CF11 9HA
and 144 Walter Road Swansea SA1 5RW

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Financial Statements

## Year ended 31 March 2024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| Statement of financial position | 17 |
| Statement of cash flows | 18 |
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# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

## Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Chair's report**

Despite growing pressure on costs and demand due to the ongoing cost of living crisis, ACE has continued to evolve successfully. With more organisations applying for diminishing funding pots, ACE has concentrated more on multiple smaller grants to fund projects rather than a sole project funder. Core costs have become ever more crucial in ensuring ACE's ongoing existence.

Cardiff University has further developed its partnership with ACE to fund two posts at the CAER Heritage and Learning Centre to promote learning, education, heritage and greater links with the university. This follows projects at the hillfort and summer digs at Trelai Park which yielded a number of important finds. The summer dig in 2023 was featured on the BBC TV programme "Digging for Britain".

The Yourspace social prescribing project delivered by ACE staff on behalf of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has been expanded to cover three GP cluster areas. Patients can be referred or self-refer to the project and receive help and advice from the Wellbeing team. The staff involved in this project are based in other parts of Cardiff away from our bases in Ely and Caerau.

Our gardens at the CAER Heritage and Learning Centre, Dusty Forge (Aceplace) and Diana Gardens are providing increasing fruit and vegetables for the community and for use by the community café run by volunteers which has recently opened, initially one day per week.

With the ongoing pressures in living costs, and the growing importance of sustainability, the membership of the Benthyg Library of Things has increased further. The range of items available has also expanded. Another project which is promoting sustainability is the Repair Café, where residents can bring broken items to be repaired by a dedicated team of "fixers" rather than be consigned to the scrapheap. If a fix isn't possible, items can be sent for recycling where possible.

ACE is continuing to adapt to address new and existing needs of the community due to the ongoing financial and global uncertainty.

**Marian Dixey**
**ACE chair**
**November 2024**

### Reference and administrative details

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Registered charity name** | ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely | |
| **Charity registration number** | 1150422 | |
| **Company registration number** | 07623914 | |
| **Principal office and registered office** | Our Place: Dusty Forge<br>460 Cowbridge Road West<br>Cardiff<br>CF5 5BX<br>United Kingdom | |
| **The trustees** | | |
| | M Dixey | |
| | E Elliot | |
| | N Hayes | (Resigned 31 December 2023) |
| | C Lannen | |
| | A O'Regan | |
| | J Refalo | |
| | J Roach | |
| | O Scott | (Resigned 31 December 2023) |
| | L Smith | |
| | P Smith | (Resigned 1 August 2023) |
| | M Witherden | |
| | D Wyatt | (Resigned 1 August 2023) |
| | M Hulland | (Resigned 1 August 2023) |
| | D King | (Resigned 15 October 2023) |
| **Company secretary** | S Froud Powell | (Appointed 1 October 2023) |
| | D Horton | (Resigned 30 September 2023) |
| **Auditor** | Gordon Down & Partners<br>Chartered accountants & statutory auditor<br>Temple Court Cathedral Road<br>Cardiff CF119HA<br>and 144 Walter Road<br>Swansea SA1 5RW | |

### Structure, governance and management

**Governing document**
ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 8 April 2011. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company.

**Appointment of trustees**
All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Trustees have the power to appoint additional trustees, as it considers fit to do so.

**Trustee induction and training**
All new directors/trustees receive a comprehensive induction session and an induction pack with essential information.

**Organisation**
The board of trustees, which can have up to 12 members, administers the charity. The board normally meets monthly and there are committees covering development and funding, HR, finance and audit, which normally meet monthly. The ACE Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and community related activity

**Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**
None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity, contractor, must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

**Pay policy for staff**
The directors consider the board of directors, who are the Trust's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 18 and 29 to the accounts.

The pay of the staff is appraised annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other third sector organisations of a similar size run on a voluntary basis. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles adjusted for a weighting of up to 30% for any additional responsibilities. If recruitment has proven difficult in the recent past a market addition is also paid with the pay maximum no greater than the highest benchmarked salary for a comparable role.

**Risk management**
The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces;
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in
- the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due, regular liaison with the bank, and active management of trade debtors and creditors balances to ensure sufficient working capital by the charity.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, IT security, market volatility, health and safety of staff and volunteers, food hygiene. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

**Objectives and activities**

ACE–Action in Caerau and Ely is a community organisation located in West Cardiff. We had up to 42 staff over the period of 2023-24, 50 volunteers and several thousand participants and beneficiaries, many of whom are active contributors to local community development and regeneration efforts. We are very proud that many of our staff team live in Ely and Caerau and many projects and activities are run with or by our volunteers. We manage two community buildings and a community garden and deliver a range of community based activities that help people, many of which you will read about in this annual report.

Our vision is to create vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live. We do this by all or any of the following means (these are our charitable objectives):

1. the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit;
2. the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;
3. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
4. the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
5. in setting up their own business,
6. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
7. the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;
8. the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
9. the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
10. such other means may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

ACE will work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision.
- Co-producing services and activities that make use of assets and meet needs.
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive.
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience.
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities.

ACE will nurture and develop local assets and opportunities to meet needs through the following types of projects, activities and services:

- Community Support: Crisis support and financial capability.
- Training and support for the unemployed.
- Health & Wellbeing work including mental health support and training.
- Work with Children, Young People and Families.
- Community led activity
- Heritage, Arts and Culture projects.
- Social enterprise and local economic development.
- Community and citywide influencing and campaigning.

During 2023-24 we have developed a number of new projects to respond to community need. These include:

- Yourspace Cardiff West - establishing a community development and social prescribing service within the Cardiff West Cluster area, working in partnership with the Health Board and Primary Care Cluster and using learning from the Cardiff South West and North Yourspace service.

- Caer Heritage and Learning - have developing several new partnerships with learning providers to support an integrated programme of learning and development for the Ely and Caerau community. Through the Reaching Wider collaboration with Cardiff University and Cardiff Met we have we provide a rolling programme of Adult Learning courses. Careers Wales link in with Adult Learning courses to offer progression opportunities.

- Cardiff Met and the Literacy Trust provided free books for children in the area working with families through ACE led learning events. These partnerships are ongoing, and we look forward to continuing to work together.

- Greggs partnered with Caer Heritage for our Cardiff Met Spring Forward event to reduce food waste and poverty in the area with a generous donation.

- Digital Communities Wales provided support for ACE / Caer Heritage to develop digital inclusion projects increasing the digital skills and confidence of the people we work with by providing us with laptops and tablets to remove digital barriers and offer training.

- Ely and Caerau Community Plan - The Welsh Government, Cardiff Council, and the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner jointly funded ACE's Community Engagement team to support the community in developing a plan. Responding to conversations with 1,200 people, we worked with 150 people in 7 workshops to develop actions, resulting in 40 actions outlined in the plan. The Community Steering Group established in July 2023 continues to track progress as these actions are being implemented between May 2024 and March 2025.

- Creating Space' is a 6 month Arts Council Wales funded project running until the end of March 2025, supporting a variety of health needs through the delivery of creative workshops and opportunities. ACE Arts works closely with our 'Yourspace' health team to welcome social prescription referrals and nurture new and existing partnerships with the Primary Care GP Cluster, Chapter Arts Centre, University of South Wales and Disability Arts Cymru.

- Dan y Coed outdoor play sessions - through the Ehangu project funded by Save the Children Cymru, ACE have worked with Ely and Caerau Children's Centre to develop and deliver a new programme of creative outdoor play sessions targeting early years children and their families.

- ReStore - we have redeveloped our community shop area in the Dusty Forge, to provide a new space for our Community Fridge project, pet foodbank, library of things, and essential non-food items.

- Diana Garden developments, with funding from Cardiff Council's food poverty support grant, we have expanded the food growing space in Diana Garden with new raised beds, polytunnel, shelter for volunteers and tool storage. This has enabled the Diana Garden volunteer group to expand food growing including a new plug plant initiative (in partnership with Cardiff Prison and supported by the Edible Cardiff Network) which has provided locally grown veg for use in community food projects.

- Lived Experience work with Bevan - which consisted of 3 Focus groups who contribute to the new Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy.

The strategies employed for continuity are:

- Building the capacity to deliver and develop: ACE has achieved an impressive track record for effective project delivery and innovation. It is also encouraging that we continue to develop new opportunities for growth. We will continue to capitalise on these strengths to create an ambitious programme to develop the charity, its activities, and our capacity for effective delivery.

- Providing services directly: ACE has developed a strong range of services based on identified needs which support the communities it serves. Many of these are well established but we also maintain the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances by developing new services to meet new needs.

- Continuing to diversify income streams: The majority of income realised by ACE is through grants and contracts, however we do have enterprises that generate income for the organisation. Throughout this year we have been developing a new enterprise, ACE Way Training which provides bespoke training in Asset Based Community Development, Co-production and Community Organising. We continue to have funding from an existing donor and additional income from a new donor, these support both core costs and delivery.

- Strategies to ensure continuity: Building on our work to diversify income streams (outlined above) we continue to apply tried and tested methods towards income generation to enable continuity. Plans are under development to replace large grants that are coming to an end with new long term funded opportunities. With the increase in bank interest rates, we are actively managing our cash reserves to maximise interest received.

- Buildings and space: The CAER Heritage and Learning Centre, through funding from Cardiff University has employed a new Caer Centre Development Officer working to establish the centre as hub for community learning and discovery. New courses including Start your Own Business and Careers in Childcare started the latter end of the financial year. Diana Garden community regeneration project has gone from strength to strength establishing the space for delivering educational activities and growing food with the community, accompanied by healthy eating workshops. The Dusty Forge is now back to the thriving hub it was pre Covid with a range of community groups and partners utilising the space to deliver their social activities and services, centre users include: Retreat, Knit and Natter, Flying Start, Mind the Gap, Grow Cardiff, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Ely and Caerau Children's Centre, Food Cycle and many more.

- Building partnerships: ACE continues to work with dozens of partner organisations on a wide range of projects. New partnerships established this year include: DACS Disability Arts Cymru - new artists, Chapter Arts Centre, Age Connects, Pedal Power, Cardiff Wellbeing Support TEAM, Community Wellbeing Strategy team. Cardiff Metropolitan University Widening Access, Wales and West Cardiff North, Maefla Wellbeing Hyb, Crwys Road Medical Centre and Penylan Surgery.

- Utilising others' capacity and contributing to their services: A number of partner organisations have

been providing essential services and activities alongside ACE or at ACE venues, including the following: Flying Start early years provision, HMPPS Grand Avenues project probation 1-2-1 sessions, Into work drop-in advice sessions, Foodcycle providing a 3 course meal for free to our community, Brownies, Cardiff Metropolitan University - Mind the Gap exercise class supporting people with mental health and wellbeing.

- Maintaining our good name: The organisation has developed a strongly positive reputation across the city and is valued in communities, the third sector and the local authority. ACE will work to protect its good name by devoting appropriate resources to quality control and pro-active public relations.

- Mobilising ACE's reputation and influence: Our successful track record and high reputation give ACE the potential to have a positive impact elsewhere. ACE will work to maintain its relationships, influence policies in the voluntary and public sectors, and advocate for the communities it serves at respective levels.

The strategies employed for growth:

- Creating opportunities to develop new work: ACE will continue to create income-generating initiatives to address the long-term threat posed by the inevitable funding gap. ACE will continue to devote resources and effort to expanding promising enterprises such as ACE Training, ACE Housing as well as ACE Way Training in Asset Based Community Development, Co-Production and Community Organising. ACE Way Training has generated new consultancy work, providing bespoke services to organisations across Wales.

- Expanding the area of operation: ACE's origins, history and goals are rooted deeply in the Ely and Caerau area of Cardiff. But our experience and our effective delivery of anti-poverty programmes here has continued to attract interest in our services elsewhere. While retaining its primary commitment to improving the quality of life of Ely and Caerau residents, ACE will continue to seek service delivery and contracting and consultancy opportunities in other areas of Cardiff and beyond with the aim of of generating income and building long-term sustainability.

- Expanding volunteering: ACE has comprehensively demonstrated the many personal and community benefits of voluntary work. ACE has over the period engaged with 50 volunteers. ACE continues work to maintain our level of commitment and good practice in line with the UK best practice award for volunteering - the 'Investing in Volunteers' award we achieved in last year. Volunteering within ACE is fully embedded into our core values of community asset development and coproduction. We continue to actively promote volunteering and attract, train and support volunteers to undertake work within ACE and in the wider community.

- ACE Board of Trustees: Membership of the ACE Board is influenced by the conscious need to preserve a balance between local representation and the skills needed for the governance of a dynamic charity. The focus has been to maintain our established balance of business and community representation on the board. A number of trustees stepped down over this period but we are pleased to say we were able to appoint several new trustees, each offering a wide range of skills and expertise.

**Criteria to measure success**

It is crucial that we gather information that tells us whether or not our Theory of Change, Strategic Plan and day-to-day activities (as set out in our Operational Plan) are effective in meeting our aims and objectives and fulfilling our vision. In 2023-24 we planned and delivered a series of workshops across our project teams to carry out a fundamental review of the Operational Plan itself to establish whether it was still fit for purpose. The workshops assessed our current organisational delivery against the objectives, indicators for success and actions (i.e. how we would do it). We identified that some actions were no longer a priority for ACE, some had been met fully, some needed a new approach and some

of the future work we wanted to achieve was not documented within our Operational Plan. This highlights the value of undertaking a review and the benefits it will bring to our work. The Operational Plan has now been updated in line with our findings and sets out our priorities and a clear plan of action for the coming year(s).

Our Strategic and Operational Plan lay out a range of specific criteria to measures success.

ACE uses a number of approaches to provide evidence against these criteria, including surveys, focus groups, 1-1 conversations, video interviews etc. One of the most powerful tools we use is the Most Significant Change approach which uses personal stories of change to create learning conversations through panels of participants and staff. You will see a number of examples of these in the Annual Report attached.

The collaborative learning from these approaches will be used to review and update the core work of ACE as outlined in the 7 Objectives within our Strategic plan. In 2024-25 we will carry out an in depth review of our new Strategic Plan and set a new one in place for 2024-2027.

**Strategic report**

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

**Achievements and performance**

2023-24 has been a busy year for ACE with all services delivering at full capacity. With the pandemic behind us our communities were hit with the cost of living crisis, which saw ACE diversifying activity and introducing new services such as the Fuel Voucher Scheme to try to alleviate some of the difficulties many of our community members were facing. Some of what was achieved is outlined below:

- Through our advice and support work we have increased household income in the community by £614,453 supporting 411 households with fuel vouchers issued, grants and unclaimed benefits.

- ACE Benthyg has a total of 134 items available to hire with more items added daily. There are 400 active members, with 249 'loans' (a loan may include one or more items) over the year.

- The volunteer fixers in our repair café have checked out almost over 500+ items in 5 years. Three quarters of the items were repaired, all our customers leave feeling they have received a personal and friendly welcome.

- The pantry received visits from over 150 visitors a week all of whom received £15 to £20 of food for their £5 membership.

- Our Grand Avenues project supported 49 men on probation to claim health related benefits they were entitled to, a total of £234,892 to the community, supported access employment and volunteering opportunities, and able to access vital GP support on release from prison.

- Our Yourspace wellbeing support project working in partnership with Cardiff South West, and West Primary Care Clusters supported 409 to improve their wellbeing and self-confidence. This year we also piloted a smaller scale service in North Cardiff, working with 112 people.

- Our Compassionate Communities Project facilitated 27 grief space peer support sessions for those experiencing grief and bereavement, 125 wellbeing boxes with delivered as well as 5 back home boxes and 125 kindness cards were made by local children and distributed locally.

- Weekly gardening sessions have been run with volunteers ensuring the ongoing development of the garden.

- We continue to work with partners Grow Cardiff to provide weekly therapeutic gardening sessions in the Dusty Forge garden.

- Our new Caer Centre Development Worker, employed via funding from Cardiff University began setting the foundations to establish the Caer Community Heritage and Learning Centre as a space for learning and opportunity. The Caer Community Heritage Centre provided a venue for a wide range of activities including heritage exhibitions, youth groups, afterschool clubs, volunteer groups, adult education classes and Flying Start groups.

- ACE Arts delivered its final year of the Explore Collective project in partnership with Valleys Kids. Collectively the project delivered over 300 creative workshops and regularly engaged with 132 participants.

- 224 learners accessed ACE Training services. 188 learners gained their CSCS Cards that will enable them gain employment.

**Financial review**

ACE's future continues to be incredibly exciting; we are a community led charity which has a plan, purpose, and a fantastic group of volunteers, trustees and staff. Over our last 11 years of operation ACE has added over £11 million to the local economy across Cardiff West. From 2018-24 income generated through direct ACE activities such as social enterprise activities, grant applications, contracts, fundraising and donations and legacies totals approximately £8.1 million.

ACE is a charity standing in its own right, working with residents to see meaningful change across communities - this is a huge achievement which continues to address an unfair 'stigma' attached to Ely and Caerau, something residents of Ely and Caerau can be really proud of.

We have continued to build on a firm foundation of strong financial policy and effective financial management through 2023-24. Income in 2023-24 was spread across 57 projects which is greater than that of the previous year. ACE has been successful in following its strategic plan objective to diversify income streams. During 2023-24 ACE received £1,514,829 income from numerous funders, contracts and donations. ACE also self-generated £122,946 via social enterprise such as rental, consultancy work and training.

ACE's financial performance and position going forward continues to be very healthy, with 2024-25 forecast to show a small surplus. As with this year, future years are still going to be more challenging hence why it is so essential that ACE build sufficient reserves to be able meet any future liabilities. We will continue to regularly review the level of reserves and adjust accordingly. With higher bank interest rates, coupled with more stable cash balances following the completion of work on the Caer Heritage Centre, ACE has taken significant steps in managing its reserves to maximise returns. This has involved a cautiously planned cycle of three-month investments at monthly intervals with banks offering the best rates using the Flagstones platform. These three staged investments are all covered under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, and will leave sufficient funds in existing accounts to meet any fluctuations in monthly outgoings. This approach can be refined with experience, and is already generating promising levels of interest. In terms of expenditure, we along with everyone else, have seen our costs increase due to inflation.

**Transactions and Financial Position**
The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net unrestricted surplus for the year of £37,996 and our unrestricted reserves stand at £565,265.

**Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the charity**
Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in note 19 to the financial statements.

**Investment Policy and Returns**
The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and have found that placing monies on deposit with the Co-operative Bank is the most appropriate course of action to allow the necessary degree and flexibility.

**Reserves policy and going concern**
We are continuing with the policy set in 2021 of setting aside a minimum of 18 months running costs of the organisation within our reserves. This has been achieved through the investment property and the building of cash reserves, which now stand at an overall total of £565,265. During 2024-25 this policy and the figure required will be further reviewed.

**Plans for future periods**

Looking forward, through careful planning, creative thinking and community based delivery we will build on this success. ACE will enable community action through the direct provision of services, the development of community assets and social enterprise. We will access funding to support our work, and will work with people, community groups, organisations and businesses, directing our resources in a sustainable and effective manner.

**Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The trustees, who are also directors 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 charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, 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 applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 Companies Act 2006. They 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.

**Auditor**

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 18/12/2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

M Dixey
Trustee

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Action in Caerau and Ely

## Year ended 31 March 2024

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the entity and determined that the most significant are those that relate to: FRS102 Employment law
Tax & pension law
Charities SORP
Health & safety

We assessed the risks of material misstatement in respect of fraud as follows: We inquired with management about the existence of fraud and if there were any unusual transactions or relationships. We also performed various tests on the records to check for misstatement. We did not identify any issues.

We considered the risk of fraud through management override and, in response, we incorporated testing of adjusting entries into our audit approach.

Based on the results of our risk assessment we designed our audit procedures to identify and to address material misstatements in relation to fraud. We considered the possibility of fraudulent payments to third parties and also looked for segregation of duties.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at https: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Gordon Down & Partners
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
144 Walter Road
Swansea
SA1 5RW

18th December 2024

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

## Year ended 31 March 2024

| | Note | 2024 Unrestricted funds £ | 2024 Restricted funds £ | 2024 Total funds £ | 2023 Total funds £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income and endowments** | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 5 | 2,056 | 15,884 | 17,940 | 15,482 |
| Charitable activities | 5 | 8,886 | 1,358,772 | 1,367,658 | 1,087,148 |
| Sundry income | 6 | 260 | – | 260 | 621 |
| Other trading activities | 7 | 115,300 | 7,646 | 122,946 | 93,756 |
| Investment income | 8 | 6,025 | – | 6,025 | 1,342 |
| **Total income** | | 132,527 | 1,382,302 | 1,514,829 | 1,198,349 |
| **Expenditure** | | | | | |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | 9,10 | 222,777 | 1,142,274 | 1,365,052 | 1,476,996 |
| Other expenditure | 13 | – | – | – | 72,548 |
| **Total expenditure** | | 222,777 | 1,142,274 | 1,365,052 | 1,549,544 |
| Net (losses)/gains on investments | 14 | (10,000) | – | (10,000) | 75,559 |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (100,250) | 240,028 | 139,777 | (275,636) |
| Transfers between funds | | 138,246 | (138,246) | – | – |
| **Net movement in funds** | | 37,996 | 101,782 | 139,777 | (275,636) |
| **Reconciliation of funds** | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 527,269 | 1,261,520 | 1,788,789 | 2,064,426 |
| **Total funds carried forward** | | 565,265 | 1,363,302 | 1,928,567 | 1,788,789 |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**The notes on pages 19 to 39 form part of these financial statements.**

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Statement of Financial Position

## 31 March 2024

| | Note | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | **19** | 969,224 | 1,030,541 |
| Investments | **20** | 210,010 | 220,010 |
| | | 1,179,234 | 1,250,551 |
| **Current assets** | | | |
| Debtors | **22** | 117,381 | 175,368 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 638,713 | 411,667 |
| | | 756,094 | 587,035 |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **23** | 6,763 | 48,797 |
| **Net current assets** | | 749,331 | 538,238 |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | 1,928,565 | 1,788,789 |
| **Net assets** | | 1,928,565 | 1,788,789 |
| **Funds of the charity** | | | |
| Restricted funds | | 1,363,302 | 1,261,520 |
| Unrestricted funds | | 565,265 | 527,269 |
| **Total charity funds** | **25** | 1,928,567 | 1,788,789 |

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the medium companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 18/12/2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Marian Dixey

M Dixey
Trustee

**The notes on pages 19 to 39 form part of these financial statements.**

# ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Statement of Cash Flows

## Year ended 31 March 2024

| | 2024<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | |
| Net income/(expenditure) | 139,777 | (275,636) |
| *Adjustments for:* | | |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 61,317 | 64,905 |
| Net (losses)/gains on investments | 10,000 | (75,559) |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | (6,025) | (1,342) |
| Interest payable and similar charges | 661 | 183 |
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets | – | 72,548 |
| Accrued (income)/expenses | (41,871) | 43,126 |
| *Changes in:* | | |
| Trade and other debtors | 57,987 | (45,554) |
| Trade and other creditors | (165) | (12,514) |
| Cash generated from operations | 221,681 | (229,843) |
| Interest paid | (661) | (183) |
| Interest received | 6,025 | 1,342 |
| Net cash from/(used in) operating activities | 227,045 | (228,684) |
| **Cash flows from investing activities** | | |
| Purchase of tangible assets | – | (32,127) |
| Proceeds from sale of other investments | – | – |
| Net cash used in investing activities | – | (32,127) |
| **Cash flows from financing activities** | | |
| Proceeds from loans from group undertakings | – | – |
| Net cash from financing activities | – | – |
| **Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents** | 217,045 | (260,811) |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year** | 411,668 | 672,479 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at end of year** | 638,713 | 411,668 |

**The notes on pages 19 to 39 form part of these financial statements.**

## 1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Our Place: Dusty Forge, 460 Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff, CF5 5BX, United Kingdom.

## 2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

## 3. Accounting policies

### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

### Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

### Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3. **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

**Incoming resources**

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income from grants, whether capital grants or revenue grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Capital grants are released to the SOFA in the year of receipt. Fixed assets relating to capital grants are capitalised, and depreciation charged is offset against the grant income, in a restricted fund.

Rental and training income is invoiced and is recognised in the period to which the service was provided.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Income earned from interest is included in the accounts when receipt is probable, and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

3. **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

**Tangible assets**

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Freehold property | - | 5% straight line |
| Plant and machinery | - | 10% straight line |
| Motor vehicles | - | 20% straight line |

3. **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Investments**

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. The investments are assessed for impairment at each reporting date and any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

**Investment property**

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

**Investments in associates**

Investments in associates accounted for in accordance with the cost model are recorded at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

Investments in associates accounted for in accordance with the fair value model are initially recorded at the transaction price. At each reporting date, the investments are measured at fair value, with changes in fair value taken through income or expenditure. Where it is impracticable to measure fair value reliably without undue cost or effort, the cost model will be adopted.

Dividends and other distributions received from the investment are recognised as income without regard to whether the distributions are from accumulated profits of the associate arising before or after the date of acquisition.

**Investments in joint ventures**

Investments in jointly controlled entities accounted for in accordance with the cost model are recorded at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

Investments in jointly controlled entities accounted for in accordance with the fair value model are initially recorded at the transaction price. At each reporting date, the investments are measured at fair value, with changes in fair value taken through income or expenditure. Where it is impracticable to measure fair value reliably without undue cost or effort, the cost model will be adopted.

Dividends and other distributions received from the investment are recognised as income without regard to whether the distributions are from accumulated profits of the joint venture arising before or after the date of acquisition.

3. **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Impairment of fixed assets**

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

**Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

3. **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Financial instruments** *(continued)*

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

**Defined contribution plans**

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. **Limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The liability of the members in the event of the company being liquidated is limited to £1 per member.

### 5. Donations and legacies

| Charitable Activities | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Grants (year to 31 March 2024)** | | | |
| Arts Council of Wales | – | 40,786 | 40,786 |
| Asda | 400 | – | 400 |
| Bevan Foundation | – | 390 | 390 |
| C3SC | – | 9,383 | 9,383 |
| Cardiff and Vale University Health Board | – | 294,185 | 294,185 |
| Cardiff Council | – | 88,224 | 88,224 |
| Cardiff University | – | 59,234 | 59,234 |
| Cardiff South Wales Cluster | – | 12,696 | 12,696 |
| Care & Repair | – | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Charities Aid Foundation | – | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| Citizens Advice | – | 10,283 | 10,283 |
| Cwmpas | – | 40,860 | 40,860 |
| Dusty Shed | – | 7,307 | 7,307 |
| Grow Cardiff | – | 127 | 127 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | – | 15,724 | 15,724 |
| Independent Age | – | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Invest Local Trust | – | 329,658 | 329,658 |
| Macmillan | – | 13,865 | 13,865 |
| National Lottery Community Fund | – | 165,176 | 165,176 |
| Save the Children | – | 53,300 | 53,300 |
| Co-Operative | – | 1,901 | 1,901 |
| Greggs | – | 19,713 | 19,713 |
| HMRC | 5,736 | – | 5,736 |
| The Screwfix Foundation | – | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| National Grid | – | 9,857 | 9,857 |
| Social Farms and Gardens | – | 140 | 140 |
| Solva care | – | 30 | 30 |
| St Vincent de Paul Society | – | 44,520 | 44,520 |
| TK Maxx & Homesense Foundation | 500 | – | 500 |
| Community Foundation in Wales | 1,000 | – | 1,000 |
| University of South Wales | – | 250 | 250 |
| Wales and West Housing | 1,250 | – | 1,250 |
| WCVA | – | 9,439 | 9,439 |
| Welsh Government | – | 44,224 | 44,224 |
| | 8,886 | 1,358,772 | 1,367,658 |

| Donations and legacies | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Donations | 2,056 | 15,884 | 17,940 |

## 5. Donations and legacies *(continued)*

| Charitable Activities | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Grants (year to 31 March 2023)** | | | |
| Grants receivable | 2,272 | (2,272) | – |
| Asda | – | 200 | 200 |
| Bevan Foundation | 1,015 | 22,949 | 23,964 |
| C3SC | 5,951 | 7,000 | 12,951 |
| Cardiff and Vale University Health Board | – | 269,092 | 269,092 |
| Cardiff Council | – | 154,500 | 154,500 |
| Cardiff People First | – | 750 | 750 |
| Cardiff University | – | 28,993 | 28,993 |
| Care & Repair | – | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| Charities Aid Foundation | 2,300 | 59,921 | 62,221 |
| Children in Need | – | 40,987 | 40,987 |
| Church Action Poverty | 168 | – | 168 |
| Citizens Advice | – | 7,250 | 7,250 |
| Cwmpas | – | 27,655 | 27,655 |
| Dusty Shed | – | 8,148 | 8,148 |
| DWP | – | 4,286 | 4,286 |
| Ely and Caerau Children's Centre | 200 | – | 200 |
| Energy Saving Trust | – | 1,286 | 1,286 |
| Food Sense Wales | – | 10,844 | 10,844 |
| Glamorgan Voluntary Services | – | 4,890 | 4,890 |
| Groundwork UK | 500 | – | 500 |
| Grow Cardiff | – | 5,900 | 5,900 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | – | 113,031 | 113,031 |
| Independent Age | – | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Invest Local Trust | – | (25,139) | (25,139) |
| Macmillan | – | 26,142 | 26,142 |
| Making a Difference Locally | 1,000 | – | 1,000 |
| ProMo-Cymru | – | 625 | 625 |
| National Lottery Community Fund | – | 201,174 | 201,174 |
| Save the Children | – | 2,400 | 2,400 |
| School of History | – | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| The D'oyly Carte Charitable Trust | – | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Nationwide Community Fund | – | 24,198 | 24,198 |
| University of South Wales | – | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Wales Restorative Approaches Partnership | – | 6,817 | 6,817 |
| Welsh Government | – | 35,515 | 35,515 |
| Whitfield Pantry | 100 | – | 100 |
| | 13,506 | 1,073,642 | 1,087,148 |

| Donations and legacies | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Donations | 1,938 | 13,544 | 15,482 |

## 6. Charitable activities

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2024 £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sundry Income | 260 | – | 260 |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sundry Income | 234 | 387 | 621 |

## 7. Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2024 £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rental Income | 23,275 | 6,912 | 30,187 |
| Generated Income | 92,025 | 734 | 92,759 |
| | 115,300 | 7,646 | 122,946 |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rental Income | 14,615 | 5,753 | 20,368 |
| Generated Income | 72,023 | 1,365 | 73,388 |
| | 86,638 | 7,118 | 93,756 |

## 8. Investment income

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2024 £** | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bank interest receivable | 6,025 | 6,025 | 1,342 | 1,342 |

## 9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2024 £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Direct charitable activities | 53,654 | 1,130,951 | 1,184,604 |
| Support costs | 169,123 | 11,323 | 180,448 |
| | 222,777 | 1,142,274 | 1,365,052 |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Direct charitable activities | 52,335 | 1,238,070 | 1,290,405 |
| Support costs | 186,592 | – | 186,591 |
| | 238,927 | 1,238,070 | 1,476,996 |

## 10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

| | Activities undertaken directly £ | Grant funding of activities £ | Support costs £ | **Total funds 2024 £** | Total fund 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Charitable activities | 898,288 | 286,316 | 170,933 | 1,355,537 | 1,471,057 |
| Governance costs | – | – | 9,515 | 9,515 | 5,939 |
| | 898,288 | 286,316 | 180,448 | 1,365,052 | 1,476,996 |

## 11. Analysis of support costs

| | Analysis of support costs £ | **Total 2024 £** | Total 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | 109,976 | 109,976 | 121,865 |
| Depreciation | 11,323 | 11,323 | 12,981 |
| Cleaning | 14,096 | 14,096 | 14,373 |
| Heat, light and insurance | 5,344 | 5,344 | 5,383 |
| Bank charges and bad debts | – | – | 183 |
| IT costs and telephone | 12,133 | 12,133 | 10,389 |
| Professional fees | 4,901 | 4,901 | 5,486 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 4,962 | 4,962 | 5,153 |
| Rent, rates, repairs and renewals | 6,624 | 6,624 | 3,255 |
| Motor, travel and subsistence | 1,574 | 1,574 | 1,584 |
| | 170,933 | 170,933 | 180,652 |

## 12. Analysis of grants

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Grants to institutions** | | |
| 10th Ely Rainbows | – | 250 |
| Cardiff Imperial | – | 250 |
| Ecsopa | 10,000 | 20,672 |
| Hope Trust | 213,818 | 25,015 |
| Ely and Caerau Litter Pickers | – | 76 |
| Caerau and Ely Mini and Juniors Rugby Club | – | 500 |
| Commonwealth Theatre | 300 | 1,000 |
| Family Fund Business Services | 24,048 | 130,000 |
| The Healthy Horse Project Pony Club | – | 2,500 |
| Reflect Community Church and Centre | – | 450 |
| St Mellons Clean Up Group | – | 650 |
| Tempo Time Credits | – | 18,128 |
| The Millbank Movers | 250 | – |
| The Sudanese Community in East Cardiff | 251 | – |
| Trowbridge Pantry Grant | 13,980 | – |
| Cardiff People First | 6,844 | – |
| Community Care & Wellbeing Service | 16,575 | – |
| | 286,066 | 199,491 |
| **Grants to individuals** | | |
| Grants to individuals | 250 | – |
| Total grants | 286,316 | 199,491 |

## 13. Other expenditure

| | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets held for charity's own use | – | – | 72,548 | 72,548 |

## 14. Net (losses)/gains on investments

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gains/(losses) on investment property | (10,000) | (10,000) | 75,559 | 75,559 |

## 15. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 61,317 | 64,905 |
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets | – | 72,548 |

## 16. Auditors remuneration

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements | 6,000 | 5,940 |

## 17. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 675,664 | 738,560 |
| Social security costs | 42,934 | 51,726 |
| Employer contributions to pension plans | 14,575 | 22,146 |
| | 733,173 | 812,432 |

The average head count of employees during the year was 39 (2023: 39). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | No. | No. |
| Number of staff | 39 | 39 |

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

**Key Management Personnel**

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £69,481 (2023: £97,766).

## 18. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustees received remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity during the current or prior year.

No trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior year.

## 19. Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold property £ | Plant and machinery £ | Motor vehicles £ | **Total £** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | | | | |
| **At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024** | 1,132,343 | 3,630 | 33,094 | 1,169,067 |
| **Depreciation** | | | | |
| At 1 April 2023 | 114,335 | 3,630 | 20,561 | 138,526 |
| Charge for the year | 56,617 | – | 4,700 | 61,317 |
| **At 31 March 2024** | 170,952 | 3,630 | 25,261 | 199,843 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | | |
| **At 31 March 2024** | 961,391 | – | 7,833 | 969,224 |
| At 31 March 2023 | 1,018,008 | – | 12,533 | 1,030,541 |

## 20. Investments

| | Investment properties £ | Shares in group undertakings £ | **Total £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost or valuation** | | | |
| At 1 April 2023 | 220,000 | 10 | 220,010 |
| Additions | – | – | – |
| Fair value movements | (10,000) | – | (10,000) |
| **At 31 March 2024** | 210,000 | 10 | 210,010 |
| **Impairment** | | | |
| **At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024** | | – | – |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| **At 31 March 2024** | 210,000 | 10 | 210,010 |
| At 31 March 2023 | 220,000 | 10 | 220,010 |

## 20. Investments *(continued)*

The above carrying amounts are recognised as follows:

| | Investment properties £ | Shares in group undertakings £ | Total £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **At 31 March 2024** | | | |
| Held at fair value | 210,000 | 10 | 210,000 |
| Held at historical cost less impairment | – | – | 10 |
| At 31 March 2023 | | | |
| Held at fair value | 220,000 | 10 | 220,000 |
| Held at historical cost less impairment | – | – | 10 |

**Investment properties**

Investment property comprises a residential property purchased in October 2020 by the charity for rental appreciation. The fair value of the investment property has been arrived based on the valuation of a local estate agent in May 2024.

Contained in the above are amounts totalling £nil (2023: £nil) in relation to land.

## 21. Investment entities

**Subsidiaries and other investments**

The charity holds the entire issued shared capital of 1 ordinary share of £10 in ACE Community Enterprises Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales.

The company was incorporated on 07 February 2014 and remains dormant, company Number 08881835, registered office, Dusty Forge, Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff, CF5 5BZ.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of undertaking:** | ACE Community Enterprises Ltd |
| **Registerd office:** | England and Wales |
| **Nature of business:** | Dormant |
| **Class of shares held:** | Ordinary |
| **% Held:** | 100% (direct) |

## 22. Debtors

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade debtors | 105,998 | 85,433 |
| Other debtors | 11,383 | 89,935 |
| | 117,381 | 175,368 |

## 23. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Amounts owed to group undertakings | 12 | 10 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 6,751 | 48,787 |
| | 6,763 | 48,797 |

## 24. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

### Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £14,575 (2023: £22,146).

## 25. Analysis of charitable funds

### Unrestricted funds

| | At 1 Apr 2023 | Income | Expenditure | Transfers | Gains and losses | At 31 Mar 24 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General funds | 117,883 | 132,527 | (218,077) | 138,247 | – | 170,580 |
| Dusty Forge Redevelopment | 95,007 | – | – | – | – | 95,007 |
| Fixed asset fund | 94,379 | – | (4,700) | – | – | 89,679 |
| Investment property | 220,000 | – | – | – | (10,000) | 210,000 |
| | 527,269 | 132,527 | (222,777) | 138,247 | (10,000) | 565,266 |

| | At 1 Apr 2022 | Income | Expenditure | Transfers | Gains and losses | At 31 Mar 23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General funds | 156,977 | 103,658 | (234,227) | 15,916 | 75,559 | 117,883 |
| Dusty Forge Redevelopment | 95,007 | – | – | – | – | 95,007 |
| Fixed asset fund | 17,233 | – | (4,700) | 81,846 | – | 94,379 |
| Investment property | 144,441 | – | – | 75,559 | – | 220,000 |
| | 413,658 | 103,658 | (238,927) | 173,321 | 75,559 | 527,269 |

**Dusty Forge Redevelopment:** Comprise those funds set aside for future redevelopment work at the Dusty Forge building.

**Fixed asset fund:** relates to the net book value of the charity's unrestricted fixed assets.

**Investment property:** relates to the value of the property held for investment to generate unrestricted rental income for the charity.

### 25. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

**Restricted funds (year to 31 March 2024)**

| | At 1 Apr 2023 | Income | Expenditure | Transfers | **At 31 Mar 24** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| ACE Cares | – | 40,861 | (38,144) | (2,717) | – |
| ACE Community Support | 4,814 | 33,060 | (15,692) | (9,440) | 12,742 |
| ACE Food | 13,805 | 9,735 | (6,058) | (3,677) | 13,805 |
| ACE Giving | 14,020 | 4,634 | (180) | – | 18,474 |
| ACE Health | 53,769 | 210,530 | (171,502) | (17,433) | 75,364 |
| Arts Council of Wales | 26,483 | 40,914 | (67,929) | (975) | (1,507) |
| Baring | 2,244 | 3,750 | (5,049) | (945) | – |
| Benthyg | 2,365 | 10,174 | (1,547) | (860) | 10,132 |
| Bereavement Support | – | 44,224 | (34,419) | (2,478) | 7,327 |
| Bevan Foundation | 11,957 | – | (2,570) | (169) | 9,218 |
| Caer Enterprises | 6,352 | 6,912 | (12,180) | 2,418 | 3,502 |
| Children in Need | 6,328 | – | (5,028) | (1,300) | – |
| Creative Grow | 1,006 | – | – | – | 1,006 |
| Diana Gardens | 3,338 | 9,390 | (5,916) | 521 | 7,333 |
| Dusty Shed | 3,870 | 7,307 | (8,073) | (224) | 2,880 |
| Grace Project | 1,697 | 44,520 | (39,421) | (6,796) | – |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | 698,357 | – | (49,544) | – | 648,813 |
| Independent Age | 18,395 | 20,000 | (35,240) | (3,155) | – |
| Macmillan | – | 13,865 | (1,159) | (100) | 12,606 |
| Memorial Garden | 2,800 | – | – | – | 2,800 |
| Moondance Foundation | 4,758 | – | – | – | 4,758 |
| Redress and Cardiff Council Hardship Fund | 32,655 | – | (21,887) | – | 10,768 |
| Save the Children | 2,400 | 8,300 | (7,360) | (940) | 2,400 |
| Shape your Future | – | 55,000 | (40,821) | (8,262) | 5,917 |
| Summer of Smiles | 6,502 | – | – | – | 6,502 |
| Together Trust | – | 329,658 | (274,580) | (17,303) | 37,775 |
| Welsh Gov - Communities Facilities Programme | 253,529 | – | (7,073) | – | 246,456 |
| Western Power | – | 9,383 | (9,360) | (23) | – |
| Working Well and Helping Working Families | 78,972 | 177,872 | (116,605) | (33,215) | 107,024 |
| Workplace Youth | (3,007) | – | – | – | (3,007) |
| Youth Innovation | 14,111 | – | – | (14,111) | – |
| Trelai Deg | – | 11,600 | (9,803) | (600) | 1,197 |
| Community Plan | – | 75,989 | (60,903) | (3,870) | 11,216 |
| Yourspace N | – | 77,362 | (50,702) | (7,106) | 19,554 |
| Ehangu - Save the Children | – | 45,000 | (6,757) | (2,650) | 35,593 |
| Euroclad | – | 2,000 | – | – | 2,000 |
| Yourspace W | – | 5,043 | (4,496) | (547) | – |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | – | 15,974 | (8,666) | – | 7,308 |
| Greggs Foundation | – | 19,713 | (11,713) | (1,000) | 7,000 |
| Voices of Caer | – | 850 | (654) | (196) | – |
| Co-op Local Community Fund | – | 1,902 | (807) | (1,095) | – |
| Caer Centre Development | – | 46,784 | (10,438) | – | 36,346 |
| | 1,261,520 | 1,382,306 | (1,142,276) | (138,248) | 1,363,302 |

## 25. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

### Restricted funds (year to 31 March 2023)

| | At 1 Apr 2022 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | At 31 Mar 23 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACE Cares | – | 27,655 | (23,143) | (4,512) | – |
| ACE Community Support | 50,830 | 38,426 | (44,783) | (7,004) | 37,469 |
| ACE Food | 22,591 | 9,504 | (13,841) | (4,449) | 13,805 |
| ACE Giving | 10,715 | 12,073 | (7,968) | (800) | 14,020 |
| ACE Health | 16,242 | 194,757 | (142,733) | (14,497) | 53,769 |
| ACE Housing | 2,996 | – | (2,996) | – | – |
| Arts Council of Wales | – | 85,321 | (54,930) | (1,664) | 28,727 |
| Baring | – | – | – | – | – |
| Benthyg | 22,242 | 878 | (23,421) | 2,666 | 2,365 |
| Bereavement Support | – | 50,997 | (47,991) | (3,006) | – |
| Bevan Foundation | 2,042 | 22,949 | (8,509) | (4,525) | 11,957 |
| Caer Enterprises | 2,071 | 6,578 | (11,794) | 9,497 | 6,352 |
| Children in Need | – | 40,987 | (31,235) | (3,424) | 6,328 |
| Creative Grow | – | 2,900 | (1,894) | – | 1,006 |
| Diana Gardens | 7,803 | 3,049 | (7,514) | – | 3,338 |
| Dusty Shed | 2,706 | 8,148 | (6,984) | – | 3,870 |
| Grace Project | 904 | 31,015 | (28,954) | (1,268) | 1,697 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | 783,776 | 133,542 | (212,201) | (6,760) | 698,357 |
| Independent Age | – | 20,000 | (27) | (1,578) | 18,395 |
| Macmillan | 696 | 26,142 | (26,668) | (170) | – |
| Memorial Garden | – | 3,000 | (200) | – | 2,800 |
| Moondance Foundation | 48,367 | – | (43,609) | – | 4,758 |
| Redress and Cardiff Council Hardship Fund | 97,664 | 100,000 | (189,724) | (7,940) | – |
| Save the Children | – | 2,400 | – | – | 2,400 |
| Shape your Future | – | 50,000 | (46,013) | (3,987) | – |
| Summer of Smiles | 5,827 | 5,540 | (4,357) | (508) | 6,502 |
| Together Trust | 130,198 | (25,139) | (88,894) | (16,165) | – |
| WCVA | 10,612 | – | (10,612) | – | – |
| Welsh Gov - Communities Facilities Programme | 260,602 | – | (7,073) | – | 253,529 |
| Western Power | – | 9,921 | (7,331) | (2,590) | – |
| Working Well and Helping Working Families | 65,401 | 119,603 | (92,997) | (13,035) | 78,972 |
| Workplace Youth | – | – | (390) | (2,617) | (3,007) |
| Youth Innovation | 13,160 | 49,999 | (42,548) | (6,500) | 14,111 |
| COVID Support | 22,197 | – | (22,197) | – | – |
| Mind | 1,985 | – | – | (1,985) | – |
| Pantry | 12,107 | – | (12,107) | – | – |
| Tier 0 | 57,034 | 64,446 | (44,980) | (76,500) | – |
| | 1,650,768 | 1,094,691 | (1,310,618) | (173,321) | 1,261,520 |

**25. Analysis of charitable funds** *(continued)*

**Arts Council of Wales:** This money was used to fund a project to engage young people from 14-16, 16-18 and 16-24 age categories.

**ACE Cares:** This national lottery funding pays for community development activity aimed at exploring the community's role in supporting people with care and support needs and unpaid carers within the Ely and Caerau communities.

**ACE Community Support:** This money is to the support a programme to provide information, practical support and advice to vulnerable community members in Ely and Caerau.

**ACE Food:** Budget for developing community food projects including Dusty Community Kitchen, Cafe Barr and Food for Life Get Togethers.

**ACE Giving:** An opportunity for individuals to make a financial contribution to ACE's charitable work through donations, sponsorship and fundraising activities.

**ACE Health:** This money was for the development and delivery of health and wellbeing initiatives, including social prescribing, community development, participation and engagement work.

**ACE Housing:** Provision of a high quality, affordable, well maintained rental home to a local family, with additional support through ACE services where necessary.

**Benthyg:** WCVA Landfill Trust this funding supported the development of a new library of things project (ACE Benthyg), offering a range of household items for community members to borrow at low cost.

**Bereavement support:** This grant pays for a multi-partner project with ACE, CCAWS and Cardiff People First, delivering a mix of direct counselling, bereavement courses and development of peer support approaches, aimed at engaging groups who have been traditionally under-represented in mainstream bereavement support services.

**Bevan Foundation:** This funded 1 day a week staff time to bring about systems change through community engagement contributing to various consultations to inform policy change.

**Caer Enterprises:** Development of social enterprise and income generating activity related to ACE's CAER Heritage project, including sales of CAER T-shirts and art.

**Children In Need:** This money is to fund a project which uses local heritage and history as inspiration for experimental and exploratory STEM activities and projects.

**Creative Grow:** This money was used Delivery of indoor art/garden sessions, room hire & materials.

**Diana Gardens/ Grapevine:** This money is to support the development of the 'Diana Gardens' site, community activity on and around the site and community capacity building with local volunteers.

**Dusty Shed:** This money was used to support a Men's Shed project based at the Dusty Forge.

**Grace Project:** This project supports men in the community who are involved with the criminal justice system. The Grand Avenues project is a partnership between HMPPS, SVP and ACE.

**25. Analysis of charitable funds** *(continued)*

Funding was used to fund a staff member for 3 days a week, a staff member 1/2 day a week, project costs and management costs to support the men on the project address issues around health, income and housing.

**Heritage Lottery Fund:** This money was used to deliver the CAER Heritage Project.

**Independent Age:** This project supports older people in the community to stay warm in their homes, through income maximisation and energy support. This income has funded a full time Older Persons Caseworker.

**Macmillan:** A project exploring how community development approaches can be used to increase the range of supportive care available for people who are dying, those supporting someone who is dying and people who are facing or experiencing bereavement.

**Memorial Garden:** This project is developing a new community garden to support activities that bring people together and support community connection and wellbeing.

**MIND (Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund: Wales)** A project to increase the capacity and reach of the Phone Friends project and to make it more accessible for people with a learning disability, working in partnership with Cardiff People First.

**Moondance Foundation:** This money is to fund the Caer Heritage Project.

**Pantry:** This money is to support the membership food club providing affordable food shop for members in food poverty / insecurity. The project includes running a community food shop and delivery service using surplus food supplied by Fareshare project to support struggling working families to get involved in the design and delivery of community projects tackling in work poverty.

**Redress Warm and Cardiff Council Hardship Fund:** Affordable warmth advice and support for community members in / at risk of fuel poverty delivered through drop in / case work sessions.

**Save the Children:** This was used to fund a series of art workshops over the summer holidays for children and young people living in Ely and Caerau. The Ehangu project enabled working with community partners to develop new initiatives supporting early years projects in Ely and Caearau.

**Summer of Smiles:** Income was used to provide a range of inclusive activities for children and young people across the communities of Ely and Caerau.

**Tier 0:** This money is to support a mental health service which provides psychological interventions through 1-1 guided self-help sessions and the delivery of psychoeducational courses.

**Together Trust:** This money is to deliver Building Communities Trust (BCT) invest local programme.

**Voluntary Sector Recovery:** This project supported volunteers to re-engage with ACE after the Pandemic disruption, providing staff time to run reintegration sessions and follow up support, training and update our volunteer processes to help volunteers with overcome barriers to contributing to projects.

**WCVA:** This funding was to diversify the income of ACE Training through the development of a website to increase sales and promote to a wider audience, particularly targeting the private

## 25. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

sector. It also funded consultants to conduct market research and develop a training package bespoke to ACE underlining ACE's approaches in Asset Based Community Development, Community Organising and Co-production. The training is now being offered to the public, statutory and third sector who wish their teams to learn about the afore mentioned principles and how to put them into practice as it relates to their work.

**Welsh Government Communities Facilities Programme:** This is a capital fund to support the refurbishment and renovation of community buildings.

**Western Power:** This funds our advice provision supporting those in fuel poverty/fuel crisis.

**Working Well and Helping Working Families:** This is a partnership project with Tempo and Citizens Cymru to combine asset based community development with community organising approaches to enable sustainable solutions to in work poverty to be identified, piloted and developed.

**Workplace Youth:** This funding through Waterloo Foundation was used to engage with young people aged 16 to 25yrs in a series of woodwork sessions, and Level 1 Health and Safety in a Construction Environment Training. The aim of the funding was to support young people into work.

**Youth Innovation:** This money was used to support local groups, organise and support voluntary youth activities.

**Transfers:** Relates to capital spend where the conditions of the grant has been fulfilled, management charge overhead allocation and internal project recharges. Where projects have incurred an overspend the board have agreed for unrestricted funds to cover the deficits.

## 26. Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | **Total Funds 2024 £** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tangible fixed assets | 93,009 | 876,215 | 969,224 |
| Investments | 210,010 | – | 210,010 |
| Current assets | 269,010 | 487,085 | 756,095 |
| Creditors less than 1 year | (6,763) | – | (6,763) |
| **Net assets** | 565,266 | 1,363,300 | 1,928,566 |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tangible fixed assets | 94,379 | 936,162 | 1,030,541 |
| Investments | 220,010 | – | 220,010 |
| Current assets | 261,677 | 325,358 | 587,035 |
| Creditors less than 1 year | (48,797) | – | (48,797) |
| **Net assets** | 527,269 | 1,261,520 | 1,788,789 |

## 27. Analysis of changes in net funds

| | At 1 Apr 2023 | Cash flows | At 31 Mar 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 411,667 | 227,046 | 638,713 |

## 28. Charges on assets

The National Heritage Memorial Fund have a registration of charge over the leasehold of Caerau Evangelical Church, Church Road, Caerau, Cardiff, CF5 5LQ.

## 29. Related parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

**ACE (ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150422

# Accounts

ace
Action in Caerau & Ely
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

# Action in Caerau and Ely

## Annual Report 2022 - 2023

ace

Action in Caerau & Ely

Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

# Action in Caerau and Ely

"Our Ambitions For Our Community Through Our Own Efforts"

## Annual Report 2022 - 2023

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1.

# Message from the Chair

Yet again, ACE has managed to cope with even greater challenges from the global economic turmoil and the effects of the pandemic. The main focus for this year has been consolidation, with only a few new projects. In March 2023, the funding for two big projects came to an end, so planning was put in place for replacement funding income. Our staff numbers have remained stable, with many working on more than one project during their working week.

The pressures on balancing the books have been intensified by the rise in energy bills, especially as businesses weren't covered by the same energy cap and assistance schemes as residential users. With this in mind, Sam Froud-Powell and Hazel Cryer were tasked with looking for core funding part-time.

On the surface the staff are coping well, but like swans they are working frantically behind the scenes to keep to budgets and investigate new funding opportunities. ACE's reputation among previous and existing partners has resulted in invitations to apply for project funding, which has saved a lot of time and effort.

Our dedicated community support team received funding from sources including Welsh Government, Cardiff Council and a private donor to issue over 2,700 fuel vouchers to help those who were impacted most from soaring energy bills. The demand for membership of the Pantry, and use of Café Barr and the community shop has again massively increased. In the case of the Pantry, new sources of food donations have had to be found to meet demand as the supplies to FareShare have decreased.

The dedicated team of ACE volunteers have achieved Green Flag status for the gardens around the Dusty in partnership with Grow Cardiff, and an Investing in Volunteers award, which is nationally recognised. The staff and volunteers together make an amazing team, without which ACE couldn't have achieved what it has so far or continue to do so.

At the beginning of 2023, co-director Dave Horton gave notice that he was standing down to concentrate on developing the ACE Way training project. In April, Michelle Powell became Director, with Sam and Hazel appointed as full time Operational Development Managers. This has led to a reorganisation of some other roles, and maximised use of resources.

Who knows what the future will bring to challenge the ACE team, but I have every confidence that together we will find a way to succeed in supporting our community.

*Marian Dixey,*
*Chair of Trustees, September 2023.*

ACE Volunteering Award
ace

# Equal

I like going to gym!
I love going to the park with friends!
I love going to COGG gymnastics!
like going bear hunts the woods!

2.

# About ACE

## Our Vision

To create 'vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live'.

## Our Values

**At ACE we believe:**

- Local people know their community best
- Everyone has something unique to contribute
- Everyone's contribution should be valued equally
- Poverty should not be accepted as a fact of life
- Social injustice should be challenged and changed

We work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision
- Co-producing projects and services that make use of assets and meet needs
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities

**Our Theory of Change:**

**Need:**
We tackle poverty, disadvantage and related complex needs on all fronts using a fully integrated approach.

**Solutions:**
Co-produced initiatives build confidence, skills, capacity and resilience, improving mental health and promoting supportive social networks.

**Outcomes:**
Local people report a range of outcomes including improved wellbeing, securing employment, completing training, stronger social networks and greater aspirations.

**Impact:**
Local people who have developed confidence, skills and energy contribute these to collective approaches to community development

In 2023 we have conducted an Operational Plan review, streamlined our work and re-structured our teams. The Operational Plan review will inform our new Strategic Plan 2023-26 which will be completed in October 23.

At ACE, the way we work is just as important as the things we do. Watch our new video **'The ACE Way'** to get a feel for how we work with and alongside people in our community.

Thank You!
Thank You!

# Resilient

Cardiff Volunteer Awards 2022
Trustee of the Year
WINNER
Marian Dixey

3.

# Investing in Volunteers

## A BIG thank you to all ACE volunteers and staff who helped us achieve the 'Investing in volunteers' award!

ACE – Action in Caerau & Ely is proud to be an Investing in Volunteers (IiV) achiever, having been awarded the quality mark/ standard in 2023 for the first time.

Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for all organisations involving volunteers. It shows that ACE values our volunteers and demonstrates our commitment to volunteering within the organisation.

Investing in Volunteers aims to improve the quality of the volunteering experience for everyone and demonstrates that organisations value the enormous contribution made by their volunteers. ACE was assessed against six quality areas and proved to excel in all aspects of working with its volunteers.

20 volunteers were interviewed (out of 68 when assessed, not including trustees). They also interviewed staff members and Mel Witherden, the chair of trustees at the time. He said:

*"Volunteers and local people are in the driving seat for development, they are integral to the organisation and will always be part of the decision making.*

*Volunteers bring so many skills, so much experience, and they have so many ideas. Many volunteers have experienced inequality and have a passion to support people in their community; bringing that into the organisation is invaluable. We would not be ACE without the volunteers.*

*All volunteers can access training that is relevant to their role or their personal development goals.*

*Volunteers bring so much to ACE, they share their life experiences and support and learn from each other, we learn from them too, and volunteers really represent the community spirit in which we work."*

For the future, ACE is committed to further build our volunteering programme. We are currently looking at our core principles and how we can maintain these, ensuring community and volunteering remains key to the organisation.

## Six Quality Areas:

**Vision for volunteering:**

Volunteering is embedded within the overall vision, values, culture and aims of the organisation and its impact is recognised and communicated. Organisations understand why they involve volunteers.

**Planning for volunteers:**
People, policies and procedures have been put in place to ensure volunteering is well-managed.

**Volunteer inclusion:**
There is a positive approach to inclusion, equity and diversity and a proactive approach to making volunteering accessible.

**Recruiting and welcoming volunteers:**
It is easy for people to find out about opportunities, explore whether they are right for them, and get involved.

**Supporting volunteers:**
Volunteers feel supported at all times, that they are a part of the organisation and that their contribution makes a difference.

**Valuing and developing volunteers:**
Volunteers are valued and there are opportunities for volunteers to develop and grow through their experience.

*'I have made friends with people who I would not have met before volunteering'.*

*'I love it so much I have told other people who struggle to come and access support and volunteer'.*

*'The organisation is so supportive of volunteers. I see greatness from volunteers daily'.*

*'ACE helps us see the impact we are having in a community with very little, it helps families and people in the community to connect. ACE has really built up my confidence – it's amazing'.*

*'Staff see me each time I volunteer and help me feel I make a difference'.*

**Read the full report online:**
https://www.aceplace.org/ace-achievement-of-investing-in-volunteers-award/

4.

# Ely and Caerau Community Plan

We are gathering together the views of people of all ages across the whole of Ely and Caerau. We want to explore together what we can do to strengthen our community and help each other out. We're asking:

- What do we have?
- What do we need?
- What do we want to change?

Some things we can change ourselves, working together across our community. For other things, we will need support from those who have the resources to make change. We'll use the information we gather to make a community plan for Ely and Caerau, working together with Cardiff Council and the Public Services Board to agree a plan with defined budgets and timescales. We aim to do this by March 2024.

This work is with the support of the Welsh Government, Cardiff Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner's office, who are funding our new Community Engagement Team. It's a chance for all of us living in Ely and Caerau to raise our voices in an organised way, to share our ideas and come together to bring positive change. ACE does this all the time - listening to our communities and working together to bring change. There's a lot we can do when we join together our strengths, skills, experiences and resources.

We want as many people as possible to share their ideas and contribute to this community plan, so please get in touch at **communityplan@aceplace.org** to have your say, or share your views in our **online survey here**.

There are a lot of people involved in this work! To find out how the Community Steering Group, the Public Service Board Working Group and the Ministerial Reference Group are working together to co-create the community plan with residents, **read more on our blog**.

**Follow us on**
**Facebook@ECCommunityplan**
**Instagram@actionincaerauandely**
to find out about events, groups and chats in your area and join in.

5.

# Community Support

***Check out our new Community Support website for more info, videos and stories: https://www.ace-communitysupport.com/***

## ACE Advice and Support

ACE Community Support is a service that helps people in financial crisis to access foodbank vouchers, fuel support and help to manage debt and receive benefit support.

We have increased household income in the community by £136,756 supporting 2312 households with fuel vouchers, grants and unclaimed benefits. We offer specialist support to parents of children with additional needs and host two monthly Legal Clinics offering free legal advice for those experiencing issues around Children's Law and Financial Safeguarding.

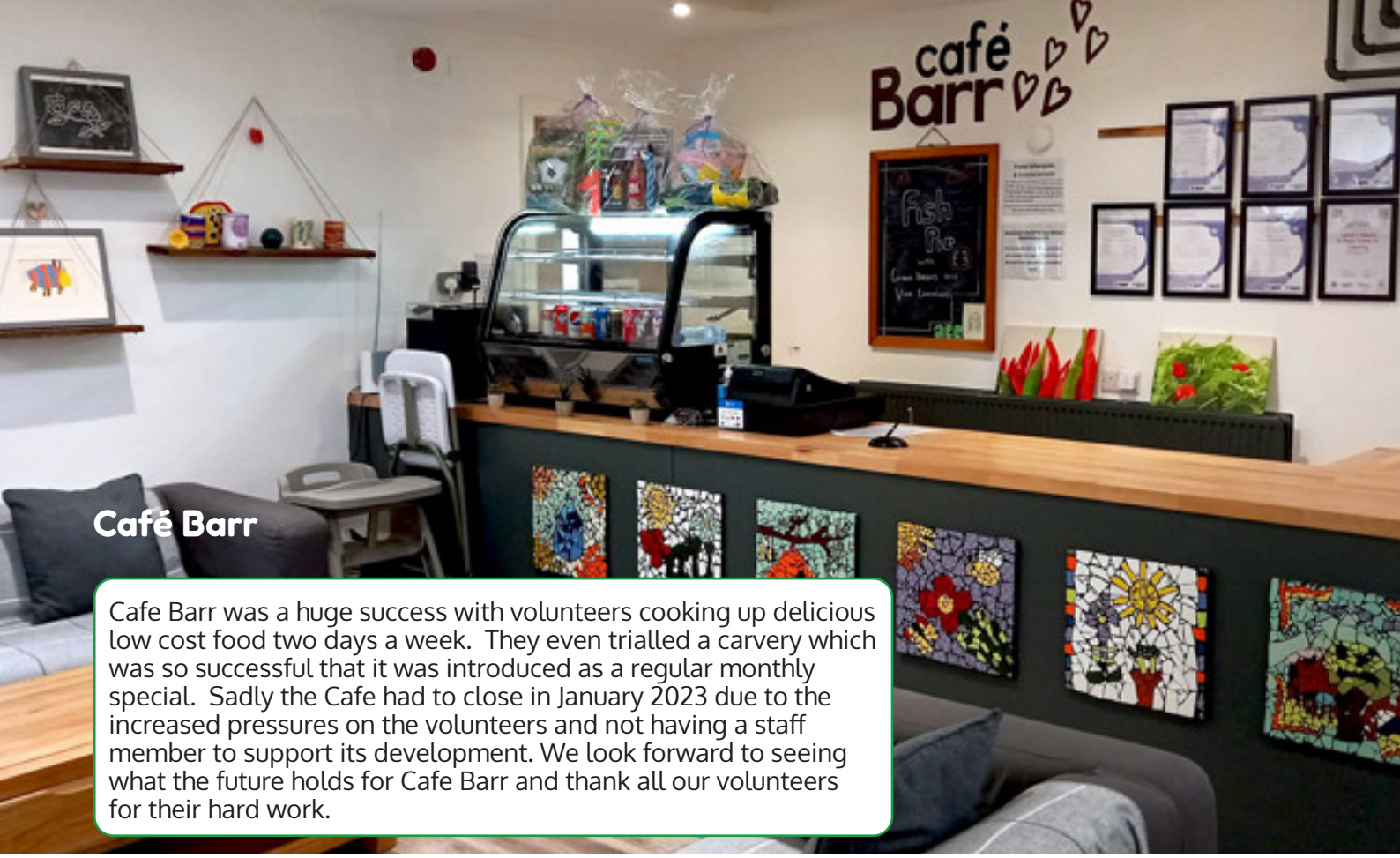
*"I can't thank you enough for all you have done, I couldn't have done this by myself, it was so stressful."*

## Your Local Pantry

The Pantry is in more demand than ever due to the increase in food and fuel costs, with 167 members. We receive visits from over 150 households every week who have come to rely on the service. Members pay £5 for a choice of £15-£20 worth of food. We also offer low cost cleaning items and toiletries.

At the pantry we care for our members like family, offering support, choice and friendship. We offer an experience that allows us to not only give practical support but to offer a listening ear with no judgement. Our pantry is a safe space for all to come and feel welcome.

*"Very friendly people here, the food top's up my cupboard for the week, I look forward to my weekly visit for a chat"*




## Café Barr

Cafe Barr was a huge success with volunteers cooking up delicious low cost food two days a week. They even trialled a carvery which was so successful that it was introduced as a regular monthly special. Sadly the Cafe had to close in January 2023 due to the increased pressures on the volunteers and not having a staff member to support its development. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for Cafe Barr and thank all our volunteers for their hard work.

## ACE Benthyg

ACE Benthyg is our Library of Things where our community can borrow items at low cost. We've diversified to include different activities around repair, reuse, recycle and tackling climate change. We have a total of 258 items available to hire with more items added daily. There are 614 members with 313 subscribed members, with 275 'borrows' over the year. We have begun to transform a disused parcel of land into a peace garden in collaboration with local schools and HMPPS. ACE Benthyg is also working with the Cardiff Curriculum team to aid in the creation and development of the new school curriculum based around the Welsh Government's circular economy.

## Repair Café

Our busy Dusty repair cafe has been running on the 4th Saturday each month for the last 4 years. Since we started in 2019, our team of eight volunteer 'fixers' have checked 479 items, with 3 out of 4 items being successfully repaired. Our volunteer hosts provide a warm and friendly welcome and all repairs are free, including bikes, electrical items, IT equipment, toys, ceramics and textiles. As well as saving money and helping the environment, customers can learn how to do simple repairs while watching our 'fixers' repair their items.

*"Fantastic! Thank you - you brought Teddy the Bear back to life."*

*"A thoroughly excellent service - quick and I learnt something."*

## ACE Community Shop

The community shop has been as busy as ever in light of the Cost of Living crisis. It has seen a huge increase in numbers and growing demand particularly for childrens clothes.

The volunteers have worked so hard to provide vital support to those who need it and ensure that stock is rotated and redistributed back into the community to those who need it.

October 2023: The community shop is temporarily closed to allow for a refit, and will reopen in early November to provide a wider range of support as part of ACE's growing projects to promote sustainable living and save people money during the cost of living crisis.

*"I can't keep replacing the clothes they have outgrown, they are growing so fast. This place is a godsend and I know I can bring in their outgrown clothes too so I don't feel so bad, its like a swap shop."*

## Lived Experiences

In partnership with The Bevan Foundation, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, we contributed to many discussions within the Senedd. Through monthly focus groups we developed an evidence base capturing peoples lived experiences of poverty. This was a really powerful piece of work and contributed to policy change regarding Cost of Living Support.

We were also funded through the Welsh Government to hear from parents of children under 6, parents of children with additional learning needs and a group of young people from the ACE Youth Council. We submitted our findings to the Welsh Government to help them in rewriting the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales.

*"I'm only 14 but why can't I work part time? It would help take the pressure off my mum and dad, I won't need to ask them for money all the time if I earned my own."*

You can watch our video, **ACE Lived Experiences project with the Bevan Foundation -** here.

## Grand Avenues

The Grand Avenues project is a partnership between His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, ACE and St Vincent De Paul (SVP). The project works with men on probation, ensuring the men have access to income, health support and community interventions. The men feel better connected with the community which reduces the likelihood of reoffending.

The project is gaining momentum and between 2022-2023, 38 men were supported to claim a total of £51,568 in benefits, supported into work and able to access vital GP support on release from prison.

*"Doing my probation in the community means I am not seeing the same people I used to get into trouble with. There is so much help here. I don't want to go back into that life."*

6.

# ‘I’ve got a sense of purpose’ – Scott’s story

Before I was with ACE I was using every day. I was living in a flat for a few months, but I still felt homeless. My lifestyle was chaos. I would get on the bus with a sleeping bag and I would go begging all day down town for money for valium, crack and heroin. But obviously, the lifestyle that goes with that is really, really hectic, dangerous, unhealthy. And it affects your mental health a lot as well.

I did have one thing in my head that ended up getting me out in the end. My son’s 18th birthday was coming up in a couple of years, and I wanted to get clean to see him. My parental responsibility was removed from me when he was 12. So yeah, I was in a really, really bad situation before I started engaging with ACE. When I spoke to my Pobl worker about the negative feelings that I was feeling, she said right, let’s get you doing something. She asked me what my interests were. I said history, and stuff outdoors, and she said right, well I know that CAER Heritage Centre are doing stuff at the hillfort.

So I started volunteering with the Love our Hillfort group, and while I was there, I was trying to clean myself up a bit, drastically reduced the amount of drugs I was using, and part of that was because I had something to do during the day. And I started making friends within the group.

And then another one of my interests was art. Pobl told me about the art group at the Dusty. I started making friends there. And I started seeing that I didn't have to live my life the way it was. I had a reason to get up in the morning, some kind of direction and not go and do what I was doing to block everything out. When you're doing art it's good, there's nothing else to think about apart from making something nice. Then I started going to Diana gardens. So that was like three days out of my week that I had something positive to do, and I started making friends at all three groups.

I managed to stop using, I was just still on the methadone. I was doing it by myself. I started looking after myself a lot more because I was around other people who respected themselves. And that gave me more self respect, because I wasn't hanging around with people that hadn't showered for weeks and weeks and just didn't care. So there was a positive influence on me.

This was in the lockdown period and I was using the pantry, so I started eating better. I was really really underweight, so getting a balanced diet had a massive effect on me. The basics have to come first, so, go to bed at a decent time, sleep, wake up, have a shower, have something to eat and that. I mean, I hadn't been doing those things for such a long time. Sometimes I didn't talk to anybody for days. So like, having the thing with ACE, you know, where people want to talk to you and they want to help you and they're interested, and some of the people like the volunteers had gone through similar things as well. That was absolutely amazing that was, like. It was like stepping into a different world, and it was one that I was really, really happy to be in.

I was at Diana Gardens when I met Christian who introduced me to SVP, where I work now. So if it wasn't for the work I was doing with ACE, potentially I wouldn't be working here now. He told me that I could use my lived experience to perhaps get a job working alongside probation and that just blew my mind. I realised that even though what happened was bad, I could use it for good, and help other people. So I started volunteering at the Grand Avenues project at SVP in January or February and started studying at the careers office too. I had a job by August.

I'm loving [the peer mentoring role at SVP], I'm really enjoying it. I really like helping people. It's something new every day. I get to help people that are in the situation I used to be in. And that gives you a really good feeling inside that does, yeah. They've been very, very supportive, you know, making me employable and improving social skills, and getting involved with different activities and that.

The big change has been having a sense of purpose. Like when I was volunteering with the Dusty, even though I had something to do, I had no purpose or direction. So when I started coming here to SVP, I had a direction to go for the job, and a purpose, which is helping people who were in the same situation I was all those years.

I'm still engaging with the Dusty Forge, I've been volunteering with ACE Youth and the men's club, Forge Masters. Hannah Bees encouraged me to do the Youth and Community Course, she said go for it, you know, and it's like a university accreditation. And, wow, I've never done anything like that before. Like, you know, I failed all my exams, all the ones I went to like, anyway, so yeah, what an opportunity. It's amazing.

I got off the methadone and the diazepam. Getting my medication changed was a big thing. My mental health is so much better, because obviously I've got these other things going on. I'm looking after my physical health. I've got a sense of purpose, I've got good direction, I've got support all around me. So if I do ever need support, then I know I can just call one of my colleagues in and say, look, this is going on, I need a bit of support with this.

I'm working, I'm healthier. I go to the gym. I've been eating better. My mood has been better. Yeah, things have just changed dramatically for me. I've applied for a job working for HMPPS as a substance misuse officer with young people on probation. And I want to start driving, and do all the things that people do, go on holidays and that. I would never have considered that before.

# 7. Health and Wellbeing

## Yourspace Wellbeing Support

### South West Cardiff

Yourspace South West provides 1:1 wellbeing support and develops new community-led wellbeing activities across South West Cardiff. Referrals are seen promptly and wellbeing connectors offer a range of signposting options with an engaging person-centred approach. Our team supported 508 people to improve their wellbeing in April '22 - March '23.

Our development workers have been adept at developing a range of activities to meet needs, including wellbeing courses, outings and sewing groups. Our experienced team continues to provide a service that is tailored to the individual, supporting them to improve their self confidence and widen their social networks, with 83% of participants showing an improvement in wellbeing.

### North Cardiff

Yourspace North Cardiff is a new pilot project, started in January 2023. It provides 1:1 wellbeing support and develops new community-led wellbeing activities across North Cardiff. The service was commissioned by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and works in close partnership with Cardiff North Primary Care Cluster.

The team have been getting to know the range of organisations working in the Cluster, mapping current provision and identifying opportunities for working together. Many services and groups have been engaged, particularly organisations relevant for people of different ages, ethnicity, religion and those with particular health, mental health or mobility needs.

*"Can I just say that the lovely lady has been so helpful (within my unfortunate situation) she is so understanding and I am so very grateful for her help."*

## Diana Garden Project

*"I think there's been quite a few changes as a result of getting involved in Diana garden – the fulfilment, the working with other people, I found that really valuable. I really look forward to my Tuesdays here. I wake up in the morning, and I'm happy about coming here. The happiness factor is really big."*
*- Steve Lyons*
*Read his story on page 21*

In the last year, the Diana Garden project has received funding to carry on its weekly volunteer sessions as well as employ a second staff member. The project has grown a diverse group of volunteers as well as started working with HM Prison and Probation service which made a massive difference for the improvement of the garden.

We ran weekly gardening sessions, engaging the local community in gardening and social activities. We have engaged HM Prison and Probation service in green activities and improvement of the space. We ran a couple of events for families where we shared our gardening and wildlife knowledge.

## ACE Compassionate Communities

We aim to enhance support and compassion for people experiencing isolation, loneliness or disconnection from the community due to illness, caring responsibilities, approaching end of life and/or bereavement. We spoke with 63 people this year. Funded by Macmillan, the Welsh Government and supported by the Compassionate Cymru Movement, working across South West Cardiff.

This year, we gave out 125 Wellbeing boxes and volunteers provided 5 'back home' boxes to people in End of Life care and their carers. We have facilitated 27 Griefspace peer support sessions. 125 Kindness cards were made by local children and adults, and 10 volunteers made hundreds of crochet gifts. ACE remains part of the Compassionate Cymru Steering group.

*"Thanks so much, this is just so lovely. I can't believe this is just for me, it's just so special." – Recipient of a Wellbeing Box*

## ACE Cares

In July 2022 we partnered with Cwmpas on a two-year project to test out and learn from different approaches to community-led care. Our local communities and partners have been exploring how we can foster and strengthen a caring community in Ely and Caerau, looking at existing local assets and the role of service-providers and decision-makers.

We helped establish a group for local carers, who are building a wider support network and supporting each other, and secured funding for short break activities. Events have brought together local people, community groups and services to share knowledge and ideas. We have established a network of local 'Changemakers' who will help shape the delivery of the project.

# 8.

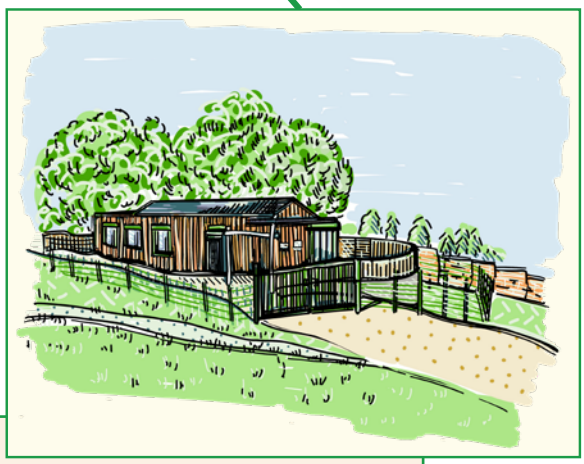
# ACE Places

**Diana Gardens:**

- Diana Garden project

**Our Place: Dusty Forge:**

- Advice drop-in
- Crisis Support
- Pantry
- Café Barr
- Community Shop
- ACE Training
- ACE Arts
- Grief Space
- Retreat social group
- Knit and Natter
- Wellbeing coffee mornings
- Crochet club
- Benthyg - Library of Things
- Repair Cafe
- Grow Well - community garden
- The Dusty Shed



**CAER Heritage Centre:**

- Carers Club
- Love Our Hillfort group
- Hidden Hillfort gardening group
- Umbrella - neurodiversity support group for parents
- Community Learning

## Grow Well at The Dusty Forge Community Garden

*"I feel wanted, it brings you out of yourself."*
*"I use it as a break in my work routine, to allow a mental break. I can take the positives back with me afterwards."*

One of the 3 gardens that offers therapeutic community gardens sessions led by staff from Grow Cardiff in partnership with ACE and the Cardiff SW Primary Care Cluster is the hidden gem behind the Dusty Forge. Every Monday, a team of volunteers meet for a cuppa and some nature-based care: looking after the garden, our wildlife and most importantly each other. Many have never grown a plant before, but we learn together and share skills in many ways; recipes, crafting, DIY and a listening ear. You can be referred by your health care professional or staff at ACE, but self-referrals are also welcome.

More info: growwell@growcardiff.org

## The Dusty Shed

The Dusty Shed is an independent charity, run by its members, with a mission to combat the issue of loneliness and social isolation among our community's older residents.

In our ongoing commitment to safety and well-being, several of our members completed training in First Aid and Mental Health Awareness. Furthermore, we enhanced outdoor security of our premises by installing a sliding door and an additional lockable door at the rear.

ACE's open day showcased our work to our local community. Alongside community projects, we aid ACE's Repair Café, Library of Things, and undertake minor maintenance tasks at the Dusty Forge.

## CAER Heritage

The CAER Heritage Hidden Hillfort project, successfully completed this year, has sought to put Caerau and Ely's incredible history at the heart of community regeneration efforts. Our partnership with Cardiff University has seen: the establishment of CAER Heritage and Learning Centre, installation of footpath improvements and interpretation at Caerau Hillfort, new funded routes to university for young people, and community involvement in archaeological research that has helped us tell a different story about our home.

Amongst many other highlights, this year saw the fabulous CAER Love our Hillfort group and other volunteers create a stunning tapestry and nurture the heritage centre garden to its current glory!

Our second community archaeology excavation at Trelai Park excavated the first known house in Cardiff dating to the Bronze Age almost 4,000 years ago. There were incredible finds from an Air Raid Patrol badge dropped during the Second World War to flint arrowheads from the early Bronze Age. The dig had over 1000 visitors with 257 local volunteers participating and 159 school pupils from 5 local schools. Importantly, the dig also generated significant and very positive media coverage for our communities and was reported widely in Wales, the UK and internationally. It will also feature in Channel 4's Digging for Britain TV programme. An incredibly rare Bronze Age pot discovered during the 2022 community dig has been lovingly reconstructed and has gone on display to the community at the CAER Centre. Over 70 volunteers have been involved in finds cleaning, sieving and post-dig analysis and activities at the CAER Centre over the summer of 2023.

Following a series of co-creation working groups with local people the CAER Centre is entering a new phase as a learning hub. Cardiff University's out-going Vice Chancellor, Prof Colin Riordan, visited the CAER Centre in July 2023 and has committed significant sustainability funding to the project and Centre, initially for one year but with a view to sustaining this for three years. This funding will create two new full time posts along with a small annual project budget (a CAER Centre development officer employed by ACE and a Community Partnership Manager employed by Cardiff University) who will staff the CAER Centre from later this autumn and develop partnerships, funding bids, volunteer and learning activities.

*"There is something lovely about relaxing into the heritage work with other people, which I didn't get from my work relationships. The sense of community as well as the history of the area are both important, and you can't separate one from the other."*

9.

# ‘A life’s for living and getting outside’ – Steve’s story

I’m 70 years old now. Early last year I retired from a job I’d been doing for 35 years, supporting people around drug and alcohol issues. I take my dog for a walk, I enjoy walking. But the one thing I really missed, since my wife is working full time, is contact with other people. So that drove me to look for opportunities. And luckily enough ACE needed volunteers, so I applied for that. I had a keen interest in gardening – I’ve always enjoyed growing my own vegetables. I would call myself an ever-learning volunteer.

I think there’s been quite a few changes as a result of getting involved in Diana garden - the fulfilment, the working with other people, I found that really valuable. I really look forward to my Tuesdays here. I wake up in the morning, and I’m happy about coming here. The happiness factor is really big.

It’s easy to drift down when you’re retired. You tend to think – I’ll just put my feet up, watch a bit more television rather than get out and about and do a bit. I feel really fulfilled about the continued learning, which I think life’s all about. Diana garden, definitely, lets me enjoy that. What we can’t emphasise enough is the happiness it brings people when you’re out in the fresh air. The conversations you have with comrades in work, it’s just really nice. And I think I’m happier for it, I’m fitter for it. I mean, I’m constantly learning here, which is great for my mind, because my memory is not as great as what it used to be.

There’s also team camaraderie, how we can raise each other’s self-esteem by being actively involved together and doing gardening, and that brings me a lot of pleasure as well. One of the greatest things I’ve seen is Vaida’s enthusiasm. I’ve never seen anybody so enthusiastic about seeing a ladybird, or a butterfly we haven’t seen before and I think that just generates so much within the group as well. And that’s the kind of vibe that’s in the garden. So I’d be ever thankful for Vaida for creating that. And I would like to see even more opportunities to work in the garden to spend more time here as well. One day a week is difficult.

There have been changes for people that live in the local community, a hundred percent. I’ve seen people coming in on the open days and you see the looks on the children’s faces and the parents... it has been really, really nice. There’s lots of opportunities here within ACE to get involved in what I see as very worthwhile projects that they provide. I think it’s doing a massive service for people in Ely and Cardiff. May long it roll on.

Diana garden has given me a purpose, keeping my mind active and focused. You know, it helps with so much, the camaraderie is a massive one for me and I just love it. It’s just really good.

*In September 2023, Steve started a new paid role with ACE as Diana Garden Development Worker.*

10.

# ACE Volunteers

ACE has 74 volunteers, spread across 14 different areas of work at the Dusty Forge, CAER Heritage Centre and Diana Gardens. Five are lead volunteers, giving extra support to staff. ALL our volunteers are AMAZING! They are dedicated, supportive, passionate and determined to help improve the lives of people living in Caerau & Ely.

**Volunteer Qualifications:**
Volunteers have gained numerous qualifications to develop and improve their skills and to help support the community more effectively. These include: food hygiene, safeguarding, first aid and mental health first aid, equality & diversity, self-awareness & personal development, team-working, communication skills, GDPR, managing conflict, dementia training, suicide awareness, manual handling and health and safety.

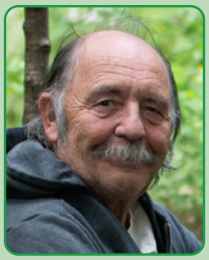
**Volunteer Events:**
We held another fabulous thank you and awards ceremony for the volunteers this year, recognising their contributions and achievements and the impact and difference they have made. This, along with the Christmas social event, was a great way to get staff and volunteers together from projects across the Dusty Forge, the CAER heritage centre and Diana Gardens to celebrate.

**Our current Lead volunteers are:**

**Frankie Curtis:**
CAER Gardening

**Penny Smith:**
Repair Café

**Diane Katy:**
Retreat



**Steve Lyons:**
Diana Gardens

**Kathy Wolfe:**
Walking Group

**THANK YOU to all our volunteers for another year of incredible commitment, compassion and selfless hard work.**

ACE also achieved the 'Investing in Volunteers' award status this year - see page 8 to find out more!

If you are interested in joining as a volunteer, please see our current volunteer opportunities: https://www.aceplace.org/volunteer-opportunities/

ACE is eager to share resources where possible, to support local initiatives and build community. ACE offers small pots of funding via the ACE Volunteer Fund to local community projects run by volunteers. In the last year funding was awarded to:

- Reflect Community Church
- Cardiff Imperial Redcoats
- Ely & Caerau Litter Pickers
- 10th Ely Rainbows
- Caerau, Ely Mini & Juniors Rugby

See what groups have spent their funds on.

# Vibrant

11.

# Arts and Heritage

*'I have a very big imagination and that's what I realise when I look at what I've made!'*
*('Young Arts for Change' participant)*

## ACE Arts story - Looking forward to Mondays

I was volunteering here with a project and then it stopped, so I thought, what do I do? And my relative said 'come to art' and I said 'but I can't draw', she said 'it's not even about the drawing, we do different things, we try different techniques'. I thought I'd give it a try, and then I came and I haven't stopped coming! I'm quite new, I've only been coming about two months, I'm still learning how to draw and how to trace things, doing the printing. I look forward to it now on the Mondays, I've got the long weekend home with the kids and then I'm like 'Ah, Monday's art'.

I used to hate Mondays. I got to the point where I didn't leave the house for 4 years, so coming back again was a struggle. Once I'm home, I don't want to go back out, so every Monday was a struggle to come in. But then I started looking forward to my Mondays, coming in for art, asking Nic what we're doing. They're really nice people, you know, you can just be yourself. From 8 weeks ago to now, there's a massive change, I actually want to be here rather than just thinking I can't be bothered, I won't go in.

It's given me motivation to get up. Because I've started my week off good, I'm like yeah ok, I've got this now! And then Wednesday I volunteer for the pantry project, so it's just a good start to the week. Most people try to do it at the end of the week but we need it at the beginning of the week. I'd say that's the most significant change for me, looking forward to Mondays, and that's only because of art, otherwise I wouldn't have had that.

The sessions are run awesome, I can't praise them enough. Relaxed, comfortable, you're not pressured, if you don't understand something they've got all the time in the world to explain it to you and show you. They're amazing. Really good. They've asked us what we want to display at the exhibition, quite a lot of asking what we want. I didn't go to Porth but I went to the Millennium Centre and we made some of the flowers for the display. There's quite a few places they will be showing the art. It was a nice day, because we got to help, some people painted the gorilla and I sat down and made the flowers, which was quite relaxing. It was good.

## ACE Arts

ACE Arts continues to thrive! Our 'Explore Collective' project is funded by Arts Council Wales 'Connect & Flourish' fund. It's a partnership between ACE, Valley's Kids Porth, Wales Millennium Centre, Straeon Research and Disability Arts Cymru, working with artists Nic Parsons, Becci Booker, a photographer Suzie Larke, and a poet Rachel Carney. This year we have engaged with over 40 regular participants across both sites and offered art activities to hundreds of community members at events.

We also received funding from Arts Council Wales to offer a program of 'Young Arts for Change' workshops at Fitzalan High School and the Dusty Forge.

*'It's just like a friendly family to me. I was never given the chance and I never had people around me who wanted to show me, now I've got people who take the time to show me and teach me. Nobody ever took the time to work with me or do anything with me. Now I'm learning things which is making me feel better.'*

## ACE Consult

ACE is providing support to the 'Together for Trowbridge and St. Mellons' project through hosting employment of staff, mentoring and advice.

## Together for Trowbridge and St. Mellons (T4TSM)

Together for Trowbridge and St. Mellons (T4TSM) is one of 13 Invest Local Programmes in Wales funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. This year we have supported the formation of a new charity known locally as Hope St Mellons and provided core funding allowing them to increase their staff team, take on the management of The Beacon Centre and develop their projects. We have worked with East Cardiff School of Performing Arts to provide accessible, affordable and high quality performance training for children, youth and young adults. We are supporting Trowbridge Pantry to develop their governance and sustainability.

12.

# Children, Young People and Families

## ACE Youth

ACE Youth provided 521 young people with a safe space to feel supported, have their voices heard and gain new experiences and opportunities. The youth club was held at Caer Heritage Centre three evenings a week in partnership with Curiosity Club, with over 60 young people attending each evening. Ace Youth Council make all the decisions for the youth club.

Exciting trips included Drayton Manor (40), ice skating (60), and workshops with Techniquest (50). Young people also engaged in community events such as Youth Funday, Dusty Christmas Fayre, North Ely Christmas Dinner event and fayre, and Cardiff Youth Council. Cardiff Youth Service funded ACE Youth from April 2022 - March 2023.

*"I enjoyed applying for funding. It was so rewarding, although the workshops were hard work. I can't wait to volunteer with ACE when I am sixteen."*

## Curiosity

Curiosity was a youth-led project, funded by Children in Need, that explored local history and heritage while building skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). In its third year, 146 young people engaged in after school sessions in primary schools and youth clubs. Interactive sessions and educational trips ranged from learning traditional weaving techniques to using archaeological isotopic evidence to understand past diets. Funding for Curiosity ended in May '23, but we will build on the partnerships and learning gained through this innovative project as we grow our programme of community learning at the CAER centre.

*"I have noticed changes within the children - they are more engaged and are more confident to ask questions. I think this is due to the university staff making the Curiosity Club so interesting. Curiosity Club is an adventure into history and science!" - Mrs Rice, Windsor Clive Primary School*

13.

# ‘I love seeing people progress’ - Charlene’s story

I had an established beauty business, The Beauty House. Nic had joined me as a business partner and slowly we were plodding along towards future targets we wanted to achieve. Getting there, but slowly.

I met Donna and heard how Shape your Future can help people progress in their careers. Since getting involved with Shape your Future, the massive change has been the training opportunities. I’d started the training academy and I knew it would be slow to take off, because it does cost a lot of money for people to access, and with the area we are in as well, but it was something that I wanted to do. With Donna’s help, the training side of the business has been able to take off a lot faster than I expected as well as offering opportunities to people in the community. So that is the biggest change, is the funding for people to access the training.

Shape your Future funds the rooms that we use for training, often at the Hub. All of the trainees get the kit, resources and training fully funded, so straight away when they leave the course they are able to start making money. There’s no obstacles in their way because they’ve got their qualifications already, they’ve got all the resources they need to go out and start working straight away. Personally, there have been a lot of courses in the past that I’ve not been able to do because it’s a worry to think how much have you got to make back to cover the cost of what you’ve spent on the kit. But these trainees are able to make a profit straight away and then replenish and carry on, or even reinvest in more courses and gradually build up their portfolio of the services they are able to offer their clients.

It was definitely a dream of mine to be able to teach. I’ve done beauty for so long and I do enjoy it, I love every second, but I do get so much reward from teaching it as well. It just naturally comes, I think you don’t realise how much you know about a subject until you’re teaching it.

I love seeing people progress - I know a lot of other girls who are doing nails and want to do more. But the main goal for me now would be for Nic who’s working here with me to progress in the salon. I can train her to deliver more services so in turn she can take on more clients, and the more clients she takes on the more it frees me up to do teaching. So it is like a cycle, the more I can progress the more Nic can progress too, and move up as well.

Eventually the dream would be to teach full time, and Nic to run the beauty house full time and maybe even join me in teaching. And the students we are teaching might even be able to step up and offer more... so it’s a constant cycle of people being able to move up the ladder and progress further in their career.

*Update Sept 2023: The Beauty House now has a designated training room every Monday and Tuesday at a separate location and Charlene is the local training provider for Cardiff Council. Some who have accessed free training through the scheme are now doing so well with their business they are able to pay privately for next level training. Nic now offers all the services at the salon and is preparing to train too.*

14.

# Training and Employment

## ACE Training

*"Amazing teacher, couldn't fault her, fantastic job!"*

ACE Training is our locally based training enterprise and CITB ITC (Internet Test Centre). We offer a variety of training packages for the Level 1 Health and Safety in a Construction Environment qualification along with the Health, Safety and Environment (HS&E) online test. This enables participants to gain a CSCS card therefore allowing them to work on construction sites across the UK.

Between April 2022 and March 2023 we delivered training to 209 learners, in partnership with 14 employment support organisations, 1 school, 9 businesses and 16 individuals. Our ITC had 288 online Health, Safety and Environment test bookings.

## Shape Your Future

Shape your Future provides flexible 1:1 support and mentoring, offering employment advancement for people living in Ely and Caerau, making a key contribution to tackling in-work poverty. It offers bespoke training opportunities and financial support, enabling individuals to progress into better paid, more fulfilling employment.

Since April 2023, to date 58 individuals have been supported to explore their interests and identify and improve their skills. The diverse support includes: support with application process, CV's, interview techniques, training (incl. CSCS), work clothing/uniform, equipment for bespoke training, and digital support. We have also developed and set up courses in response to need.
Read Charlene's Story on page 27!

*"With Donna's help, the training side of the business has been able to take off a lot faster than I expected as well as offering opportunities to people in the community."*
*- Charlene, The Beauty House*

15.

# The ACE Way

community development training and mentoring

## *Building skills for community work*

It's a tough time to be working for change in communities, with the recent challenges of Covid and now the cost of living crisis, alongside increasing competition for funding and constant expectations that small charities and organisations will do more with less.

At ACE we have over 12 years' experience at the heart of our community, building participation and promoting wellbeing. We know the theories, but we also understand the challenges of putting them into practice. We have experience in making it work!

Building on this expertise we are delighted to offer training and mentoring to organisations across Wales through our 'ACE Way' programme, helping them develop the skills and knowledge to sustain work in their own communities.

### The ACE Way training

*'The ACE Way training has been an invaluable resource for our team. The mini workshops were great at focusing our attention on how we might apply the learning to our own projects. It's set us off on our own journey of community asset development!' – Tina Taylor, Early Years Integration Team Coordinator, Carmarthenshire County Council*

Using a mix of case studies and stories from our work, community development theory, and practical workshop activities, we help participants explore approaches and challenges together. See more on what the training covers on our website:

The ACE Way training is aimed at people who work in community organisations, local authorities, housing associations and other third and public sector organisations. We can adjust the content to fit specific circumstances and interests. Training can be delivered over one or two days, online or in person. Please contact us to discuss and to make a group booking.

### The ACE Way Mentoring

We are also offering mentoring services to organisations in Wales, helping them make practical plans to move forward with their ambitions. See the ACE Way website for more information.

Anyone interested in exploring the ACE Way training and mentoring options, or in making a booking, can contact Dave Horton to discuss: Dave Horton, ACE Learning and Training Director
Email: aceway@aceplace.org
Phone: 029 20003132

# Communities

16.

# ACE Trustees

**Marian Dixey (Chair)** lives in Fairwater. She is an active volunteer.
**Dave King (Treasurer)** is a qualified accountant and experienced treasurer,
**Mel Witherden** is a retired third sector/charity consultant.
**Anne O'Regan** lives in Caerau. She is an active local volunteer.
**Oonagh Scott** grew up in Ely. She is a successful business woman.
**James Roach** lives in Ely. He is an active volunteer and contributes finance skills.
**Chris Lannen** is a qualified Financial Advisor.
**Leyton Smith** lives in Caerau. He is an active volunteer on ACE community health projects.
**Eva Elliot** is an Honorary Research Fellow at Cardiff University School of Social Sciences.
**Janice Refalo** lives in Caerau. She is an active local volunteer.
**Natasha Hayes** lives in Caerau. She is an active volunteer.

*We would like to thank Martin Hulland, Dr. Dave Wyatt and Penny Smith who stood down from the ACE board of trustees in the last year.*

# ACE Volunteers

## Apr 2022 – Mar 2023

Afia Ali
Alex Withey
Alexis Gale
Alice Clarke
Amanda Ward
Andrew William Way
Anne O'Regan
Arthur Brown
Auriol Miller
Ayodya Hallaluwa Arrachchige
Carol Coyle
Caroline Holroyd
Catherine Naamani
Chez Allen
Chris Lannen
Christina Dunn
Clive Ward
Crissie Mitchell
Dale Richards
Dave King
David J
Delyth Hoyle
Derek Cleaver
Diane Katy
Donna Harwood
Doug Smith
Doug Stowell
Elaine Harris
Esther (Lai Yee) Wong
Eva Elliot
Fay Bowring
Frances McCarthy
Frankie Curtis
Gareth Brough
Gareth Howells
Gareth Rowe
Gemma Carleton
Gillian Pugh
Harry Llewellyn
Hayley George
Helen Hunt
Helen McCarthy
Hywel Squires
Irene Jones
Jacquie Young
Jade Baurley
James Roach
Jamie Hayes
Janice Refalo
Jeff Clarke
Johanne McGuigan
John Roche
Jolene Welch
Julie Chancellor
Kareem Othman
Karl Hayes
Kathryn Leighfield
Kathy Wolfe
Kerry Pace
Kyle Bebb
Leyton Smith
Marcia Richards
Margaret Leighfield
Mari Dunphy
Marian Dixey
Mary Cleaton
Matthew Cunnah
Mel Witherden
Michael Hack
Michaela Ward
Mike Kelly
Morgan Palmer
Natasha Hayes
Oonagh Scott
Pat Stowell
Patrick Barry
Penny Smith
Philip (Kai Shing) Ling
Rob Jones
Rosie Cadwaladr Evans
Saja Ahmed
Sally Owens
Sarah Lyons
Sarah Whitfield
Scott Bees
Scott Morgan
Sheree Richards
Sian Davies
Stella Andrews
Stephen Lyons
Suzanne Bowring
Suzanne McEwan
Tania Clarke
Tracy Olsen
Victoria Misell
Wai Keung Tang

# ACE Staff

## Apr 2022 – Mar 2023

### Core
**Michelle Powell**
ACE Director
**Dave Horton**
ACE Learning and Training Director
**Hazel Cryer**
Operational and Development Manager - Health Portfolio
**Sam Froud-Powell**
Operational and Development Manager - Community Support Portfolio
**Julie Evans**
ACE Senior Administrator
**Hasan Roap**
ACE Finance Officer
**Helen Bull**
Volunteer Development Officer
**Fiona McCormick**
Training Development Officer
**George Keane**
Communications and Web Content Officer / Dusty Shed Officer / ACE Cares Communication Officer
**Dale Ovenstone**
Estates Officer
**Sharon McGrath**
ACE Receptionist
**Maria Ross**
Assistant Administrator

### Arts
**Nicola Parsons**
Community Arts Coordinator
**Becci Booker**
Arts Development Officer

### Health
**Taela-Mae Davies**
Yourspace Project Coordinator
**Janine Campbell**
Community Health Development Worker
**Danielle Afferion**
Young People's Wellbeing Connector / Wellbeing Connector
**Hannah Bees**
Young People's Wellbeing Connector / Wellbeing Connector
**Lynette Hartman**
Wellbeing Connector
**Sabrina Driscoll**
Wellbeing Connector
**Sophia Farrugia**
Wellbeing Connector
**Rachel Hart**
ACE Cares Development Officer

### Community Plan
**Becky Matyus**
Community Engagement Coordinator / Grand Avenues MSC Officer
**Catherine Boult**
Community Engagement Worker
**Hywel Squires**
Community Engagement Worker

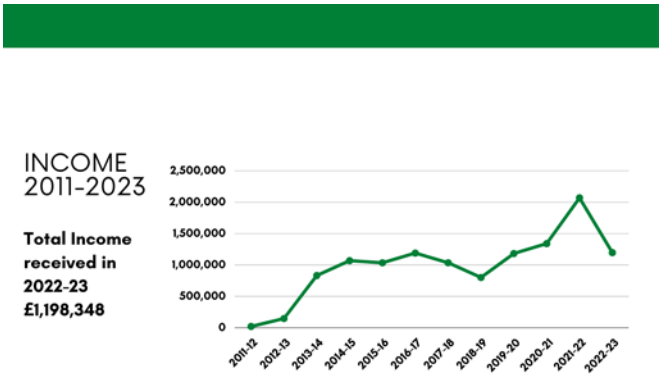
### Community Development
**Sarah Griffiths**
Together for Trowbridge and St Mellons Development Officer

### Community Support
**Mags Lyons**
Project Coordinator
**Nerys Sheehan**
Project Coordinator / Grand Avenues Coordinator
**Stacie Leek**
Community Support Officer
**Jamie Hallett**
Community Support Assistant
**Sarah Whitfield**
Pantry Assistant Development Worker
**Steve Lyons**
Diana Garden Development Worker
**Vaida Barzdiate**
Diana Garden Development Worker
**Ruth Mumford**
Benthyg Development Officer

**Thanks to the former ACE Staff who have moved on in the last year:**
Anna-Elyse Young
Becki Miller
Charlotte McCarthy
Charlie Jones
Donna Hurley
Harriet Cleal
James Thomas
Jumah Mpakulah
Rosie Freeman
Samirah Phillips
Scott Bees
Sheila Littleboy

# 17.

# Finance Report

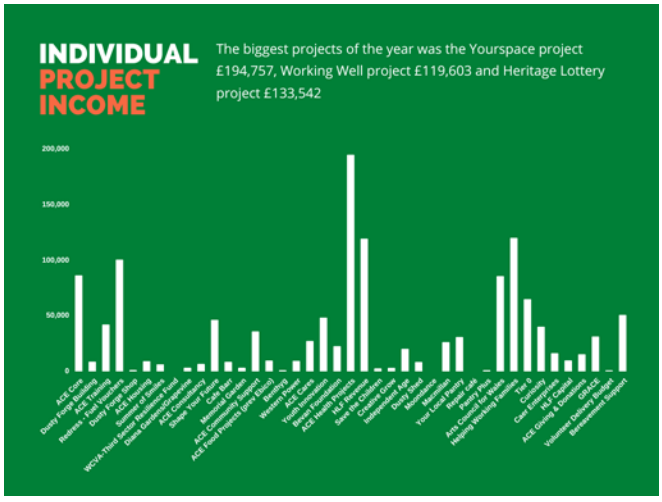



ACE received a total income of £1,198,348 in the 2022-23 financial year. This is a decrease of £872,054 from the previous year, this is largely due to the Caer Hidden Hillfort Project income coming to an end. Of the total income for the year, ACE Spent £1,476,997, spend included restricted income that was carried forward from 2021-22.

Some of our biggest funders for the year were Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Community Development (YourSpace) project, £194,757, National Lottery Community Fund Working Families project £119,603 and National Lottery Heritage funded project £133,542.

The income received in 2022-23 was spread across 43 projects, which is greater than that of the previous year, despite our income in this year being significantly lower.

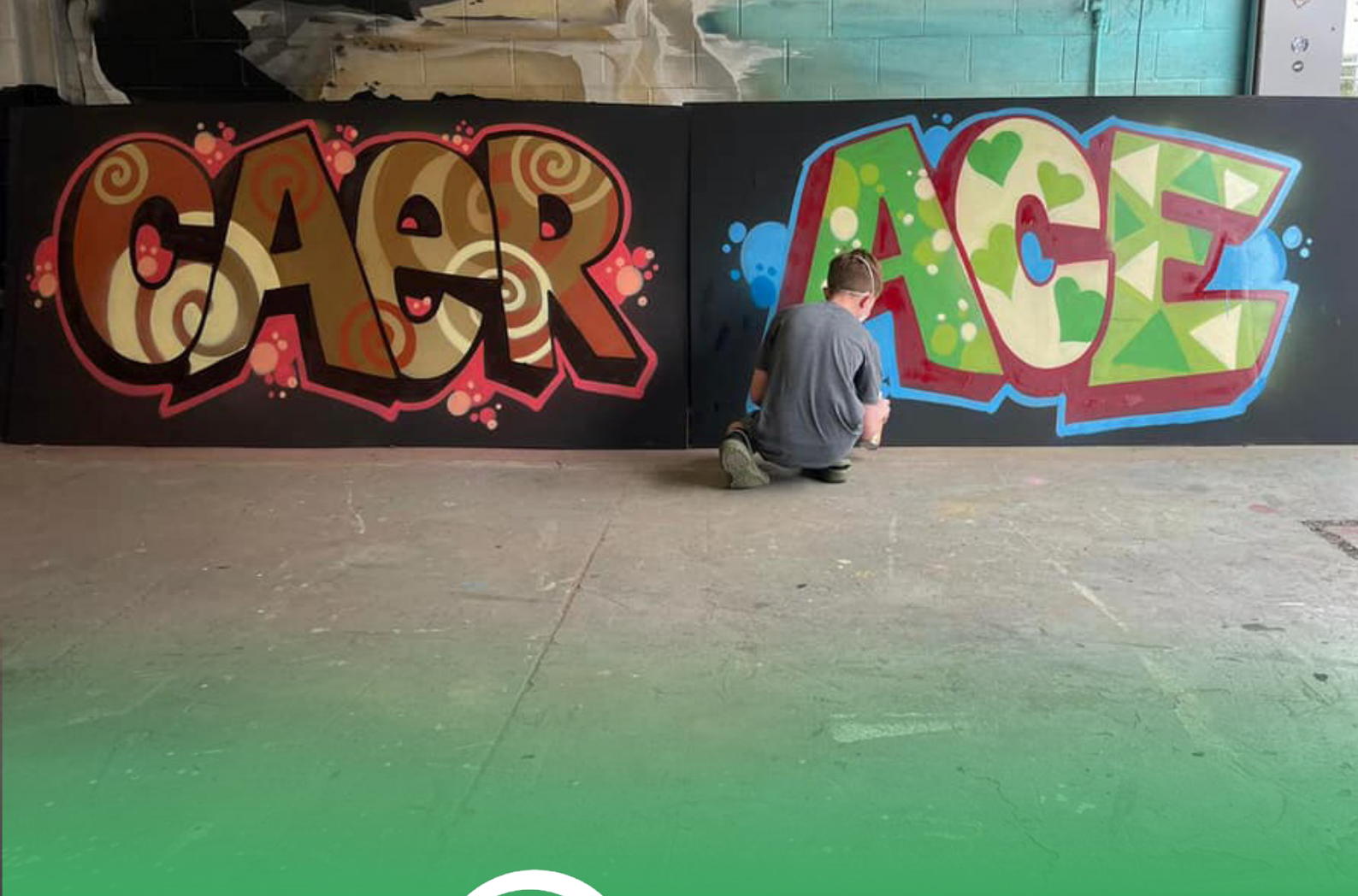
Over our last 11 years of operation ACE has added over £11 million to the local economy across Cardiff West. From 2018 - 2023, income generated through direct ACE activities such as social enterprise, grant applications, contracts, fundraising, donations and legacies totals approximately £5.4 million.



# 18. Our Funders and Partners

## ACE Funders

## ACE Partners




ace
Action in Caerau & Ely
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

# Action in Caerau and Ely

**Our Place: Dusty Forge**
**460 Cowbridge Rd West, Ely**
**Cardiff CF5 5BZ**
**Tel: 029 2000 3132**

**info@aceplace.org**
**www.aceplace.org**
**ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely**
**@elycaerau_ACE**

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely
GCT-Gweithredu Caerau Trelai

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely
GCT-Gweithredu Caerau Trelai

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely
GCT-Gweithredu Caerau Trelai

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS
PANTRY

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely
GCT-Gweithredu Caerau Trelai

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely
GCT-Gweithredu Caerau Trelai

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely
GCT-Gweithredu Caerau Trelai

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely
GCT-Gweithredu Caerau Trelai

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ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely
GCT-Gweithredu Caerau Trelai

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely
GCT-Gweithredu Caerau Trelai

**Charity registration number 1150422**

**Company registration number 07623914 (England and Wales)**

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

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# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## CHAIR'S STATEMENT

## *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

**Chair's Report**

Once again, ACE has managed to achieve another successful year.

As the world started to recover from the chaos of the Covid pandemic, the continuing war in Ukraine and international sanctions on Russia caused a global rise in fuel and food prices. The demand for the help that ACE could provide has increased dramatically, while our own running costs have spiralled. It has become much harder to cover these costs as some funders are reluctant to adequately factor this in.

With this in mind, two part time development managers, Hazel Cryer and Sam Froud-Powell were appointed to oversee funding bids and secure core costs. This has allowed ACE to focus more on existing projects.

Two large funds, Working Well community fund and Heritage Lottery, ended in March 2023, along with the health contract which is out for tender. The focus has switched to consolidating the existing projects to support the community. ACE issued over 2,700 fuel vouchers in 2022-23, thanks to funding from Welsh Government, Cardiff Council, a private donor, and Redress, totalling almost £140,000. The demand for Your Local Pantry has soared, along with borrowing requests for items available from Benthyg Library of Things. New Community lottery funding has supported this.

Staff are still transitioning back to the office, having spent the pandemic coping with the pressure of working from home as well as home schooling.

At the beginning of 2023, Dave Horton gave notice that he was standing down as co-Director to pursue the development of ACE training. Michelle took over as Director in April, supported by 2 full-time operational development managers in Hazel and Sam.

Funding is getting harder to find, though our good reputation and track record has opened doors to apply for project money. The future could become even more challenging, but ACE staff have the determination to continue to help the community.

.....
**Marian Dixey**
Chair
Dated: .....

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

## *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

**Objectives and activities**

ACE–Action in Caerau and Ely is a community organisation located in West Cardiff. We had up to 40 staff over the period of 2022-23, 88 volunteers and several thousand participants and beneficiaries, many of whom are active contributors to local community development and regeneration efforts. We are very proud that many of our staff team live in Ely and Caerau and many projects and activities are run with or by our volunteers. We manage two community buildings and a community garden and deliver a range of community-based activities that help people, many of which you will read about in this annual report.

Our vision is to create vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live. We do this by all or any of the following means (these are our charitable objectives):

1. the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit;
2. the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;
3. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
4. the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
5. in setting up their own business,
6. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
7. the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;
8. the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
9. the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
10. such other means may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

ACE will work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision.
- Co-producing services and activities that make use of assets and meet needs.
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive.
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience.
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities.

ACE will nurture and develop local assets and opportunities to meet needs through the following types of projects, activities and services:

- Community Support: Crisis support and financial capability.
- Training and support for the unemployed.
- Health & Wellbeing work including mental health support and training.
- Work with Children, Young People and Families.
- Community led activity.

- Heritage, Arts and Culture projects.
- Social enterprise and local economic development.
- Community and citywide influencing and campaigning.

During 2022-23 we have developed a number of new projects to respond to community need. These include:

- Caer Learning partnership - building on our successful Caer Heritage project, we are developing a new partnership project to develop an integrated programme of learning and training opportunities linked to our wider programmes of practical support. This work is supported by Cardiff University Civic Mission funding and is building links with a wider range of other learning providers including the Open University, Reaching Wider - University of South Wales, and Cardiff Council Adult Learning.
- Ehangu - Setting up an 'Early Learning Community' using a place-based systems change approach, we are working with Ely and Caerau Children's Centre, Save the Children Cyrmru and a network of community partners to provide direct support to families with young children and improve how the local early years system works in Ely and Caerau.
- Pause to Play / Summer of Play - working with Save the Children Cymru to provide integrated support parents with young children, combining for early years play sessions / resources, grants for essential household items and other wellbeing / financial support, and a programme of free activities for children over the summer holidays.
- Shape Your Future - building on last year's project, ACE are delivering support to people struggling with in-work poverty to help overcome barriers to progression in work or taking up self-employment opportunities. This project is now being delivered in partnership with Cardiff Council's Into Work Advice Services to provide integrated and holistic support for residents of Ely and Caerau.
- Explore Collective - A 2-year Arts Council Wales funded project beginning in March 2022. The project brings together a collective of artists, researchers, art organisations, Disability Arts Cymru and local people, culminating in a celebration event showcasing participants work at the Wales Millennium Centre. We aim to give creative opportunities to those who may struggle to access the arts, and to nurture well-being and confidence through exhibitions, weekly workshops and skills sharing within the partnership.
- Creative Grow Well - A 5-month partnership project with Grow Cardiff to bring the outdoors inside for those who may not be able to access the garden during the winter months with a creative program of ink drawing, felt making/and macramé inspired by nature.
- Caer tapestry: A series of needlecraft workshops run in the evenings aiming to revive traditional textiles skills and create work for our new Caer Community Heritage Centre
- Young Arts For Change - The Arts for Health and Wellbeing team at Cardiff & Vale Health Charity secured funding from an Arts Council of Wales and Baring Foundation initiative, Celf a'r Meddwl / Arts and Minds. The new funding initiative enabled the arts team to support a network of artists and health professionals to co-create and deliver innovative arts interventions and opportunities for young people in need of mental health support, building life-skills and a network of support within our communities, culminating in a youth arts Summer festival at the Grange Pavilion in partnership with Grange Pavilion, Breath Creative, Clear the Fog, Louise Jenson - Stwdio Arts Initiative & Four Winds.
- Community-led care - working with the communities of Ely and Caerau to explore local needs and opportunities in relation to social care and co-produce community-led approaches to care and support
- Yourspace Cardiff North - establishing a community development and social prescribing service within the Cardiff North Cluster area, working in partnership with the Health Board and Primary Care Cluster and using learning from the Cardiff South-West Yourspace service.

The strategies employed for continuity are:

- Building the capacity to deliver and develop: ACE has achieved an impressive track record for effective project delivery and innovation. It is also encouraging that we continue to develop new opportunities for growth. We will continue to capitalise on these strengths to create an ambitious programme to develop the charity, its activities, and our capacity for effective delivery.
- Providing services directly: ACE has developed a strong range of services based on identified needs which support the communities it serves. Many of these are well established but we also maintain the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances by developing new services to meet new needs.

- Continuing to diversify income streams: The majority of income realised by ACE is through grants and contracts. We have had continuation funding from an existing donor and additional income from new donors, this supports both core costs and delivery. We continue to work with some of these donors to increase our skills in attracting this kind of income.
- Strategies to ensure continuity: Building on our work to diversify income streams (outlined above) we continue to apply tried and tested methods towards income generation to enable continuity. Plans are under development to replace large grants that are coming to an end with new long-term funded opportunities. With the increase in bank interest rates, we are actively managing our cash reserves to maximise interest received.
- Buildings and space: The CAER Community Heritage Centre has continued to develop with the Love our Hillfort conservation group, a community garden, Flying Start, ACE Youth and Curiosity STEM after-schools clubs still actively being delivered, a new approach in partnership with Cardiff University will see the centre become a hub for learning. Diana Garden community regeneration project continues to attract funding to support its delivery and staff costs. We have worked with new partners HMPPS Probation Service allowing us to make further changes to the physical space, significantly removing overgrown brambles and so on, which continues to allow increased participation and community activity at the site.
- Building partnerships: ACE continues to work with dozens of partner organisations on a wide range of projects. New partnerships established this year include: Valleys Kids, Staeon Research, DACS Disability Arts Cymru (Suzie Larke photographer, Rachel Carney poet if we are including individuals), Cardiff and Vale UHB Arts For Health & Wellbeing, 4 Winds Mental Health Charity, Clear The Fog, Grow Cardiff, Grange Pavilion, Stwdio 3, Breath Creative, Cardiff University - not new partners but new projects, Cardiff Council - fuel voucher scheme, Shape Your Future and Caer learning, Open University Reaching
  Wider - University of South Wales, Save the Children - existing partner but new partnerships (Ehangu, Pause to Play, Summer of Play).
- Utilising others' capacity and contributing to their services: A number of partner organisations have been providing essential services and activities alongside ACE or at ACE venues, including the following: Flying Start early years provision, Probation 1-2-1 sessions, Into Work drop-in advice sessions, 1-2-1 support for young people with mental health challenges, family fitness activities, Welsh classes.
- Maintaining our good name: The organisation has developed a strongly positive reputation across the city and is valued in communities, the third sector and the local authority. ACE will work to protect its good name by devoting appropriate resources to quality control and pro-active public relations.
- Mobilising ACE's reputation and influence: Our successful track record and high reputation give ACE the potential to have a positive impact elsewhere. ACE will work to maintain its relationships, influence policies in the voluntary and public sectors, and advocate for the communities it serves at respective levels.

The strategies employed for growth:

- Creating opportunities to develop new work: ACE will continue to create income-generating initiatives to address the long-term threat posed by the inevitable funding gap. ACE will continue to devote resources and effort to expanding promising enterprises such as ACE Training. ACE Housing as well as creating financially viable new enterprise and community projects. Recent work in this area has produced a series of training modules that are bespoke to ACE, capturing the ACE Way in Asset Based Community Development, Co-Production and Community Organising.
- Expanding the area of operation: ACE's origins, history and goals are rooted deeply in the Ely and Caerau area of Cardiff. But our experience and our effective delivery of anti-poverty programmes here has attracted interest in our services elsewhere. While retaining its primary commitment to improving the quality of life of Ely and Caerau residents, ACE will seek service delivery and contracting opportunities in other areas of Cardiff and beyond with the aim of generating income and building long-term sustainability.

- Expanding volunteering: ACE has comprehensively demonstrated the many personal and community benefits of voluntary work. ACE has, over the period, engaged with 88 volunteers and has 24 volunteer role descriptions across the organisation. ACE achieved the UK best practice award for volunteering - the 'Investing in Volunteers' award this year, showing our commitment and determination to make volunteering the most beneficial experience it can be. Volunteering within ACE is now fully embedded into our core values of community asset development and coproduction. We continue to actively promote volunteering and attract, train and support volunteers to undertake work within ACE and in the wider community.
- ACE Board of Trustees: Membership of the ACE Board is influenced by the conscious need to preserve a balance between local representation and the skills needed for the governance of a dynamic charity. The focus has been to maintain our established balance of business and community representation on the board. A number of trustees stepped down over this period but we are pleased to say we were able to appoint several new trustees in their place, each offering a wide range of skills.

Criteria to measure success:

It is crucial that we gather information that tells us whether or not our Theory of Change, Strategic Plan and day-to-day activities are effective in meeting our aims and objectives and fulfilling our vision. In 2022-23 we were fully out of the Covid pandemic in terms of the delivery of activities and services. ACE continued to deliver our core work building on it across the course of the year. This growth can be seen in the number of people engaged with over the year, significantly increasing in comparison to 2021-22.

Our Strategic and Operational Plan lay out a range of specific criteria to measures success. ACE uses a number of approaches to provide evidence against these criteria, including surveys, focus groups, 1-2-1 conversations, video interviews, etc. One of the most powerful tools we use is the Most Significant Change approach which uses personal stories of change to create learning conversations through panels of participants and staff. You will see a number of examples of these in the Annual Report attached.

The collaborative learning from these approaches will be used to review and update the core work of ACE as outlined in the 7 Objectives within our Strategic Plan. In 2023-24 we will carry out an in-depth review of our Operational Plan and will make changes to our practice where necessary and will inform the new Strategic Plan for 2023-2026.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

**Achievements and performance**

2022-23 has been a busy year for ACE with all services delivering at full capacity. With the pandemic behind us our communities were hit with the cost-of-living crisis, which saw ACE diversifying activity and introducing new services such as the Fuel Voucher Scheme to try to alleviate some of the difficulties many of our community members were facing. Some of what was achieved is outlined below:

- Through our advice and support work we have increased household income in the community by £136,756 supporting 2,312 households with 2,674 fuel vouchers issued, grants and unclaimed benefits.
- Our community shop saw on average 630 people a week who accessed affordable or free, clothes, shoes, household and toiletry items.
- ACE Benthyg has a total of 258 items available to hire with more items added daily. There are 614 members with 313 subscribed members, with 275 ‘borrows’ over the year.
- The volunteer fixers in our repair café have checked out almost over 479 items in 4 years. Most items were repaired, all our customers leave feeling they have received a personal and friendly welcome.
- The pantry received visits from over 150 visitors a week all of whom received £15 to £20 of food for their £5 membership.
- Our Grand Avenues project supported 38 men on probation to claim a total of £51,558 in benefits, supported into work and able to access vital GP support on release from prison.
- Our Yourspace wellbeing support project working in partnership with Cardiff South-West Primary Care Cluster supported 649 people to improve their wellbeing and self-confidence.
- Our Compassionate Communities Project facilitated 27 grief space peer support sessions for those experiencing grief and bereavement, 125 wellbeing boxes were delivered as well as 5 back home boxes and 125 kindness cards were made by local children and distributed locally.

- Weekly gardening sessions have been run with volunteers ensuring the ongoing development of the garden.
- We continue to work with partners Grow Cardiff to provide weekly therapeutic gardening sessions in the Dusty Forge Garden.
- The Caer Community Heritage Centre provided a venue for a wide range of activities including heritage exhibitions, youth groups, afterschool clubs, volunteer groups, adult education classes and Flying Start groups.
- ACE Arts delivered its Explore Collective project engaged with 40 regular participants.
- Over the course of the year 512 young people access have accessed ACE club and attended 9 different activities including Ice Skating and a visit to Drayton Manor.
- 209 learners accessed ACE Training services. 89% of learners gained a qualification that will enable them to gain employment.

**Financial review**

ACE's future continues to be incredibly exciting; we are a community led charity which has a plan, purpose, and a fantastic group of volunteers, trustees and staff. Over our last 11 years of operation ACE has added over £11 million to the local economy across Cardiff West. From 2018-23 income generated through direct ACE activities such as social enterprise activities, grant applications, contracts, fundraising and donations and legacies totals approximately £6.6 million.

ACE is a charity standing in its own right, working with residents to see meaningful change across communities – this is a huge achievement which continues to address an unfair 'stigma' attached to Ely and Caerau, something residents of Ely and Caerau can be really proud of.

We have continued to build on a firm foundation of strong financial policy and effective financial management through 2022-23. Income in 2022-23 was spread across 43 projects which is greater than that of the previous year, despite our income in this year being significantly lower than the year before due to the Caer Heritage Project having been completed. ACE has been successful in following its strategic plan objective to diversify income streams. During 2022-23 ACE received £1,198,348 income from numerous funders, contracts and donations. This year saw our first significant private donation that supported ACE's core costs and not project delivery, this is something that we have not generated to such a degree previously. ACE also self-generated £93,069 via social enterprise such as rental, consultancy work and training.

ACE's financial performance and position going forward continues to be very healthy, with 2023-23 forecast to show a surplus. As with this year, future years are still going to be more challenging hence why it is so essential that ACE build sufficient reserves to be able meet any future liabilities. We will continue to regularly review the level of reserves and adjust accordingly. Interest rates have been close to zero throughout 2022-23 and thus we have generated very little income from our bank balances. However, with interest rates on the rise we will actively manage our cash balances, including the reserves, to take advantage of the increase while ensuring our funds are not put at risk. In terms of expenditure, we along with everyone else, have seen our costs increase due to inflation.

**Transactions and Financial Position**
The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net unrestricted surplus for the year of £113,611 and our unrestricted reserves stand at £527,269.

**Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the charity**
Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in note 14 to the financial statements.

**Investment Policy and Returns**
The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and have found that placing monies on deposit with the Co-operative Bank is the most appropriate course of action to allow the necessary degree and flexibility.

**Reserves policy and going concern**
We are continuing with the policy set in 2021 of setting aside a minimum of 18 months running costs of the organisation within our reserves. This has been achieved through the investment property and the building of cash reserves, which now stand at an overall total of £527,269. During 2023-24 this policy and the figure required will be further reviewed.

**Plans for the future**

Looking forward, through careful planning, creative thinking and community-based delivery we will build on this success. ACE will enable community action through the direct provision of services, the development of community assets and social enterprise. We will access funding to support our work, and will work with people, community groups, organisations and businesses, directing our resources in a sustainable and effective manner.

**Structure, governance and management**

**Governing Document**
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 8 April 2011. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company.

**Appointment of trustees**
All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Trustees have the power to appoint additional trustees, as it considers fit to do so.

Directors/trustees are elected from the membership at an annual general meeting. Each year one third of the board of directors (those being the longest in office since their last election) stand down but are eligible for re-election without further nomination. The Memorandum and Articles of Association make allowances for an elected staff representative to sit as a full member of the board. Election takes place during the month following the AGM.

**Trustee induction and training**
All new directors/trustees receive a comprehensive induction session and an induction pack with essential information.

**Organisation**
The board of trustees, which can have up to 12 members, administers the charity. The board normally meets monthly and there are committees covering development and funding, HR, finance and audit, which normally meet monthly. The ACE Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and community related activity.

**Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**
None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity, contractor, must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

**Pay policy for staff**
The directors consider the board of directors, who are the Trust's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 10 and 24 to the accounts.

The pay of the staff is appraised annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other third sector organisations of a similar size run on a voluntary basis. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles adjusted for a weighting of up to 30% for any additional responsibilities. If recruitment has proven difficult in the recent past a market addition is also paid with the pay maximum no greater than the highest benchmarked salary for a comparable role.

**Risk management**
The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces;
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in
- the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due, regular liaison with the bank, and active management of trade debtors and creditors balances to ensure sufficient working capital by the charity.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, IT security, market volatility, health and safety of staff and volunteers, food hygiene. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

**Reference and administrative details**

**Company number:**
07623914

**Charity number:**
1150422

**Registered office:**
Our Place: Dusty Forge
460 Cowbridge Road West
Cardiff
CF5 5BZ

**Trustees:**
M Dixey (Chair from 1/4/23)
E Elliot - appointed 1/3/23
N Hayes - appointed 1/3/23
C Lannen
A O'Regan
J Refalo - appointed 1/3/23
J Roach
O Scott
L Smith
M Witherden (Chair to 1/4/23)
M Hulland - resigned 1/8/23
D King - resigned 15/10/23
H McCarthy - resigned 31/8/22
P Smith - appointed 1/3/23 / resigned 1/8/23
D Wyatt - resigned 1/8/23

**Secretary:**
S Froud - appointed 1/10/23
D Horton - resigned 5/10/23

**Key management personnel:**
D Horton - CEO
M Powell - CEO

**Auditor:**
Azets Audit Services
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

**Bankers:**
The Co-operative Bank Cardiff
16-17 High St
Cardiff
CF10 1AX

**Solicitors:**
JMD Law Limited
26-28 James Street
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF10 5EX

**Auditor**
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

.....

**M Dixey - Trustee**
Dated: .....

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

The trustees, who are also the directors of ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely for the purpose 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that 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 estimates that are reasonable and prudent;  and

- 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 adequate 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 Companies Act 2006. They 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.

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

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

## TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Azets Audit Services** .....

**Chartered Accountants**
**Statutory Auditor**

Ty Derw, Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF23 8AB

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Total 2023 £ | Unrestricted funds 2022 £ | Restricted funds 2022 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | **3** | 1,938 | 13,544 | 15,482 | 52,225 | 29,505 | 81,730 |
| Charitable activities | **4** | 13,740 | 1,074,029 | 1,087,769 | 1,000 | 1,913,141 | 1,914,141 |
| Other trading activities | **5** | 86,638 | 7,118 | 93,756 | 49,486 | 24,737 | 74,223 |
| Investments | **6** | 1,341 | - | 1,341 | 308 | - | 308 |
| **Total income** | | 103,657 | 1,094,691 | 1,198,348 | 103,019 | 1,967,383 | 2,070,402 |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | **7** | 238,926 | 1,238,070 | 1,476,996 | 149,781 | 1,059,111 | 1,208,892 |
| Other | **12** | - | 72,548 | 72,548 | - | - | - |
| **Total expenditure** | | 238,926 | 1,310,618 | 1,549,544 | 149,781 | 1,059,111 | 1,208,892 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | **13** | 75,559 | - | 75,559 | - | - | - |
| **Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers** | | (59,710) | (215,927) | (275,637) | (46,762) | 908,272 | 861,510 |
| Gross transfers between funds | | 173,321 | (173,321) | - | 116,387 | (116,387) | - |
| **Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds** | | 113,611 | (389,248) | (275,637) | 69,625 | 791,885 | 861,510 |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2022 | | 413,658 | 1,650,768 | 2,064,426 | 344,033 | 858,883 | 1,202,916 |
| **Fund balances at 31 March 2023** | | 527,269 | 1,261,520 | 1,788,789 | 413,658 | 1,650,768 | 2,064,426 |

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## BALANCE SHEET

### *AS AT 31 MARCH 2023*

| | Notes | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2022 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | **14** | | 1,030,541 | | 1,135,867 |
| Investment properties | **15** | | 220,000 | | 144,441 |
| Investments | **16** | | 10 | | 10 |
| | | | 1,250,551 | | 1,280,318 |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | **17** | 175,368 | | 129,814 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 411,667 | | 672,479 | |
| | | 587,035 | | 802,293 | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **18** | (48,797) | | (18,185) | |
| Net current assets | | | 538,238 | | 784,108 |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 1,788,789 | | 2,064,426 |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | **20** | | 1,261,520 | | 1,650,768 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| Designated funds | **21** | 409,386 | | 256,681 | |
| General unrestricted funds | | 117,883 | | 156,977 | |
| | | | 527,269 | | 413,658 |
| | | | 1,788,789 | | 2,064,426 |

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

.....

**M Dixey - Trustee**

**Company Registration No. 07623914**

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

| | Notes | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2022 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | | | | |
| Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations | **26** | | (230,026) | | 830,635 |
| **Investing activities** | | | | | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (32,127) | | (696,949) | |
| Investment income received | | 1,341 | | 308 | |
| **Net cash used in investing activities** | | | (30,786) | | (696,641) |
| **Net cash used in financing activities** | | | - | | - |
| **Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents** | | | (260,812) | | 133,994 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | | 672,479 | | 538,485 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at end of year** | | | 411,667 | | 672,479 |

**1 Accounting policies**

**Charity information**

ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Our Place: Dusty Forge, 460 Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff, CF5 5BZ, United Kingdom.

**1.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include investment properties at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

**1.2 Going concern**

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**1.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**1.4 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income from grants, whether capital grants or revenue grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Capital grants are released to the SOFA in the year of receipt. Fixed assets relating to capital grants are capitalised, and depreciation charged is offset against the grant income, in a restricted fund.

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

Rental and training income is invoiced and is recognised in the period to which the service was provided.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Income earned from interest is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

**1.5 Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustees report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|---|---|
| Property improvements | 5% per annum on cost |
| IT equipment | 10% per annum on cost |
| Motor vehicles | 20% per annum on cost |

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

**1.7 Investment properties**

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

**1.8 Fixed asset investments**

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. The investments are assessed for impairment at each reporting date and any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in net income/ (expenditure) for the year.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

**1.9 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**1.10 Financial instruments**

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

***Basic financial assets***

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

***Derecognition of financial assets***

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

**1.11 Taxation**

As a registered charity, Ace-Action in Caerau and Ely is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

**1.12 Employee benefits**

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

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.

**1.13 Retirement benefits**

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

**1.14 Leases**

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

**2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

**3 Donations and legacies**

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Donations and gifts | 1,938 | 13,544 | 15,482 | 52,225 | 29,505 | 81,730 |

**4 Charitable activities**

| | **2023** | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | £ |
| Grants | 1,087,148 | 1,914,141 |
| Sundry income | 621 | - |
| | 1,087,769 | 1,914,141 |
| Analysis by fund | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 13,740 | 1,000 |
| Restricted funds | 1,074,029 | 1,913,141 |
| | 1,087,769 | 1,914,141 |

**4 Charitable activities** **(Continued)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Arts Council of Wales | - | 4,500 |
| Arnold Clark | - | 2,500 |
| Asda | 200 | - |
| Bevan Foundation | 23,964 | - |
| C3SC | 12,951 | 101,515 |
| Cardiff and Vale University Health Board | 269,092 | 355,103 |
| Cardiff Council | 154,500 | 112,349 |
| Cardiff People First | 750 | - |
| Cardiff University | 28,993 | 2,500 |
| Care & Repair | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| Charities Aid Foundation | 62,221 | 35,443 |
| Charities Trust | - | 2,000 |
| Child Friendly Cardiff | - | 9,075 |
| Children in Need | 40,987 | 39,871 |
| Church Action Poverty | 168 | - |
| Citizens Advice | 7,250 | 8,000 |
| Community Foundation Wales | - | 1,000 |
| Co-Op | - | 2,260 |
| Cwmpas | 27,655 | - |
| Dusty Shed | 8,148 | 6,777 |
| DWP | 4,286 | - |
| Ely and Caerau Children's Centre | 200 | - |
| Energy Saving Trust | 1,286 | 72,496 |
| Food Sense Wales | 10,844 | 6,000 |
| Glamorgan Voluntary Services | 4,890 | 3,703 |
| Groundwork UK | 500 | 1,000 |
| Grow Cardiff | 5,900 | - |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | 113,031 | 752,256 |
| HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | - | 7,503 |
| Hubbub | - | 3,000 |
| Independent Age | 20,000 | - |
| Invest Local Trust* | (25,139) | 49,245 |
| Macmillan | 26,142 | 36,875 |
| Making a Difference Locally | 1,000 | - |
| Moondance Foundation | - | 19,255 |
| ProMo-Cymru | 625 | - |
| Public Health Wales | - | 5,000 |
| National Lottery Community Fund | 201,174 | 101,515 |
| Save the Children | 2,400 | - |
| School of History | 2,500 | - |
| The D'oyly Carte Charitable Trust | 3,000 | - |
| University of South Wales | 2,000 | 3,651 |
| Wales and West Housing | - | 70,000 |
| Wales Centre for Public Policy | - | 450 |
| Wales Restorative Approaches Partnership | 31,015 | 14,848 |
| WCVA | - | 93,408 |
| Welsh Government | 35,515 | 11,705 |
| Whitfield Pantry | 100 | 11,705 |
| | 1,087,148 | 1,914,141 |

**4 Charitable activities** **(Continued)**

*Relates to income received during the year totalling £15,750 and grant repayments due to project underspends of £40,889.

**5 Other trading activities**

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Rental income | 14,615 | 5,753 | 20,368 | 2,436 | 10,120 | 12,556 |
| Generated income | 72,023 | 1,365 | 73,388 | 47,050 | 14,617 | 61,667 |
| Other trading activities | 86,638 | 7,118 | 93,756 | 49,486 | 24,737 | 74,223 |

**6 Investments**

| | Unrestricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
|---|---|---|
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | £ | £ |
| Interest receivable | 1,341 | 308 |

## 7 Charitable activities

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 690,567 | 740,368 |
| Depreciation and impairment | 51,924 | - |
| Bad debt | - | 335 |
| Heat, light & insurance | 21,531 | 12,092 |
| IT costs & telephone | 8,477 | 8,489 |
| Marketing, sundry & training | 1,477 | 1,386 |
| Printing, postage & stationery | 3,178 | - |
| Project costs | 279,459 | 256,423 |
| Rent, rates & relocation costs | 2,201 | 2,378 |
| Repairs & renewals | 25,132 | 23,862 |
| Equipment hire & room hire | 5,514 | 139 |
| Travel & subsistence | 1,453 | 11,676 |
| | 1,090,913 | 1,057,148 |
| Grant funding of activities (see note 8) | 199,491 | 26,907 |
| Share of support costs (see note 9) | 180,652 | 119,776 |
| Share of governance costs (see note 9) | 5,940 | 5,061 |
| | 1,476,996 | 1,208,892 |
| **Analysis by fund** | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 238,926 | 149,781 |
| Restricted funds | 1,238,070 | 1,059,111 |
| | 1,476,996 | 1,208,892 |

**8 Grants payable**

| | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| Grants to institutions: | | |
| 10th Ely Rainbows | 250 | 250 |
| Cardiff Imperial | 250 | - |
| Ecsopa | 20,672 | 500 |
| Hope Trust | 25,015 | 22,317 |
| Ely and Caerau Litter Pickers | 76 | - |
| Caerau and Ely Mini and Juniors Rugby Club | 500 | - |
| Commonwealth Theatre | 1,000 | - |
| Family Fund Business Services | 130,000 | - |
| The Healthy Horse Project Pony Club | 2,500 | - |
| Reflect Community Church and Centre | 450 | - |
| St Mellons Clean Up Group | 650 | - |
| Tempo Time Credits | 18,128 | - |
| Amy Evans | - | 175 |
| Bethania Church | - | 500 |
| Cotr Garden Group | - | 500 |
| Caer Scholarship | - | 470 |
| Hafod Housing | - | 430 |
| Katie Browne | - | 165 |
| Scott Bees | - | 350 |
| St Mellons Gymnastics | - | 1,000 |
| Trelai Primary School | - | 250 |
| | 199,491 | 26,907 |

-

**9 Support costs**

| | Support costs | Governance costs | 2023 | Support costs | Governance costs | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 121,865 | - | 121,865 | 48,344 | - | 48,344 |
| Depreciation | 12,981 | - | 12,981 | 51,922 | - | 51,922 |
| Cleaning | 14,373 | - | 14,373 | 10,328 | - | 10,328 |
| Heat, light and insurance | 5,383 | - | 5,383 | - | - | - |
| Bank charges and bad debts | 183 | - | 183 | 125 | - | 125 |
| IT costs and telephone | 10,389 | - | 10,389 | - | - | - |
| Professional fees | 5,486 | - | 5,486 | 5,450 | - | 5,450 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 5,153 | - | 5,153 | 2,806 | - | 2,806 |
| Rent, rates, repairs and renewals | 3,255 | - | 3,255 | - | - | - |
| Motor costs | 873 | - | 873 | 801 | - | 801 |
| Travel and subsistence | 711 | - | 711 | - | - | - |
| Audit fees | - | 5,290 | 5,290 | - | 4,461 | 4,461 |
| Accountancy | - | 650 | 650 | - | 600 | 600 |
| | 180,652 | 5,940 | 186,592 | 119,776 | 5,061 | 124,837 |
| Analysed between | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 180,652 | 5,940 | 186,592 | 119,776 | 5,061 | 124,837 |

**10 Trustees**

No trustees received remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity during the current or prior year.

No trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior year.

## 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| | 2023 Number | 2022 Number |
|---|---|---|
| | 39 | 39 |

| Employment costs | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Wages and salaries | 738,560 | 714,349 |
| Social security costs | 51,726 | 50,252 |
| Other pension costs | 22,146 | 24,111 |
| | 812,432 | 788,712 |

**Key management personnel**
The key management personnel of the charity are as detailed in the trustees report. The total employee benefits (including gross salary, employer's national insurance, employers pension contributions and benefits in kind) of the key management personnel of the charity were £97,766 (2022: £101,230).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

## 12 Other

| | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|
| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
| Net loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets | 72,548 | - |
| | 72,548 | - |

The above relates to the transfer of the playground equipment to the Cardiff Council on 31st March 2023.

## 13 Net gains/(losses) on investments

| | Unrestricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|
| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
| Revaluation of investment properties | 75,559 | - |

## 14 Tangible fixed assets

| | Property improvements | IT equipment | Motor vehicles | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Cost** | | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 1,180,147 | 3,630 | 33,094 | 1,216,871 |
| Additions | 32,127 | - | - | 32,127 |
| Disposals | (79,931) | - | - | (79,931) |
| At 31 March 2023 | 1,132,343 | 3,630 | 33,094 | 1,169,067 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 61,513 | 3,630 | 15,861 | 81,004 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | 60,205 | - | 4,700 | 64,905 |
| Eliminated in respect of disposals | (7,383) | - | - | (7,383) |
| At 31 March 2023 | 114,335 | 3,630 | 20,561 | 138,526 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | | |
| At 31 March 2023 | 1,018,008 | - | 12,533 | 1,030,541 |
| At 31 March 2022 | 1,118,634 | - | 17,233 | 1,135,867 |

## 15 Investment property

| | 2023 |
|---|---|
| | £ |
| **Fair value** | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 144,441 |
| Net gains or losses through fair value adjustments | 75,559 |
| At 31 March 2023 | 220,000 |

Investment property comprises a residential property purchased in October 2020 by the charity for rental appreciation. The fair value of the investment property has been arrived based on the valuation of a local estate agent in March 2023.

Contained in the above are amounts totalling £nil (2022: £nil) in relation to land.

### 16 Fixed asset investments

| | Other investments |
|---|---|
| **Cost or valuation** | |
| At 1 April 2022 & 31 March 2023 | 10 |
| **Carrying amount** | |
| At 31 March 2023 | 10 |
| At 31 March 2022 | 10 |

| Other investments comprise: | Notes | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Investments in subsidiaries | 24 | 10 | 10 |

### 17 Debtors

| Amounts falling due within one year: | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade debtors | 85,433 | 112,138 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 89,935 | 17,676 |
| | 175,368 | 129,814 |

### 18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Other taxation and social security | - | 12,514 |
| Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings | 10 | 10 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 48,787 | 5,661 |
| | 48,797 | 18,185 |

### 19 Retirement benefit schemes

**Defined contribution schemes**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £22,146 (2022: £24,111). There were no amounts outstanding during the current or prior year.

## 20 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

| | | Movement in funds | | | | Movement in funds | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Balance at 1 April 2021 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 1 April 2022 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 31 March 2023 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Arts Council of Wales | 10,521 | 4,500 | (15,888) | 867 | - | 85,321 | (54,930) | (1,664) | 28,727 |
| ACE Cares | - | - | - | - | - | 27,655 | (23,143) | (4,512) | - |
| ACE Community Support | 40,096 | 34,348 | (20,849) | (2,765) | 50,830 | 38,426 | (44,783) | (7,004) | 37,469 |
| ACE Food | 29,357 | 24,206 | (16,337) | (14,635) | 22,591 | 9,504 | (13,841) | (4,449) | 13,805 |
| ACE Giving | 10,083 | 6,208 | (5,576) | - | 10,715 | 12,073 | (7,968) | (800) | 14,020 |
| ACE Health | 28,589 | 147,823 | (148,566) | (11,604) | 16,242 | 194,757 | (142,733) | (14,497) | 53,769 |
| ACE Housing | - | 7,364 | (4,368) | | 2,996 | - | (2,996) | - | - |
| Benthyg | - | 37,941 | (13,700) | (1,999) | 22,242 | 878 | (23,421) | 2,666 | 2,365 |
| Bereavement support | - | 11,705 | (11,140) | (565) | - | 50,997 | (47,991) | (3,006) | - |
| Bevan Foundation | - | 7,500 | (4,358) | (1,100) | 2,042 | 22,949 | (8,509) | (4,525) | 11,957 |
| Caer Enterprises | 24 | 5,058 | (4,041) | 1,030 | 2,071 | 6,578 | (11,794) | 9,497 | 6,352 |
| Children In Need | 4,747 | 39,871 | (40,368) | (4,250) | - | 40,987 | (31,235) | (3,424) | 6,328 |
| COVID Support | 21,935 | 44,728 | (44,466) | | 22,197 | - | (22,197) | - | - |
| Creative Grow | - | - | - | - | - | 2,900 | (1,894) | - | 1,006 |
| Diana Gardens/Grapevine | - | 12,299 | (4,496) | - | 7,803 | 3,049 | (7,514) | - | 3,338 |
| Dusty Shed | 1,986 | 6,777 | (6,057) | | 2,706 | 8,148 | (6,984) | - | 3,870 |
| Grace Project | - | 14,848 | (13,044) | (900) | 904 | 31,015 | (28,954) | (1,268) | 1,697 |
| Heritage Lotttery Fund | 81,737 | 826,756 | (100,736) | (23,981) | 783,776 | 133,542 | (212,201) | (6,760) | 698,357 |
| HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | - | 7,530 | (7,530) | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Independent Age | - | - | - | - | - | 20,000 | (27) | (1,578) | 18,395 |
| | 229,075 | 1,239,462 | 461,520 | (59,902) | 947,115 | 688,779 | 693,115 | (41,324) | 901,455 |

**20 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

| | Movement in funds | | | | Movement in funds | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Balance at 1 April 2021 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 1 April 2022 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 31 March 2023 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Macmillan | - | 36,875 | 31,007 | 5,172 | 696 | 26,142 | 26,668 | 170 | - |
| Memorial Garden | - | - | - | - | - | 3,000 | 200 | - | 2,800 |
| Mind | 1,985 | - | - | - | 1,985 | - | - | 1,985 | - |
| Moondance Foundation | 67,902 | 19,255 | 29,271 | 9,519 | 48,367 | - | 43,609 | - | 4,758 |
| Pantry | - | 34,637 | 19,085 | 3,445 | 12,107 | - | 12,107 | - | - |
| Redress and Cardiff Council Hardship Fund | - | 136,496 | 38,382 | 450 | 97,664 | 100,000 | 189,724 | 7,940 | - |
| Save the Children | - | - | - | - | - | 2,400 | - | - | 2,400 |
| Shape Your Future | - | - | - | - | - | 50,000 | 46,013 | 3,987 | - |
| Summer of Smiles | - | 29,075 | 22,761 | 487 | 5,827 | 5,540 | 4,357 | 508 | 6,502 |
| Tier 0 | 73,901 | 208,025 | 207,348 | 17,544 | 57,034 | 64,446 | 44,980 | 76,500 | - |
| Together Trust | 147,660 | 49,245 | 64,707 | 2,000 | 130,198 | 25,139 | 88,894 | 16,165 | - |
| Voluntary Sector Recovery | - | 25,675 | 21,045 | 4,630 | - | - | - | - | - |
| WCVA | - | 29,977 | 19,365 | - | 10,612 | - | 10,612 | - | - |
| Welsh Gov - Communitites Facilties Programme | 267,675 | - | 7,073 | - | 260,602 | - | 7,073 | - | 253,529 |
| Western Power | - | - | - | - | - | 9,921 | 7,331 | (2,590) | - |
| Working Well and Helping Working Families | 63,225 | 118,874 | 106,112 | (10,586) | 65,401 | 119,603 | 92,997 | (13,035) | 78,972 |
| Workplace Youth | - | - | (1,659) | 1,659 | - | - | 390 | (2,617) | (3,007) |
| Youth Innvoation | 7,460 | 39,787 | (29,776) | (4,310) | 13,160 | 49,999 | 42,548 | (6,500) | 14,111 |
| | 858,883 | 1,967,383 | (1,059,111) | (116,386) | 1,650,768 | 1,094,691 | (1,310,618) | (173,321) | 1,261,520 |

**20 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

**Arts Council of Wales**: This money was used to fund a project to engage young people from 14-16, 16-18 and 16-24 age categories.

**ACE Cares:** This national lottery funding pays for community development activity aimed at exploring the community's role in supporting people with care and support needs and unpaid carers within the Ely and Caerau communities.

**ACE Community Support**: This money is to the support a programme to provide information, practical support and advice to vulnerable community members in Ely and Caerau.

**ACE Food:** Budget for developing community food projects including Dusty Community Kitchen, Cafe Barr and Food for Life Get Togethers.

**ACE Giving** - An opportunity for individuals to make a financial contribution to ACE's charitable work through donations, sponsorship and fundraising activities.

**ACE Health:** This money was for the development and delivery of health and wellbeing initiatives, including social prescribing, community development, participation and engagement work.

**ACE Housing**- Provision of a high quality, affordable, well maintained rental home to a local family, with additional support through ACE services where necessary.

**Benthyg:** WCVA Landfill Trust this funding supported the developement of a new library of things project (ACE Benthyg), offering a range of household items for community members to borrow at low cost.

**Bereavement support:** This grant pays for a multi-partner project with ACE, CCAWS and Cardiff People First, delivering a mix of direct counselling, bereavement courses and development of peer support approaches, aimed at engaging groups who have been traditionally under-represented in mainstream bereavement support services.

**Bevan Foundation:** This funded 1 day a week staff time to bring about systems change through community engagement contributing to varios consultations to inform policy change.

**Caer Enterprises** - Development of social enterprise and income generating activity related to ACE's CAER Heritage project, including sales of CAER T-shirts and art.

**Children In Need:** This money is to fund a project which uses local heritage and history as inspiration for experimental and exploratory STEM activities and projects

**COVID Support:** Misc income to help support projects during Covid 19.

**Creative Grow:** This money was used Delivery of indoor art/garden sessions, room hire & materials.

**20 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

**Diana Gardens/ Grapevine:** This money is to support the development of the 'Diana Gardens' site, community activity on and around the site and community capacity-building with local volunteers.

**Dusty Shed:** This money was used to support a Men's Shed project based at the Dusty Forge.

**Grace Project:** This project supports men in the community who are involved with the criminal justice system. The Grand Avenues project is a partnership between HMPPS, SVP and ACE. Funding was used to fund a staff member for 3 days a week, a staff member 1/2 day a week, project costs and management costs to support the men on the project address isues around health, income and housing.

**Heritage Lottery Fund:** This money was used to deliver the CAER Heritage Project.

**HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** - Funding received to cover wage and salary costs during the pandemic.

**Independent Age:** This project supports oler people in the community to stay warm in their homes, through income maximisation and energy support. This income has funded a full time Older Persons Caseworker.

**Macmillan**- A project exploring how community development approaches can be used to increase the range of supportive care available for people who are dying, those supporting someone who is dying and people who are facing or experiencing bereavement

**Memorial Garden:** This project is developing a new community garden to support activities that bring people together and support community connection and wellbeing**.**

**MIND (Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund: Wales)** - A project to increase the capacity and reach of the Phone Friends project and to make it more accessible for people with a learning disability, working in partnership with Cardiff People First.

**Moondance Foundation:** This money is to fund the Caer Heritage Project.

**Pantry:** This money is to support the membership food club providing affordable food shop for members in food poverty / insecurity. The project includes running a community food shop and delivery service using surplus food supplied by Fareshare project to support struggling working families to get involved in the design and delivery of community projects tackling in work poverty.

**Redress Warm and Cardiff Council Hardship Fund**- Affordable warmth advice and support for community members in / at risk of fuel poverty delivered through drop in / case work sessions.

**Save the Children:** This was used to fund a series of art workshops over the summer holidays for children and young people living in Ely and Caerau. If Ehangu to work with community partners to develop new inititiatives that support early years projects in Ely and Caearau.

**20 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

**Summer of Smiles:** Income was used to provie a range of inclisive activities for children and young people across the communities of Ely and Caerau.

**Tier 0:** This money is to support a mental health service which provides psychological interventions through 1-1 guided self-help sessions and the delivery of psychoeducational courses.

**Together Trust:** This money is to deliver Building Communities Trust (BCT) invest local programme.

**Voluntary Sector Recovery:** This project supported volunteers to re-engage with ACE after the Pandemic disruption, providing staff time to run reintegration sessions and follow up support, training and update our volunteer processes to help volunteers with overcome barriers to contributing to projects.

**WCVA:** This funding was to diversify the income of ACE Training through the development of a website to increase sales and promote to a wider audience, particularly targeting the private sector. It also funded consultants to conduct market research and develop a training package bespoke to ACE underlining ACE's approaches in Asset Based Community Development, Community Organising and Co-production. The training is now being offered to the public, statutory and third sector who wish their teams to learn about the afore mentioned principles and how to put them into practice as it relates to their work.

**Welsh Government Communities Facilities Programme:** This is a capital fund to support the refurbishment and renovation of community buildings.

**Western Power:** This funds our advice provision supporting those in fuel poverty/fuel crisis.

**Working Well and Helping Working Families:** This is a partnership project with Tempo and Citizens Cymru to combine asset based community development with community organising approaches to enable sustainable solutions to in work poverty to be identified, piloted and developed.

**Workplace Youth:** This funding through Waterloo Foundation was used to engage with young people aged 16 to 25yrs in a series of woodwork sessions, and Level 1 Health and Safety in a Construction Environment Training. The aim of the fundng was to support young people into work.

**Youth Innovation:** This money was used to support local groups, organise and support voluntary youth activities.

**Transfers:** Relates to capital spend where the conditions of the grant has been fulfilled, management charge overhead allocation and internal project recharges. Where projects have incurred an overspend the board have agreed for unrestricted funds to cover the deficits.

**21 Designated funds**

| | Balance at 1 April 2021 | Resources expended | Balance at 1 April 2022 | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 31 March 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Dusty Forge Redevelopment | 95,007 | - | 95,007 | - | - | 95,007 |
| Fixed asset fund | 21,933 | (4,700) | 17,233 | (4,700) | 81,846 | 94,379 |
| Investment property | 144,441 | - | 144,441 | - | 75,559 | 220,000 |
| | 261,381 | (4,700) | 256,681 | (4,700) | 157,405 | 409,386 |

**Dusty Forge Redevelopment:** Comprise those funds set aside for future redevelopment work at the Dusty Forge building.

**Fixed asset fund**: relates to the net book value of the charity's unrestricted fixed assets.

**Investment property**: relates to the value of the property held for investment to generate unrestricted rental income for the charity.

**22 Analysis of net assets between funds**

| | **Unrestricted 2023** | **Designated 2023** | **Restricted 2023** | **Total 2023** | Unrestricted 2022 | Designated 2022 | Restricted 2022 | Total 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **£** | **£** | **£** | **£** | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by: | | | | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | - | 94,379 | 936,162 | 1,030,541 | - | 17,233 | 1,118,634 | 1,135,867 |
| Investment properties | - | 220,000 | - | 220,000 | - | 144,441 | - | 144,441 |
| Investments | 10 | - | - | 10 | 10 | - | - | 10 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 117,873 | 95,007 | 325,358 | 538,238 | 156,969 | 95,007 | 532,132 | 784,108 |
| | 117,883 | 409,386 | 1,261,520 | 1,788,789 | 156,979 | 256,681 | 1,650,766 | 2,064,426 |

**23 Related party transactions**

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

**24 Subsidiaries**

The charity holds the entire issued shared capital of 1 ordinary share of £10 in ACE Community Enterprises Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales.

The company was incorporated on 07 February 2014 and remains dormant, company Number 08881835, registered office, Dusty Forge, Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff, CF5 5BZ.

| Name of undertaking | Registered office | Nature of business | Class of shares held | % Held Direct | % Held Indirect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACE Community Enterprises Limited | England and Wales | Dormant | Ordinary | 100.00 | |

**25 Charges**

The National Heritage Memorial Fund have a registration of charge over the leasehold of Caerau Evangelical Church, Church Road, Caerau, Cardiff, CF5 5LQ.

| **26 Cash generated from operations** | **2023** | **2022** |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | **£** |
| (Deficit)/surpus for the year | (275,637) | 861,510 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities | (1,341) | (308) |
| Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets | 72,548 | - |
| Fair value gains and losses on investment properties | (75,559) | - |
| Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | 64,905 | 51,922 |
| Movements in working capital: | | |
| (Increase) in debtors | (45,554) | (7,702) |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors | 30,612 | (74,787) |
| **Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations** | (230,026) | 830,635 |

**27 Analysis of changes in net funds**

The charity had no debt during the year.

**ACE (ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150422

# Accounts

Charity registration number 1150422

Company registration number 07623914 (England and Wales)

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

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# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

## *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022*

**Chair's Report**

Doubts about where next year's funding will come from may still keep senior staff awake at night. But after five consecutive years of expansion, in 2021-22 the breathless pace of growth itself became a feature of ACE's remarkable success story which also demanded our attention.

The staff has more than doubled from 15 to 37. Our recently refurbished base at the Dusty Forge is already beginning to feel overcrowded, and management of the charity – which funders are always less keen to fund than projects – is under constant strain.

ACE's reputation for effective projects has spread. Public bodies and national charities are keener than ever to work in partnership with us. In the past year our core activities in areas such as community development, health, youth work and community arts have been consolidated or expanded. It's particularly gratifying that we have been invited to extend our distinctive community-led partnership approach to new areas of work. The ACE Cares project with Cwmpas is exploring ways our community can support carers at a time when care services are hard-pressed/ stretched thin. Shape your Future is helping people stuck in low paid jobs to advance their careers.

All this success was typified by the triumphant opening in September 2021 of the CAER Heritage Centre and playground - the culmination of 10 years of inspired work with Cardiff University on the Hidden Hillfort project. Then 10 months later we capped even that with our community archaeology Big Dig in Caerau, which amazingly revealed the site of an Iron Age roundhouse, the oldest house ever found in Cardiff.

The scope and reach of ACE's activities may seem unlimited. But it isn't.

We are confronted now with the race to respond to the needs of desperate families who have come through the ravages of Covid only to be plunged into a cost of living crisis and chronic food and fuel poverty. ACE has mustered an array of measures, including cheap food at the Pantry and Café Barr, weekly crisis advice "clinics", low-cost equipment hire at the Library of Things, big increases in the distribution of fuel vouchers for struggling households, and urgent planning for "warm bank" refuge in the coming winter.

Co-directors Dave Horton and Michelle Powell, who seamlessly took over from John Hallett in April 2021, reluctantly concede the shocking scale of this latest challenge. Even though senior staff share responsibilities for fundraising with brilliant results; our superbly flexible staff fit into new roles at the drop of a hat; our volunteers contribute massively; and finances are kept constantly under review, all our efforts and resources can never be enough.

Managing our many modestly resourced activities is like juggling with a dozen balls on a tightrope without a net while the lion tamer is on holiday. I'm in awe of what our staff and volunteers achieve, and I'm always grateful for the support they receive from my colleagues on our excellent Board.

Of course, some of the power to provide answers to the terrible times many community members are facing lie with politicians. But at least I'm confident that ACE will be doing everything possible to grow our capacity to help wherever we can, so our community can do more than survive - we can thrive together with dignity.

Mel Witherden

.....

**Mel Witherden**

Chairman

Dated: 19-12-2022

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

## *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022*

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

**Objectives and activities**

ACE–Action in Caerau and Ely is a community organisation located in West Cardiff. We have 37 staff, 85 volunteers and several thousand participants and beneficiaries, many of whom are active contributors to local community development and regeneration efforts. We are very proud that many of our staff team live in Ely and Caerau and many projects and activities are run with or by our volunteers. We manage two community buildings and a community garden and deliver a range of community based activities that help people, many of which you will read about in this annual report.

Our vision is to create vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live. We do this by all or any of the following means (these are our charitable objectives):

1. the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit;
2. the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;
3. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
4. the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
5. in setting up their own business,
6. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
7. the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;
8. the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
9. the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
10. such other means may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

ACE will work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision
- Co-producing services and activities that make use of assets and meet needs
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities

ACE will nurture and develop local assets and opportunities to meet needs through the following types of projects, activities and services:

- Community Support: Crisis support and financial capability.
- Training and support for the unemployed
- Health & Wellbeing work including mental health support and training

- Work with Children, Young People and Families
- Community led activity
- Heritage, Arts and Culture projects
- Social enterprise and local economic development
- Community and citywide influencing and campaigning

During 2021-22 we have developed a number of new projects to respond to community need. These include:

- GRACE project – working with partners at Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Services (HMPPS) and Wales Restorative Approaches Partnership (WRAP) to provide community based approaches to support men on probation from Ely and Caerau and their families.
- Community led research – working with partners in Bevan Foundation to develop workshops and focus groups with local people that explore various aspects of the lived experience of poverty.
- Shape Youth Future – A project funded by a private donor that works with community members to remove barriers that prevent individuals from progressing to better paid employment and improved future career prospects.
- CAER Heritage Centre – In September 2021 we opened our brand new CAER Community Heritage Centre which quickly became a base for multiple projects and services including: Love our Hillfort conservation group, a community garden, Flying Start, ACE Youth and Curiosity STEM after schools clubs. A number of partners use the centre for meetings, supporting the financial sustainability of the centre.

The strategies employed for continuity are:

- Building the capacity to deliver and develop: ACE has achieved an impressive track record for effective project delivery and innovation. It is also encouraging that we continue to develop new opportunities for growth. We will continue to capitalise on these strengths to create an ambitious programme to develop the charity, its activities, and our capacity for effective delivery.
- Providing services directly: ACE has developed a strong range of services based on identified needs which support the communities it serves. Many of these are well established but we also maintain the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances by developing new services to meet new needs.
- Continuing to diversify income streams: The majority of income realised by ACE is through grants and contracts. Social enterprise activity was effected significantly by the covid pandemic but has been beginning to regain momentum. An increasing area of income generation this year has been in the form of (sometimes large) private donations. These support both core costs and delivery. We are working with some of these donors to increase our skills in attracting this kind of income.
- Strategies to ensure continuity: Building on our work to diversify income streams (outlined above) we continue to apply tried and tested methods towards income generation to enable continuity. Plans are under development to replace large grants that are coming to an end with new long term funded opportunities.
- Buildings and space: In September 2021 we opened our brand new CAER Community Heritage Centre which quickly became a base for multiple projects and services including: Love our Hillfort conservation group, a community garden, Flying Start, ACE Youth and Curiosity STEM after schools clubs. In addition, our Diana Garden community regeneration project has attracted increased resources over this period, allowing us to make major positive changes to the physical space but also to increase participation and community activity at the site.
- Building partnerships: ACE continues to work with dozens of partner organisations on a wide range of projects. New partnerships established this year include: Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), Wales Restorative Approaches Partnership (WRAP), Saint Vincent DePaul (SVP) Community Centre, Cwmpas, and Bevan Foundation.
- Utilising others' capacity and contributing to their services: A number of partner organisations have been providing essential services and activities alongside ACE or at ACE venues, including the following: Flying Start early years provision, Probation 1-2-1 sessions, into work drop-in advice sessions and 1-2-1 support for young people with mental health challenges.

- Maintaining our good name: The organisation has developed a strongly positive reputation across the city and is valued in communities, the third sector and the local authority. ACE will work to protect its good name by devoting appropriate resources to quality control and pro-active public relations.
- Mobilising ACE's reputation and influence: Our successful track record and high reputation give ACE the potential to have a positive impact elsewhere. ACE will work to maintain its relationships, influence policies in the voluntary and public sectors, and advocate for the communities it serves at respective levels.

The strategies employed for growth:

- Creating opportunities to develop new work: ACE will continue to create income-generating initiatives to address the long-term threat posed by the inevitable funding gap. ACE will continue to devote resources and effort to expanding promising enterprises such as ACE Training and ACE Housing and to creating financially viable new enterprise and community projects. Recent work in this area has produced a series of training modules that are bespoke to ACE, capturing the ACE Way in Asset Based Community Development, Co-Production and Community Organising.
- Expanding the area of operation: ACE's origins, history and goals are rooted deeply in the Ely and Caerau area of Cardiff. But our experience and our effective delivery of anti-poverty programmes here has attracted interest in our services elsewhere. While retaining its primary commitment to improving the quality of life of Ely and Caerau residents, ACE will seek service delivery and contracting opportunities in other areas of Cardiff and beyond with the aim of generating income and building long-term sustainability.
- Expanding volunteering: ACE has comprehensively demonstrated the many personal and community benefits of voluntary work. ACE has over the period engaged with 80+ volunteers and has 25 volunteer role descriptions across the organisation. Volunteering within ACE is now fully embedded into our core values of community asset development and coproduction. We continue to actively promote volunteering and attract, train and support volunteers to undertake work within ACE and in the wider community.
- Acquiring and developing new buildings: Developing property assets is a widely used mechanism for improving the sustainability of community initiatives. In this period we opened the Caer Community Heritage Centre, formally the Gospel Hall on Church Road, Caerau.
- A new focus on monitoring and evaluation: ACE has redefined how it monitors and evaluates its work, and has developed a new manageable approach which can be applied flexibly to the full range of its activities.
- ACE Board of Trustees: Membership of the ACE Board is influenced by the conscious need to preserve a balance between local representation and the skills needed for the governance of a dynamic charity. The focus in this period has been to ensure there is a balance of business and community representation on the board. But changing priorities and challenges will be kept continuously under review so that the board is prepared to attract and appoint new board members with relevant expertise when they are needed.

**Criteria to measure success**

It is crucial that we gather information that tells us whether or not our Theory of Change, Strategic Plan and day-to-day activities are effective in meeting our aims and objectives and fulfilling our vision. As 2021-22 progressed ACE activities were able to resume, and the Dusty Forge opened up to the community, although still governed by Covid guidelines, which put limits on the number of people who could access an activity at any given time.

Our Strategic and Operational Plan lay out a range of specific criteria to measures success. ACE uses a number of approaches to provide evidence against these criteria, including surveys, focus groups, 1-1 conversations, video interviews etc. One of the most powerful tools we use is the Most Significant Change approach which uses personal stories of change to create learning conversations through panels of participants and staff. You will see a number of examples of these in the Annual Report attached.

The collaborative learning from these approaches will be used to review and update the Theory of Change and Strategic plan and to make changes to our practice where necessary. The next Theory of Change takes place in 2023. We are looking forward to becoming an organisation with learning and development at its heart.

**Achievements and performance**

Better late than never, ACE was excited to resume to somewhat normal levels of activity towards the mid to latter part of 2021. We were able to return to applying our traditional approaches to coproduction and asset based community development and feel part of a vibrant community again. Some of what was achieved is outlined below:

- Through our advice and support work we have increased household income in the community by £106,434, supporting 525 households with fuel vouchers, grants and unclaimed benefits.
- Our community shop saw on average 100 people a week who accessed affordable or free, clothes, shoes, household and toiletry items.
- The volunteer fixers in our repair café have checked out almost over 300 items in 3 years. Most items were repaired, all our customers leave feeling they have received a personal and friendly welcome.
- The pantry received visits from over 100 visitors a week all of whom received £15 to £20 of food for their £5 membership.
- Over 300 customers have enjoyed affordable healthy food at Café Barr
- Our Tier 0 mental health service provided guided self-help to over 1,000 patients
- Our Yourspace wellbeing support project working in partnership with Cardiff Southwest Primary Care Cluster supported 412 to improve their wellbeing and self-confidence.
- Our Compassionate Communities Project facilitated 34 grief space peer support sessions for those experiencing grief and bereavement.
- Weekly gardening sessions have been run, with volunteers ensuring the ongoing development of the garden.
- We continue to work with partners Grow Cardiff to provide weekly therapeutic gardening sessions in the Dusty Forge Garden.
- In September 2021 we opened our new Caer Community Heritage Centre providing a new venue for a wide range of activities including youth groups, afterschool clubs, volunteer groups, adult education classes and Flying Start groups.
- Our parent wellbeing projects enabled over 40 families to enjoy our sessions and find a better sense of wellbeing.
- 60 young people accessed ACE youth activities every week.
- Between April 2021 and March 2022, 172 learners accessed ACE Training services. 91% of learners gained a qualification that will enable them to gain employment.

**Financial review**

ACE's future continues to be incredibly exciting; we are a community led charity which has a plan, purpose, and a fantastic group of volunteers, trustees and staff. Over our last 10 years of operation ACE has added over £11 million to the local economy across Cardiff West. In 2018 ACE became independent from previous large Government funding programmes and has continued to draw in income generated through social enterprise activities, grant applications, contracts, fundraising and donations and legacies.

ACE is a charity standing in its own right, working with residents to see meaningful change across communities – this is a huge achievement which continues to address an unfair 'stigma' attached to Ely and Caerau, something residents of Ely and Caerau can be really proud of.

We have continued to build on a firm foundation of strong financial policy and effective financial management through 2021-22. Income in 2021-22 was spread across 40 projects, delivering in Ely and Caerau and other communities in Cardiff. ACE has been successful in following its strategic plan objective to diversify income streams. During 2021-22 ACE received £1,995,870 income from numerous funders, contracts and donations. This year saw our first significant private donation that supported ACE's core costs and not project delivery, this is something that we have not generated to such a degree previously. ACE also self-generated £74,223 via social enterprise such as rental, consultancy work and training.

Whilst Covid did still impact our ability to generate income and deliver training at the beginning of the year we were able to increase income on the previous year by £728,359.

ACE's financial performance and position going forward continues to be very healthy, with 2022-23 forecast to show a small surplus. Future years are more challenging hence why it is so essential that ACE build sufficient reserves to be able meet any future liabilities. We will continue to regularly review the level of reserves and adjust accordingly. Interest rates have been close to zero throughout 2021-22 and thus we have generated very little income from our bank balances. However, with interest rates on the rise we will actively manage our cash balances, including the reserves, to take advantage of the increase while ensuring our funds are not put at risk. In terms of expenditure, we along with everyone else, have seen our costs increase due to inflation. We continue to look for the best deals and to save money wherever we can while at the same time offering services to help our community such as the Warm Space initiative.

**Transactions and Financial Position**
The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net unrestricted deficit for the year of £46,762 and our unrestricted reserves stand at £413,658.

**Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the charity**
Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in note 11 to the financial statements.

**Investment Policy and Returns**
The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and have found that placing monies on deposit with the Co-operative Bank is the most appropriate course of action to allow the necessary degree and flexibility.

**Reserves policy and going concern**
We are continuing with the policy set in 2021 of setting aside a minimum of 18 months running costs of the organisation within our reserves. This has been achieved through the building of cash reserves, and now have free reserves of £152,280. During 2022-23 this policy and the figure required will be further reviewed.

**Plans for the future**

Looking forward, through careful planning, creative thinking and community based delivery we will build on this success. ACE will enable community action through the direct provision of services, the development of community assets and social enterprise. We will access funding to support our work, and will work with people, community groups, organisations and businesses, directing our resources in a sustainable and effective manner.

**Structure, governance and management**

**Governing Document**
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 8 April 2011. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company.

**Appointment of trustees**
All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Trustees have the power to appoint additional trustees, as it considers fit to do so.

Directors/trustees are elected from the membership at an annual general meeting. Each year one third of the board of directors (those being the longest in office since their last election) stand down but are eligible for re-election without further nomination. The Memorandum and Articles of Association make allowances for an elected staff representative to sit as a full member of the board. Election takes place during the month following the AGM.

**Trustee induction and training**
All new directors/trustees receive a comprehensive induction session and an induction pack with essential information.

**Organisation**
The board of trustees, which can have up to 12 members, administers the charity. The board normally meets monthly and there are committees covering development and funding, HR, finance and audit, which normally meet monthly. The ACE Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and community related activity.

**Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**
None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity, contractor, must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

**Pay policy for staff**
The directors consider the board of directors, who are the Trust's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 9 and 19 to the accounts.

The pay of the staff is appraised annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other third sector organisations of a similar size run on a voluntary basis. The remuneration bench-mark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles adjusted for a weighting of up to 30% for any additional responsibilities. If recruitment has proven difficult in the recent past a market addition is also paid with the pay maximum no greater than the highest benchmarked salary for a comparable role.

**Risk management**
The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces;
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in
- the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on
- the charity should those risks materialise.
- the impact of COVID on delivery of activities, projects and services.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due, regular liaison with the bank, and active management of trade debtors and creditors balances to ensure sufficient working capital by the charity.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, IT security, market volatility, health and safety of staff and volunteers, food hygiene. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

**Reference and administrative details**

**Company number:**
07623914

**Charity number:**
1150422

**Registered office:**
Our Place: Dusty Forge
460 Cowbridge Road West
Cardiff
CF5 5BZ

**Trustees:**
M Dixey
M Hulland
D King
C Lannen
H McCarthy
J O'Keefe (Treasurer) - resigned 7th July 2021
A O'Regan
J Roach
O Scott
L Smith
M Witherden (Chair)
D Wyatt

**Secretary:**
D Horton

**Key management personnel:**
D Horton - CEO
M Powell - CEO

**Auditor:**
Azets Audit Services
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

**Bankers:**
The Co-operative Bank Cardiff
16-17 High St
Cardiff
CF10 1AX

**Solicitors:**
JMD Law Limited
26-28 James Street
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF10 5EX

**Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Mel Witherden

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**M Witherden - Trustee**

Dated: 19th December 2022

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022*

The trustees, who are also the directors of ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely for the purpose 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that 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 estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- 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 adequate 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 Companies Act 2006. They 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.

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

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services ..... 21-12-2022

**Azets Audit Services**

**Chartered Accountants**
**Statutory Auditor**

Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF23 8AB

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022*

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds 2022 £ | Restricted funds 2022 £ | Total 2022 £ | Unrestricted funds 2021 £ | Restricted funds 2021 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 52,225 | 29,505 | 81,730 | 179 | 33,083 | 33,262 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 1,000 | 1,913,141 | 1,914,141 | 56,830 | 1,211,816 | 1,268,646 |
| Other trading activities | 5 | 49,486 | 24,737 | 74,223 | 32,044 | 7,227 | 39,271 |
| Investments | 6 | 308 | - | 308 | 864 | - | 864 |
| **Total income** | | 103,019 | 1,967,383 | 2,070,402 | 89,917 | 1,252,126 | 1,342,043 |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 149,781 | 1,059,111 | 1,208,892 | 3,342 | 1,016,899 | 1,020,241 |
| **Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers** | | (46,762) | 908,272 | 861,510 | 86,575 | 235,227 | 321,802 |
| Gross transfers between funds | | 116,387 | (116,387) | - | (7,192) | 7,192 | - |
| **Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds** | | 69,625 | 791,885 | 861,510 | 79,383 | 242,419 | 321,802 |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2021 | | 344,033 | 858,883 | 1,202,916 | 264,650 | 616,464 | 881,114 |
| **Fund balances at 31 March 2022** | | 413,658 | 1,650,768 | 2,064,426 | 344,033 | 858,883 | 1,202,916 |

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## BALANCE SHEET

### *AS AT 31 MARCH 2022*

| | Notes | 2022 £ | 2022 £ | 2021 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 11 | | 1,135,867 | | 490,840 |
| Investment properties | 12 | | 144,441 | | 144,441 |
| Investments | 13 | | 10 | | 10 |
| | | | 1,280,318 | | 635,291 |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | 14 | 129,814 | | 122,112 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 672,479 | | 538,485 | |
| | | 802,293 | | 660,597 | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | 15 | (18,185) | | (92,972) | |
| Net current assets | | | 784,108 | | 567,625 |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 2,064,426 | | 1,202,916 |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 17 | | 1,650,768 | | 858,883 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| Designated funds | 18 | 256,681 | | 261,381 | |
| General unrestricted funds | | 156,977 | | 82,652 | |
| | | | 413,658 | | 344,033 |
| | | | 2,064,426 | | 1,202,916 |

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 19-12-2022

Mel Witherdon

.....

**M Witherdon - Trustee**

**Company Registration No. 07623914**

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022*

| | Notes | 2022 £ | £ | 2021 £ | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | | | | |
| Cash generated from operations | 23 | | 830,635 | | 456,449 |
| **Investing activities** | | | | | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (696,949) | | (371,904) | |
| Purchase of investment property | | - | | (144,441) | |
| Investment income received | | 308 | | 864 | |
| **Net cash used in investing activities** | | | (696,641) | | (515,481) |
| **Net cash used in financing activities** | | | - | | - |
| **Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents** | | | 133,994 | | (59,032) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | | 538,485 | | 597,517 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at end of year** | | | 672,479 | | 538,485 |

## 1 Accounting policies

### Charity information

ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is c/o Our Place - Dusty Forge, 460 Cowbridge Road West, Ely, Cardiff, CF5 5BZ, United Kingdom.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

### 1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income from grants, whether capital grants or revenue grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Capital grants are released to the SOFA in the year of receipt. Fixed assets relating to capital grants are capitalised, and depreciation charged is offset against the grant income, in a restricted fund.

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

Rental and training income is invoiced and is recognised in the period to which the service was provided.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Income earned from interest is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

**1.5 Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustees report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|---|---|
| Property improvements | 5% per annum on cost |
| IT equipment | 10% per annum on cost |
| Motor vehicles | 20% per annum on cost |

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

**1.7 Investment properties**

**1.8 Fixed asset investments**

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. The investments are assessed for impairment at each reporting date and any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in net income/ (expenditure) for the year.

The investment property is currently valued at cost within the accounts due to the trustees being of the opinion that the purchase value is not materially different to its fair value at the year end.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

**1.9 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**1.10 Financial instruments**

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

***Basic financial assets***

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

***Derecognition of financial assets***

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

**1.11 Taxation**

As a registered charity, Ace-Action in Caerau and Ely is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

**1.12 Employee benefits**

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.

**1.13 Retirement benefits**

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

**1.14 Leases**

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

**2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

**3 Donations and legacies**

| | **Unrestricted funds** | **Restricted funds** | **Total** | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2022** | **2022** | **2022** | 2021 | 2021 | 2021 |
| | **£** | **£** | **£** | £ | £ | £ |
| Donations and gifts | 52,225 | 29,505 | 81,730 | 179 | 33,083 | 33,262 |

## 4 Charitable activities

| | 2022<br>£ | 2021<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| Grants | 1,914,141 | 1,260,526 |
| Sundry income | - | 8,120 |
| | 1,914,141 | 1,268,646 |
| Analysis by fund | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 1,000 | 56,830 |
| Restricted funds | 1,913,141 | 1,211,816 |
| | 1,914,141 | 1,268,646 |
| **Grants** | | |
| Arts Council of Wales | 4,500 | 20,250 |
| Cardiff Council | 112,349 | 55,000 |
| Cardiff University - Caer Heritage | 2,500 | - |
| Charities Aid Foundation | 35,443 | 2,300 |
| Children In Need | 39,871 | 8,268 |
| Cardiff and the Vale Wellbeing | 355,103 | 376,390 |
| University of South Wales - Caer Heritage | 3,651 | - |
| Care & Repair | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| The National Lottery Heritage Fund | 752,256 | 96,226 |
| Citizens Advice | 8,000 | 13,000 |
| Co-op | 2,260 | 144 |
| Dusty Shed | 6,777 | 6,777 |
| Neighbourly Community Fund | - | 400 |
| National Lottery Community Fund | 101,515 | 161,198 |
| Western Power | - | 3,495 |
| Food Sense | 6,000 | 37,400 |
| Arnold Clark | 2,500 | - |
| C3SC | 71,826 | 16,378 |
| Charities Trust | 2,000 | - |
| Child Friendly Cardiff | 9,075 | - |
| Invest Local Trust | 49,245 | 168,630 |
| Community Foundation in Wales | 1,000 | - |
| Glamorgan Voluntary Services | 3,703 | - |
| The Energy Saving | 72,496 | 47,835 |
| Groundwork UK | 1,000 | - |
| HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | 7,530 | 81,279 |
| Hubbub | 3,000 | - |
| Macmillan | 36,875 | 19,594 |
| Mind | - | 19,852 |
| Moondance Foundation | 19,255 | 22,658 |
| Morrisons | - | 5,500 |
| Pet Supplies | - | 117 |
| | 1,718,730 | 1,171,691 |

## 4 Charitable activities (Continued)

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Public Health Wales | 5,000 | - |
| Soil Association | - | 1,000 |
| Wales & West Housing | 70,000 | - |
| Wales Centre for Public Policy | 450 | - |
| Wales Restorative Approaches Partnership | 14,848 | - |
| Waterloo Foundation | - | 49,900 |
| WCVA | 93,408 | 37,935 |
| Welsh Government - Community Facilities Programme | 11,705 | - |
| | 1,914,141 | 1,260,526 |

## 5 Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2021 | 2021 | 2021 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Rental income | 2,436 | 10,120 | 12,556 | - | - | - |
| Training and consultancy income | 47,050 | 14,617 | 61,667 | 32,044 | 7,227 | 39,271 |
| Other trading activities | 49,486 | 24,737 | 74,223 | 32,044 | 7,227 | 39,271 |

## 6 Investments

| | Unrestricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
|---|---|---|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| | £ | £ |
| Interest receivable | 308 | 864 |

## 7 Charitable activities

| | 2022<br>£ | 2021<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | 740,368 | 680,409 |
| Bad debt | 335 | 389 |
| Donations | 26,907 | 4,826 |
| Heat, light & insurance | 12,092 | 7,659 |
| IT costs & telephone | 8,489 | 12,963 |
| Marketing, sundry & training | 1,386 | - |
| Printing, postage & stationery | - | 2,463 |
| Project costs | 256,423 | 210,358 |
| Rent, rates & relocation costs | 2,378 | 546 |
| Repairs & renewals | 23,862 | 4,937 |
| Equipment hire & room hire | 139 | 383 |
| Travel & subsistence | 11,676 | 3,316 |
| | 1,084,055 | 928,249 |
| Share of support costs (see note 8) | 119,776 | 86,993 |
| Share of governance costs (see note 8) | 5,061 | 4,999 |
| | 1,208,892 | 1,020,241 |
| **Analysis by fund** | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 149,781 | 3,342 |
| Restricted funds | 1,059,111 | 1,016,899 |
| | 1,208,892 | 1,020,241 |

## 8 Support costs

| | Support costs | Governance costs | 2022 | Support costs | Governance costs | 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 48,344 | - | 48,344 | 42,014 | - | 42,014 |
| Depreciation | 51,922 | - | 51,922 | 15,485 | - | 15,485 |
| Cleaning | 10,328 | - | 10,328 | 8,488 | - | 8,488 |
| Bank charges and bad debts | 125 | - | 125 | 122 | - | 122 |
| Management charges | 5,450 | - | 5,450 | 4,113 | - | 4,113 |
| Printing, postage & stationery | 2,806 | - | 2,806 | 1,434 | - | 1,434 |
| Motor costs | 801 | - | 801 | 7,701 | - | 7,701 |
| Repairs & renewals | - | - | - | 7,052 | - | 7,052 |
| Travel & subsistence | - | - | - | 584 | - | 584 |
| Audit fees | - | 4,461 | 4,461 | - | 4,399 | 4,399 |
| Accountancy | - | 600 | 600 | - | 600 | 600 |
| | 119,776 | 5,061 | 124,837 | 86,993 | 4,999 | 91,992 |
| Analysed between | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 119,776 | 5,061 | 124,837 | 86,993 | 4,999 | 91,992 |

## 9 Trustees

No trustees received remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity during the current or prior year.

No trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior year.

## 10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| | 2022 Number | 2021 Number |
|---|---|---|
| | 39 | 36 |

| Employment costs | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Wages and salaries | 714,349 | 656,572 |
| Social security costs | 50,252 | 45,170 |
| Other pension costs | 24,111 | 20,681 |
| | 788,712 | 722,423 |

## 10 Employees (Continued)

**Key management personnel**
The key management personnel of the charity are as detailed in the trustees report. The total employee benefits (including gross salary, employer's national insurance, employers pension contributions and benefits in kind) of the key management personnel of the charity were £101,230 (2021: £122,952).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

## 11 Tangible fixed assets

| | Property improvements | IT equipment | Motor vehicles | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Cost** | | | | |
| At 1 April 2021 | 483,198 | 3,630 | 33,094 | 519,922 |
| Additions | 696,949 | - | - | 696,949 |
| At 31 March 2022 | 1,180,147 | 3,630 | 33,094 | 1,216,871 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | | |
| At 1 April 2021 | 14,291 | 3,630 | 11,161 | 29,082 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | 47,222 | - | 4,700 | 51,922 |
| At 31 March 2022 | 61,513 | 3,630 | 15,861 | 81,004 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | | |
| At 31 March 2022 | 1,118,634 | - | 17,233 | 1,135,867 |
| At 31 March 2021 | 468,907 | - | 21,933 | 490,840 |

## 12 Investment property

| | 2022 |
|---|---|
| | £ |
| **Fair value** | |
| At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 | 144,441 |

Investment property comprises a residential property purchased in October 2020 by the charity for rental appreciation. The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of the price paid for the property when purchased. The trustees are of the opinion that there is no material difference between the cost price and the fair value price at the year end.

Contained in the above are amounts totalling £nil (2021: £nil) in relation to land.

## 13 Fixed asset investments

## 13 Fixed asset investments (Continued)

| | Other investments |
|---|---|
| **Cost or valuation** | |
| At 1 April 2021 & 31 March 2022 | 10 |
| **Carrying amount** | |
| At 31 March 2022 | 10 |
| At 31 March 2021 | 10 |

| Other investments comprise: | Notes | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Investments in subsidiaries | 21 | 10 | 10 |

## 14 Debtors

| **Amounts falling due within one year:** | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade debtors | 112,138 | 76,655 |
| Other debtors | 17,676 | 42,973 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | - | 2,484 |
| | 129,814 | 122,112 |

## 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade creditors | - | 88,049 |
| Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings | 12,524 | 10 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 5,661 | 4,913 |
| | 18,185 | 92,972 |

## 16 Retirement benefit schemes

**Defined contribution schemes**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £24,111 (2021: £20,681). There were no amounts outstanding during the current or prior year.

## 17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

| | | Movement in funds | | | | Movement in funds | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Balance at 1 April 2020 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 1 April 2021 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 31 March 2022 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Arts Council of Wales | 13,665 | 20,250 | (23,394) | - | 10,521 | 4,500 | (15,888) | 867 | - |
| ACE Health | 36,945 | 131,051 | (139,137) | (270) | 28,589 | 147,823 | (148,566) | (11,604) | 16,242 |
| ACE Community Support | 32,263 | 50,718 | (42,525) | (360) | 40,096 | 34,348 | (20,849) | (2,765) | 50,830 |
| Tier 0 | 12,757 | 246,339 | (185,195) | - | 73,901 | 208,025 | (207,348) | (17,544) | 57,034 |
| Together Trust | 15,279 | 168,630 | (33,536) | (2,713) | 147,660 | 49,245 | (64,707) | (2,000) | 130,198 |
| Children In Need | 22,530 | 7,768 | (25,551) | - | 4,747 | 39,871 | (40,368) | (4,250) | - |
| Working Well | 44,200 | 126,867 | (107,842) | - | 63,225 | 118,874 | (106,112) | (10,586) | 65,401 |
| Youth Innvoation | 2,431 | 30,000 | (24,881) | (90) | 7,460 | 39,787 | (29,776) | (4,310) | 13,161 |
| ACE Giving | - | 10,083 | - | - | 10,083 | 6,208 | (5,576) | - | 10,715 |
| Dusty Shed | - | 6,777 | (4,791) | - | 1,986 | 6,777 | (6,057) | - | 2,706 |
| ACE Housing | - | - | (5,012) | 5,012 | - | 7,364 | (4,368) | - | 2,996 |
| Caer Enterprises | - | 24 | - | - | 24 | 5,058 | (4,041) | 1,030 | 2,071 |
| Food Support | - | 62,928 | (33,571) | - | 29,357 | 24,206 | (16,337) | (14,635) | 22,591 |
| The National Lottery Heritage Fund | 47,318 | 117,228 | (82,719) | (90) | 81,737 | 826,756 | (100,736) | (23,981) | 783,776 |
| Redress | - | 24,729 | (24,729) | - | - | 94,996 | (33,866) | (450) | 60,680 |
| Macmillan | - | 19,594 | (19,594) | - | - | 36,875 | (31,007) | (5,172) | 696 |
| Moondance Foundation | 127,802 | - | (59,900) | - | 67,902 | 19,255 | (29,271) | (9,519) | 48,367 |
| Pantry | - | 10,086 | (15,789) | 5,703 | - | 34,637 | (19,085) | (3,445) | 12,107 |
| MIND (Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund: Wales) | - | 19,852 | (17,867) | - | 1,985 | - | - | - | 1,985 |
| COVID Support | - | 94,923 | (72,988) | - | 21,935 | 44,728 | (44,466) | - | 22,197 |
| HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | - | 81,279 | (81,279) | - | - | 7,530 | (7,530) | - | - |
| | 355,190 | 1,229,126 | (1,000,300) | 7,192 | 591,208 | 1,756,863 | (935,954) | (108,364) | 1,303,753 |

**17 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

| | Movement in funds | | | | | Movement in funds | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Balance at 1 April 2020 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 1 April 2021 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 31 March 2022 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Welsh Gov - Communitites Facilties Programme | 261,274 | 23,000 | (16,599) | - | 267,675 | - | (7,073) | - | 260,602 |
| Benthyg | - | - | - | - | - | 37,941 | (13,700) | (1,999) | 22,242 |
| Bereavement support | - | - | - | - | - | 11,705 | (11,140) | (565) | - |
| Bevan Foundation | - | - | - | - | - | 7,500 | (4,358) | (1,100) | 2,042 |
| Cardiff Council Hardship Fund | - | - | - | - | - | 41,500 | (4,516) | - | 36,984 |
| Diana Gardens/Grapevine | - | - | - | - | - | 12,299 | (4,496) | - | 7,803 |
| Grace Project | - | - | - | - | - | 14,848 | (13,044) | (900) | 904 |
| Summer of Smiles | - | - | - | - | - | 29,075 | (22,761) | (487) | 5,827 |
| Voluntary Sector Recovery | - | - | - | - | - | 25,675 | (21,045) | (4,630) | - |
| WCVA | - | - | - | - | - | 29,977 | (19,365) | - | 10,612 |
| Workplace Youth | - | - | - | - | - | - | (1,659) | 1,659 | - |
| | 616,464 | 1,252,126 | (1,016,899) | 7,192 | 858,883 | 1,967,383 | (1,059,111) | (116,386) | 1,650,769 |

**17 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

**Arts Council of Wales**: This money was used to fund a project to engage young people from 14-16, 16-18 and 16-24 age categories.

**ACE Health:** This money was for the development and delivery of health and wellbeing initiatives, including social prescribing, community development, participation and engagement work.

**ACE Community Support**: This money is to the support a programme to provide information, practical support and advice to vulnerable community members in Ely and Caerau.

**Charities Aid Foundation:** This money was used to deliver CAF resilience programme.

**Tier 0:** This money is to support a mental health service which provides psychological interventions through 1-1 guided self-help sessions and the delivery of psychoeducational courses.

**Cardiff University - Caer Heritage:** This money was used to work with young people in danger of exclusion at Michaelston Sixth Form College. To identify and support a range of work/volunteering placement opportunities with partner organisations.

**Together Trust:** This money is to deliver Building Communities Trust (BCT) invest local programme.

**Children In Need:** This money is to fund a project which uses local heritage and history as inspiration for experimental and exploratory STEM activities and projects.

**Working Well:** This is a partnership project with Tempo and Citizens Cymru to combine asset based community development with community organising approaches to enable sustainable solutions to in work poverty to be identified, piloted and developed.

**Youth Innovation:** This money was used to support local groups, organise and support voluntary youth activities.

**ACE Giving** - An opportunity for individuals to make a financial contribution to ACE's charitable work through donations, sponsorship and fundraising activities.

**Dusty Shed:** This money was used to support a Men's Shed project based at the Dusty Forge.

**ACE Housing**- Provision of a high quality, affordable, well maintained rental home to a local family, with additional support through ACE services where necessary.

**Caer Enterprises** - Development of social enterprise and income generating activity related to ACE's CAER Heritage project, including sales of CAER T-shirts and art.

**17 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

**Food Support**-Budget for developing community food projects including Dusty Community Kitchen, Cafe Barr and Food for Life Get Togethers.

**The National Lottery Heritage Fund:** This money was used to deliver the CAER Heritage Project.

**Redress Warm and Safe project** - Affordable warmth advice and support for community members in / at risk of fuel poverty delivered through drop in / case work sessions.

**Macmillan-** A project exploring how community development approaches can be used to increase the range of supportive care available for people who are dying, those supporting someone who is dying and people who are facing or experiencing bereavement.

**Moondance Foundation:** This money is to fund the Caer Heritage Project.

**Pantry:** This money is to support the membership food club providing affordable food shop for members in food poverty / insecurity. The project includes running a community food shop and delivery service using surplus food supplied by Fareshare project to support struggling working families to get involved in the design and delivery of community projects tackling in work poverty.

**MIND (Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund: Wales)** - A project to increase the capacity and reach of the Phone Friends project and to make it more accessible for people with a learning disability, working in partnership with Cardiff People First.

**COVID Support-** Misc income to help support projects during Covid 19.

**HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** - Funding received to cover wage and salary costs during the pandemic.

**Welsh Government:** This is a capital fund to support the refurbishment and renovation of community buildings.

**Postcode Lottery:** This money is to support the development of the 'Diana Gardens' site, community activity on and around the site and community capacity-building with local volunteers.

## 18 Designated funds

| | Balance at 1 April 2020 | Transfers | Balance at 1 April 2021 | Resources expended | Balance at 31 March 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Running costs | 9,788 | (9,788) | - | - | - |
| Dusty Forge Redevelopment | 95,007 | - | 95,007 | - | 95,007 |
| Fixed asset fund | - | 21,933 | 21,933 | (4,700) | 17,233 |
| Investment property | - | 144,441 | 144,441 | - | 144,441 |
| | 104,795 | 156,586 | 261,381 | (4,700) | 256,681 |

**Running costs:** Comprise those funds which ACE may at its discretion set aside funds for specific purposes which would otherwise form part of the general reserves of the organisation. The funds are set aside funds for the use, running costs, activities and events . This fund was transferred to general free reserves in the year.

**Dusty Forge Redevelopment:** Comprise those funds set aside for future redevelopment work at the Dusty Forge building.

**Fixed asset fund**: relates to the net book value of the charity's unrestricted fixed assets.

**Investment property**: relates to the value of the property held for investment to generate unrestricted rental income for the charity.

**19 Analysis of net assets between funds**

| | Unrestricted 2022 | Designated 2022 | Restricted 2022 | Total 2022 | Unrestricted 2021 | Designated 2021 | Restricted 2021 | Total 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by: | | | | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | - | 17,233 | 1,118,634 | 1,135,867 | - | 21,933 | 468,907 | 490,840 |
| Investment properties | - | 144,441 | - | 144,441 | - | 144,441 | - | 144,441 |
| Investments | 10 | - | - | 10 | 10 | - | - | 10 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 156,969 | 95,007 | 532,132 | 784,108 | 82,642 | 95,007 | 389,976 | 567,625 |
| | 156,979 | 256,681 | 1,650,766 | 2,064,426 | 82,652 | 261,381 | 858,883 | 1,202,916 |

## 20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

## 21 Subsidiaries

The charity holds the entire issued shared capital of 1 ordinary share of £10 in ACE Community Enterprises Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales.

The company was incorporated on 07 February 2014 and remains dormant, company Number 08881835, registered office, Dusty Forge, Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff, CF5 5BZ.

| Name of undertaking | Registered office | Nature of business | Class of shares held | % Held Direct | % Held Indirect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACE Community Enterprises Limited | England and Wales | Dormant | Ordinary | 100.00 | |

## 22 Charges

The National Heritage Memorial Fund have a registration of charge over the leasehold of Caerau Evangelical Church, Church Road, Caerau, Cardiff, CF5 5LQ.

## 23 Cash generated from operations

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Surplus for the year | 861,510 | 321,802 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities | (308) | (864) |
| Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | 51,922 | 15,485 |
| Movements in working capital: | | |
| (Increase)/decrease in debtors | (7,702) | 31,748 |
| (Decrease)/increase in creditors | (74,787) | 88,278 |
| **Cash generated from operations** | 830,635 | 456,449 |

## 24 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

**ACE (ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150422

# Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1150422

Company Registration No. 07623914 (England and Wales)

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

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# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

## *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021*

**Chair's Report**

No one would expect much to happen in a year when the country was in lockdown and the Our Place Dusty Forge centre was consistently closed to the public. But ACE isn't constrained by normal expectations. The pace of change accelerated in 2020-21, and it's arguably our most successful year so far.

The start of the pandemic saw an astonishing transformation of work priorities for staff and volunteers as they readjusted to home working and meeting community needs in new ways. Our charity was recognised as a critical front-line resource, and extra grants were attracted for food and fuel poverty and health projects. It was a tough time for everyone, but ACE proved its worth.

Meanwhile a £300,000 refurbishment programme for the Dusty was under way, transforming its dowdy run-down facilities into bright community spaces, training rooms and ground-floor offices.

That was just the start of a revolution in ACE's presence in the area. Work on the Hidden Hillfort Heritage Centre started in Caerau, creating opportunities for today's residents and links with their ancient Celtic past. In a significant step forward in November 2020, ACE bought a house next door to the Dusty. At a stroke we took a new role as a socially responsible landlord housing a local family, an investment of our reserves to safeguard the future, and a permanent physical stake in our community.

In the autumn of 2020 our co-founder and Director, John Hallett, announced he was leaving us in April. This news could have stopped us in our tracks. Yet we were able to explore the dangerous transition to new leadership calmly and systematically, including the challenging idea that senior development managers Dave Horton and Michelle Powell might take over jointly as co-directors. Initial misgivings proved unfounded, and Dave and Michelle slipped seamlessly into these new roles without the usual months of disruption of a new appointment at the top. They aren't the *same* as John. But they are brilliant successors.

Other game-changing appointments in 2020-21 included Helen Bull in the new and much-needed post of Volunteer Development Officer, and volunteer Dave King as trustee and Treasurer. He immediately set about a radical overhaul of our financial monitoring and reporting systems to bring them into line with our rising budgets and highly complex funding arrangements.

Too much good news? The year ended with the devastating blow of the death, at the age of just 42, of ACE Health Development Officer and Pantry Manager Caroline Barr, who was widely seen as the heart and soul of ACE's community volunteering. The pain of her loss was, and still is, palpable, and she has been remembered at ACE's tenth anniversary celebration in July 2021, in artwork produced by volunteers, and even in the naming of Dusty's 'Café Barr'.

Grants and invitations to tender for new projects have continued to roll in, including new ideas for social care, and a planned "Library of Things" equipment lending initiative. Full sustainability is not on the cards for ACE and there will probably be rocky years ahead. But the 2021-22 financial year – our tenth - started with ACE in its most comfortable advance funding position to date.

We recognise that COVID is not going away, however the learning over this year has put us in very good stead to continue to deliver our services to our community in the coming year.

Not bad for times when nothing is expected to happen.

Mel Witherden

.....

**Mel Witherden**

Chairman

Dated: 24-11-2021

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

## *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021*

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

**Objectives and activities**

ACE–Action in Caerau and Ely is a community organisation located in West Cardiff. We have over 1000 local members, many of whom are active contributors to local community development and regeneration efforts. We are very proud that many of our staff team live in Ely and Caerau and many projects and activities are run with or by volunteers. We manage two community buildings and deliver a range of community based activities that help people, many of which you will read about in this annual report.

Our vision is to create vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live. We do this by all or any of the following means (these are our charitable objectives):

1. the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit;
2. the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;
3. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
4. the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance, or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
5. in setting up their own business,
6. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings and/or land for use on favourable terms;
7. the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;
8. the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/ or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
9. the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
10. such other means may from time to time be determined subject to the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

ACE will work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision
- Co-producing services and activities that make use of assets and meet needs
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities

ACE will nurture and develop local assets and opportunities to meet needs through the following types of projects, activities and services:

- Community Support: Crisis support and financial capability.
- Training and support for the unemployed
- Health & Wellbeing work including mental health support and training
- Work with Children, Young People and Families
- Community led activity
- Heritage, Arts and Culture projects
- Social enterprise and local economic development
- Community and citywide influencing and campaigning

During 2020-21 we have adapted a number of our projects, and have developed new ones, to respond to the Covid-19 crisis, the associated lockdown, and the consequent impacts on our community. These include:

- Temporarily moving the Community Pantry shop to a home delivery model
- Providing emergency food bags
- Establishing our community support activities as a phone based service
- Recruiting and developing new volunteers to respond to the crisis
- Collecting and delivering prescriptions for vulnerable community members
- Providing moral support to local carers
- A Phone Friend service for socially isolated neighbours
- Development of digital inclusion work

The strategies employed for continuity are:

- Building the capacity to deliver and develop: ACE has achieved an impressive track record for effective project delivery and innovation. It is also encouraging to see a significant increase in ACE's capacity and ability to deliver work, and to see the planned shift from Communities First continually being realised. We will continue to capitalise on these strengths to create an ambitious programme to develop the charity, its activities, and our capacity for effective delivery.
- Providing services directly: ACE has developed a strong range of services based on identified needs which support the communities it serves. Future work will build on these activities, and we will monitor and evaluate progress to further develop projects which address key needs.
- Continuing to diversify income streams: The majority of income realised by ACE is through grants and contracts, however work is ongoing to improve the level of fund raising and income generation to support core and project costs. ACE Training despite COVID is still an active enterprise, at the latter end of 2020 ACE purchased its first property and became a socially responsible landlord and a new area of financial support came in the form of a Donation from a private donor greatly supporting the core costs of the organisation. ACE will continue to actively broaden its income streams by pursuing opportunities for social enterprises, contracting and rental income, as well as direct grant funding.
- Strategies to ensure continuity: ACE made full use of available Government COVID response grants to repurpose ACE projects, activities and services to meet the needs presented by COVID within our communities. The Government Job Retention Scheme was fully utilised enabling us to retain all core funded staff. Due to our ability to maintain funding there were no adverse impacts on pension contributions. Additionally, as costs fell we were able to increase our reserve situation.
- Buildings and space: ACE has successfully developed new uses for two redundant community buildings. Each building is an anchor for the delivery of planned projects and each have distinct functions for different demographics in the community. ACE will closely monitor the current use of its buildings and will plan to optimise their future deployment for income generation and sustainability.
- Planning carefully and prudently: As it has grown ACE has made great progress in undertaking increasingly complex financial planning. We will continue to plan carefully with an annual costed budget and considered operational plans. These will aim to allow room to invest and develop whilst prudently delivering on set objectives and activities.

- Building partnerships: Partnership building and working collaboratively is one of our most important achievements. ACE will continue, within the scope of its resources, to deliver partnerships with other likeminded organisations.
- Utilising others' capacity and contributing to their services: Post-Communities First changes in public policies on poverty, employment and health have altered the relationship between ACE and its former client base. ACE has worked to establish itself as significant contributor alongside partner and competitor organisations which deliver services that ACE no longer has the capacity for. There is a particular focus on employability, enabling ACE buildings to be a hub for service providers to engage participants and deliver their programmes from. This is essential for Ely and Caerau residents who are seeking employment and the continued success of ACE's social businesses.
- Maintaining our good name: The organisation has developed a strongly positive reputation across the city and is valued in communities, the third sector and the local authority. ACE will work to protect its good name by devoting appropriate resources to quality control and pro-active public relations.
- Mobilising ACE's reputation and influence: Our successful track record and high reputation give ACE the potential to have a positive impact elsewhere. ACE will work to maintain its relationships, influence policies in the voluntary and public sectors, and advocate for the communities it serves at respective levels.

The strategies employed for growth:

- Creating opportunities to develop new work: ACE will continue to create income-generating initiatives to address the long-term threat posed by the inevitable funding gap. ACE will continue to devote resources and effort to expanding promising enterprises such as ACE Training and ACE Housing and to creating financially viable new enterprise and community projects.

- Expanding the area of operation: ACE's origins, history and goals are rooted deeply in the Ely and Caerau area of Cardiff. But our experience and our effective delivery of anti-poverty programmes here has attracted interest in our services elsewhere. While retaining its primary commitment to improving the quality of life of Ely and Caerau residents, ACE will seek service delivery and contracting opportunities in other areas of Cardiff and beyond with the aim of generating income and building long-term sustainability.

- Expanding volunteering: ACE has comprehensively demonstrated the many personal and community benefits of voluntary work. ACE has undertaken a new programme of work, employing a Volunteer Development Officer to take a lead and, within its core values of community asset development and coproduction, to actively promote volunteering and attract, train and support volunteers to undertake work within ACE and in the wider community.

- Acquiring and developing new buildings: Developing property assets is a widely used mechanism for improving the sustainability of community initiatives. ACE will seek out fresh opportunities on an ongoing basis for acquiring and developing land and new and existing buildings. It will also continue to explore desirable new projects and potential partnerships where relevant. This could include joint ventures with the public sector (CCC or the Health Board), housing initiatives, and further community asset transfers.

- A new focus on monitoring and evaluation: ACE has redefined how it monitors and evaluates its work, and has developed a new manageable approach which can be applied flexibly to the full range of its activities.

- ACE Board of Trustees: Membership of the ACE Board is influenced by the conscious need to preserve a balance between local representation and the skills needed for the governance of a dynamic charity. But the value of Trustees with specialist knowledge is likely to grow as the charity's work and finances become more complex. ACE will maintain its policy requiring that at least half of its trustees should live or work in Ely and Caerau. But changing priorities and challenges will be kept continuously under review so that the board is prepared to attract and appoint new board members with relevant expertise when they are needed.

**Criteria to measure success**
It is crucial that we gather information that tells us whether or not our Theory of Change, Strategic Plan and day-to-day activities are effective in meeting our aims and objectives and fulfilling our vision. In 2018-19 we took the opportunity to design a new approach that puts organisational learning at its heart. We wanted everyone involved in ACE – staff, volunteers, trustees, members, participants and partners – to be reflecting on our experiences together, to be identifying what works (and what doesn't!) and to be getting better at what we do.

Whilst we got off to a positive start in implementing this, the approach has been held back due to COVID. 2021-22 will see us re-establish the following approaches to put people's experiences at the heart of our learning:

- Online surveys, promoted through social media. These will seek basic information from a large and diverse group of people regarding their experiences of engagement with ACE. Did they feel welcome and valued? What changed for them as a result? Will they come back? Some of you may have responded to one of these already. If not, we'd encourage you to do so!

- The collection of 'Most Significant Change' stories. A handful of personal stories of change will be collected by trained story collectors. These will explore, in detail and in their own words, what has changed for people as a result of their involvement with ACE. These stories will be discussed amongst panels of participants, staff, volunteers and partners, allowing a collaborative approach to learning and to understanding the significance of each story for how ACE works and how we could work better. You will see some early examples of these transformational stories in the pages of this report.

- Project specific interviews and surveys. These will collect demographic information and feedback related to specific projects. They will be particularly useful in meeting the monitoring and evaluation requirements of project funders and will be designed specifically to meet these needs.

The collaborative learning from these approaches will be used to review and update the Theory of Change and Strategic plan and to make changes to our practice where necessary. We are looking forward to becoming an organisation with learning and development at its heart.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

**Response to COVID and the impact of Government Control measures**

Life at the Dusty Forge changed significantly when COVID hit in early 2020. Our doors closed, activity was drawn to a minimum with only key services such as the Pantry, Phone Friends and Youth Food Cooking at home projects being delivered and intermittently across the year ACE Training providing health and safety courses to those seeking employment. The New Year was not filled with joy we were still in lockdown; the Dusty Forge still closed for several months to come. However, there was light at the end of the tunnel! Lockdown restrictions eased at the end of April and outdoor activities were able to restart, Grow Cardiff gardening group and Caer Hidden Hillfort volunteer sessions being the first to resume. In May we were able to open the doors of the Dusty Forge and welcome back Breaking the Mould Art Group and the Dusty Community Shop, two projects dearly missed by participants, volunteers and staff. By June something exciting was beginning to happen, there was renewed interest from volunteer led social and wellbeing support groups Knit and Natter and Retreat, they were keen to resume their much missed activity, and excitingly new group Allie's Crochet Group was set up. There was a renewed vigour in the community, people were starting to mobilise, clearly ready to step outside, wanting to be a part of something more than life had previously allowed. As the months progressed the Dusty Forge was increasingly becoming that well-loved hub and place of activity that we all knew it to be. ACE's risk assessments for the building and activities meant that we were able to put in place a series of safety measures to keep people safe and minimize their exposure to COVID. Groups, community members, volunteers and staff all took a lead in implementing this, completing forms upon forms week on week following all safety measures set in place; without them we would not have been able to keep the Dusty a COVID safe space. Whilst COVID has been exceptionally hard to live with there have been many positives we have learnt along the way, the most impactful for ACE is how we have not only been able to diversify the activities, projects and services we deliver but also the way which we operate daily.

**Achievements and performance**

ACE was delighted to win the category of Thriving Charity and to be shortlisted for Outstanding Charity of the Year in the WCVA Welsh Charity Awards November 2019. Since then, the organisation has gone from strength to strength, despite the significant challenges posed during the year 2020-21.

Inevitably, experiences during 2020-21 have been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated many of the challenges already experienced in our community whilst simultaneously making ACE's traditional approaches to coproduction and asset based community development extremely difficult or impossible. Nevertheless, the team responded quickly and creatively and staff and volunteers developed and delivered a range of crucial services, activities and projects to support local people.

During the Covid crisis and lockdown ACE has:

- Provided 1,083 food parcels to families through our Pantry collections and delivery service.
- Provided phone based support to 440 people struggling with a range of challenges related to the crisis.
- Provided Mental Health support to 196 people.
- Supplied 6 cooking packs each to 50 young people, totalling 300 family meals.
- Provided 27 people with weekly 'Phone Friend' calls.
- Provided 109 people with prescription deliveries.
- Supplied 45 people with Back Home Boxes after a hospital stay.
- Worked with partners Grow Cardiff to get people in Ely and Caerau growing fruit and veg in their back gardens. Engaged 30 pupils from Cardiff West Community High School in CAER Heritage Project activities.
- Supported around 100 people to dig more than 35 back garden archaeological test pits exploring our local history through CAER's Big Dig

Following a successful funding application to the Welsh Government's Community Facilities programme, we have been able to redevelop the Dusty Forge community centre, ensuring it is fit for purpose for years to come. Developments include: Improved disabled access, a larger reception/café/community living room area, new toilets, a new arts workshop, a new meeting/training room, increased storage space and a new heating system. We have also installed two sheltered outdoor meeting spaces to facilitate outdoor gatherings when required by Covid restrictions.

January of 2021 also saw us begin the development of the old Caerau Gospel Hall into a new Community Heritage Centre and heritage themed playground funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Wales and West Housing Association, Cardiff Council and the Moondance Foundation as part of the CAER Hidden Hillfort Heritage project. We expect this work to be completed in September 2021.

**Financial review**

ACE's future is incredibly exciting, we are a community led charity which has a plan, purpose, and a fantastic group of volunteers, trustees and staff. Over our last 9 years of operation ACE has added approx £9m to the local economy across Cardiff West. A proportion of this income was a result of the Welsh Government Communities First programme. Post Communities First 2018-21 £3,310,765 has been generated through social enterprise activities, grant applications and fundraising. ACE is a charity standing in its own right, working with residents to see meaningful change across communities – this is a huge achievement which continues to address an unfair 'stigma' attached to Ely and Caerau, something residents of Ely and Caerau can be really proud of.

We have continued to build on a firm foundation of strong financial policy and effective financial management through 2020-21. Income in 2020-21 was spread across 37 projects, delivering in Ely and Caerau and other communities in Cardiff. ACE has been successful in following its strategic plan objective to diversify income streams. During 2020-21 ACE received £1,342,043 income from numerous funders. ACE has also self-generated £39,637 via social enterprise such as rental, consultancy work and training. Whilst we have seen an increase in overall income the actual self-generated income is significantly lower than previous years, a direct impact of COVID and the closure of the Dusty Forge and ACE Training for a large proportion of 2020-21. The shortfall was made up by our success in securing funding from our grant making partners, for which we are extremely grateful.

ACE has also continued to run the community building (Dusty Forge) albeit in a very different capacity during 2020-21, working with the many restrictions faced as a result of COVID. Despite these restrictions and a need to diversify our approach we were able to provide some contribution to delivery, in particular to Our Local Pantry, and when restrictions allowed ACE continued to make activities accessible. In normal times rental income provides a source of reliable income which enables further investment in the facility and the development of increased community ownership.

ACE's financial performance and position going forward is healthy but still reliant on key areas of funding. Future work is likely to contract the charity's short term activities but an increasing reserve and diversification of funding and enterprise activities will ensure the charity's longer term operation. ACE invested £137,500 of reserves to purchase a house, an asset that will protect ACE reserves in the long term. This investment creates an enterprise stream that can contribute to ACE's management costs, which are not usually provided for in the funding that ACE is able to secure, as well as resources to feed back into community activity and services. Moreover, the investment means a property has been renovated and brought back into use and provides a forever home to a local family. One that has a conscientious and socially responsible landlord and is supported through ACE's Community Support offering, working alongside the family to ensure they are safe, and feel protected in their new home.

**Transactions and Financial Position**
The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net unrestricted surplus for the year of £86,575 and our unrestricted reserves stand at £344,033.

**Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the charity**
Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in note 11 to the financial statements.

**Investment Policy and Returns**
The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and have found that placing monies on deposit with the Co-operative Bank is the most appropriate course of action to allow the necessary degree and flexibility.

**Reserves policy and going concern**
ACE has historically operated under a basic reserves policy which reflects 3-6 months of operating costs. This has not taken into account the extent of the classification of ACE's activities, liabilities, or how events such as Covid-19 can impact work. A review of our reserves was undertaken in 2020-21, the reserves that we have now set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activities for a period of 18 months. Reserves are calculated to support employer liabilities, legal/contract contingency, overheads, a core 'shell' staff team to take operations forward for 18 months to include the continued operation of the Dusty Forge and development capacity to provide continued investment in the organisation. The Trustees have determined that the free reserves held by the organisation ought to be sufficient to cover at least 18 months of the core operation, an amount of around £225,075. Additionally we wish to maintain £95,007 as a designated reserve for Dusty Forge redevelopment. Free reserves therefore stand at £82,642.

**Plans for the future**

Looking forward, through careful planning, creative thinking and community based delivery we will build on this success. ACE will enable community action through the direct provision of services, the development of community assets and social enterprise. We will access funding to support our work, and will work with people, community groups, organisations and businesses, directing our resources in a sustainable and effective manner.

**Structure, governance and management**

**Governing Document**
ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 8 April 2011. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company.

**Appointment of trustees**
All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Trustees have the power to appoint additional trustees, as it considers fit to do so.

Directors/trustees are elected from the membership at an annual general meeting. Each year one third of the board of directors (those being the longest in office since their last election) stand down but are eligible for re-election without further nomination. The Memorandum and Articles of Association make allowances for an elected staff representative to sit as a full member of the board. Election takes place during the month following the AGM.

**Trustee induction and training**
All new directors/trustees receive a comprehensive induction session and an induction pack with essential information. In addition, they are offered monthly one-to-one catch up meetings with the ACE Development Manager.

**Organisation**
The board of trustees, which can have up to 12 members, administers the charity. The board normally meets monthly and there are sub-committees covering development and funding, HR, finance and audit, which normally meet monthly. The ACE Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and community related activity.

**Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**
None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity, contractor, must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

**Pay policy for staff**
The directors consider the board of directors, who are the Trust's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 9 and 20 to the accounts.

The pay of the staff is appraised annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other third sector organisations of a similar size run on a voluntary basis. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles adjusted for a weighting of up to 30% for any additional responsibilities. If recruitment has proven difficult in the recent past a market addition is also paid with the pay maximum no greater than the highest benchmarked salary for a comparable role.

**Risk management**
The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces;
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in
- the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on
- the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due, regular liaison with the bank, and active management of trade debtors and creditors balances to ensure sufficient working capital by the charity.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, IT security, market volatility, health and safety of staff and volunteers, food hygiene. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

**Reference and administrative details**

**Company number:**
07623914

**Charity number:**
1150422

**Registered office:**
Our Place: Dusty Forge
460 Cowbridge Road West
Cardiff
CF5 5BZ

**Trustees:**
M Dixey
M Hulland
D King - Appointed 16 September 2020
C Lannen - Appointed 17 September 2020
H McCarthy
J O'Keefe (Treasurer)
A O'Regan
J Roach
O Scott
L Smith - Appointed 28 April 2020
M Witherden (Chair)
D Wyatt

**Secretary:**
D Horton

**Key management personnel:**
J Hallett - CEO to April 2021
D Horton - CEO from April 2021
M Powell - CEO from April 2021

**Auditor:**
Azets Audit Services
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

**Bankers:**
The Co-operative Bank Cardiff
16-17 High St
Cardiff
CF10 1AX

**Solicitors:**
JMD Law Limited
26-28 James Street
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF10 5EX

**Auditor**
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Mel Witherden
.....

**M Witherden - Trustee**
Dated: 24.11.21

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021*

The trustees, who are also the directors of ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely for the purpose 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that 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 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; and

- 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 adequate 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 Companies Act 2006. They 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.

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

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

## TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

**Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

**Use of our report**
This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

30-11-2021

**Azets Audit Services**

**Chartered Accountants**
**Statutory Auditor**

Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF23 8AB

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021*

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds 2021 £ | Restricted funds 2021 £ | Total 2021 £ | Unrestricted funds 2020 £ | Restricted funds 2020 £ | Total 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 179 | 33,083 | 33,262 | 9,634 | - | 9,634 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 56,830 | 1,211,816 | 1,268,646 | 4,091 | 1,053,466 | 1,057,557 |
| Other trading activities | 5 | 32,044 | 7,227 | 39,271 | 98,777 | 16,580 | 115,357 |
| Investments | 6 | 864 | - | 864 | 1,464 | - | 1,464 |
| **Total income** | | 89,917 | 1,252,126 | 1,342,043 | 113,966 | 1,070,046 | 1,184,012 |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 3,342 | 1,016,899 | 1,020,241 | 113,880 | 734,215 | 848,095 |
| **Net incoming resources before transfers** | | 86,575 | 235,227 | 321,802 | 86 | 335,831 | 335,917 |
| Gross transfers between funds | | (7,192) | 7,192 | - | 15 | (15) | - |
| **Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds** | | 79,383 | 242,419 | 321,802 | 101 | 335,816 | 335,917 |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2020 | | 264,650 | 616,464 | 881,114 | 264,549 | 280,648 | 545,197 |
| **Fund balances at 31 March 2021** | | 344,033 | 858,883 | 1,202,916 | 264,650 | 616,464 | 881,114 |

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## BALANCE SHEET

### *AS AT 31 MARCH 2021*

| | Notes | 2021 £ | 2021 £ | 2020 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 11 | | 490,840 | | 134,421 |
| Investment properties | 12 | | 144,441 | | - |
| Investments | 13 | | 10 | | 10 |
| | | | 635,291 | | 134,431 |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | 14 | 122,112 | | 153,860 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 538,485 | | 597,517 | |
| | | 660,597 | | 751,377 | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | 15 | (92,972) | | (4,694) | |
| Net current assets | | | 567,625 | | 746,683 |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 1,202,916 | | 881,114 |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 17 | | 858,883 | | 616,464 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| Designated funds | 18 | 261,381 | | 104,795 | |
| General unrestricted funds | | 82,652 | | 159,855 | |
| | | | 344,033 | | 264,650 |
| | | | 1,202,916 | | 881,114 |

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

### *AS AT 31 MARCH 2021*

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2021, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....24.11.21.....

Mel Witherdon

.....

**M Witherdon - Trustee**

**Company Registration No. 07623914**

# ACE-ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021*

| | Notes | 2021 £ | 2021 £ | 2020 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | | | | |
| Cash generated from operations | 23 | | 456,449 | | 199,962 |
| **Investing activities** | | | | | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (371,904) | | (134,794) | |
| Purchase of investment property | | (144,441) | | - | |
| Investment income received | | 864 | | 1,464 | |
| **Net cash used in investing activities** | | | (515,481) | | (133,330) |
| **Net cash used in financing activities** | | | - | | - |
| **Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents** | | | (59,032) | | 66,632 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | | 597,517 | | 530,885 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at end of year** | | | 538,485 | | 597,517 |

## 1 Accounting policies

### Charity information

ACE-Action in Caerau and Ely is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is c/o Our Place - Dusty Forge, 460 Cowbridge Road West, Ely, Cardiff, CF5 5BZ, United Kingdom.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

### 1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income from grants, whether capital grants or revenue grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Capital grants are released to the SOFA in the year of receipt. Fixed assets relating to capital grants are capitalised, and depreciation charged is offset against the grant income, in a restricted fund.

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

Rental and training income is invoiced and is recognised in the period to which the service was provided.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Income earned from interest is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

**1.5 Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustees report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|---|---|
| Property improvements | 5% per annum on cost |
| IT equipment | 10% per annum on cost |
| Motor vehicles | 20% per annum on cost |

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

**1.7 Investment properties**

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

**1.8 Fixed asset investments**

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. The investments are assessed for impairment at each reporting date and any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in net income/ (expenditure) for the year.

The investment property is currently valued at cost within the accounts due to the trustees being of the opinion that the purchase value is not materially different to its fair value at the year end.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

**1.9 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**1.10 Financial instruments**

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

***Basic financial assets***

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

***Derecognition of financial assets***

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

**1.11 Taxation**

As a registered charity, Ace-Action in Caerau and Ely is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

**1.12 Employee benefits**

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.

**1.13 Retirement benefits**

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

**1.14 Leases**

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

**2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

## 3 Donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total | Unrestricted funds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2021** | **2021** | **2021** | 2020 |
| | **£** | **£** | **£** | £ |
| Donations and gifts | 179 | 33,083 | 33,262 | 9,634 |

## 4 Charitable activities

| | 2021<br>£ | 2020<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| Grants | 1,260,526 | 1,055,219 |
| Sundry income | 8,120 | 2,338 |
| | 1,268,646 | 1,057,557 |
| Analysis by fund | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 56,830 | 4,091 |
| Restricted funds | 1,211,816 | 1,053,466 |
| | 1,268,646 | 1,057,557 |
| **Grants** | | |
| Arts Council of Wales | 20,250 | 33,525 |
| Cardiff Council | 55,000 | 28,965 |
| Cardiff University - Caer Heritage | - | 12,500 |
| Charities Aid Foundation | 2,300 | 12,474 |
| Children In Need | 8,268 | 31,074 |
| Cardiff and the Vale Wellbeing | 376,390 | 330,890 |
| University of South Wales - Caer Heritage | - | 5,000 |
| Care & Repair | 9,000 | 8,375 |
| The National Lottery Heritage Fund | 96,228 | 137,063 |
| Citizens Advice | 13,000 | 11,000 |
| NEA Cosy Cymru | - | 500 |
| Co-op | 144 | - |
| Dusty Shed | 6,777 | 5,648 |
| Neighbourly Community Fund | 400 | - |
| National Lottery Community Fund | 161,198 | 140,685 |
| Western Power | 3,495 | 6,990 |
| Food Sense | 37,400 | 5,000 |
| Asda | - | 800 |
| C3SC | 16,378 | 4,036 |
| Charities Trust | - | 2,000 |
| CSE | - | 3,508 |
| Invest Local Trust | 168,630 | 15,355 |
| Stewardship | - | 328 |
| Tesco Bags of Life | - | 1,000 |
| The Energy Saving | 47,835 | 7,543 |
| Viridor | - | 960 |
| HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | 81,279 | - |
| Macmillan | 19,594 | - |
| Mind | 19,852 | - |
| Moondance Foundation | 22,658 | - |
| Morrisons | 5,500 | - |
| Pet Supplies | 117 | - |
| Soil Association | 1,000 | - |

## 4 Charitable activities (Continued)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Waterloo Foundation | 49,900 | - |
| WCVA | 37,935 | - |
| Welsh Government - Community Facilities Programme | - | 250,000 |
| | **1,260,526** | **1,055,219** |

## 5 Other trading activities

| | **Unrestricted funds** | **Restricted funds** | **Total** | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2021** | **2021** | **2021** | 2020 | 2020 | 2020 |
| | **£** | **£** | **£** | £ | £ | £ |
| Rental income | - | - | - | 20,142 | - | 20,142 |
| Training and consultancy income | 32,044 | 7,227 | 39,271 | 78,635 | 16,580 | 95,215 |
| Other trading activities | 32,044 | 7,227 | 39,271 | 98,777 | 16,580 | 115,357 |

## 6 Investments

| | **Unrestricted funds** | Unrestricted funds |
|---|---|---|
| | **2021** | 2020 |
| | **£** | £ |
| Interest receivable | 864 | 1,464 |

## 7 Charitable activities

| | 2021<br>£ | 2020<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | 680,409 | 506,311 |
| Bad debt | 389 | - |
| Donations | 4,826 | 1,200 |
| Heat, light & insurance | 7,659 | 11,334 |
| IT costs & telephone | 12,963 | 5,887 |
| Marketing, sundry & training | - | 4,204 |
| Printing, postage & stationery | 2,463 | 1,710 |
| Project costs | 210,358 | 180,656 |
| Rent, rates & relocation costs | 546 | 1,560 |
| Repairs & renewals | 4,937 | 8,481 |
| Equipment hire & room hire | 383 | 250 |
| Travel & subsistence | 3,316 | 3,119 |
| | 928,249 | 724,712 |
| Share of support costs (see note 8) | 86,993 | 118,689 |
| Share of governance costs (see note 8) | 4,999 | 4,694 |
| | 1,020,241 | 848,095 |
| **Analysis by fund** | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 3,342 | 113,880 |
| Restricted funds | 1,016,899 | 734,215 |
| | 1,020,241 | 848,095 |

## 8 Support costs

| | Support costs | Governance costs | 2021 | Support costs | Governance costs | 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 42,014 | - | 42,014 | 73,506 | - | 73,506 |
| Depreciation | 15,485 | - | 15,485 | 373 | - | 373 |
| Cleaning | 8,488 | - | 8,488 | 8,566 | - | 8,566 |
| Bank charges and bad debts | 122 | - | 122 | 99 | - | 99 |
| Management charges | 4,113 | - | 4,113 | 9,249 | - | 9,249 |
| Printing, postage & stationery | 1,434 | - | 1,434 | 1,925 | - | 1,925 |
| Motor costs | 7,701 | - | 7,701 | 2,085 | - | 2,085 |
| Repairs & renewals | 7,052 | - | 7,052 | 17,882 | - | 17,882 |
| Travel & subsistence | 584 | - | 584 | 5,004 | - | 5,004 |
| Audit fees | - | 4,399 | 4,399 | - | 4,094 | 4,094 |
| Accountancy | - | 600 | 600 | - | 600 | 600 |
| | 86,993 | 4,999 | 91,992 | 118,689 | 4,694 | 123,383 |
| Analysed between | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 86,993 | 4,999 | 91,992 | 118,689 | 4,694 | 123,383 |

## 9 Trustees

No trustees received remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity during the current or prior year.

No trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior year.

## 10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| | 2021 Number | 2020 Number |
|---|---|---|
| | 36 | 31 |

| Employment costs | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Wages and salaries | 656,572 | 523,815 |
| Social security costs | 45,170 | 39,252 |
| Other pension costs | 20,681 | 16,750 |
| | 722,423 | 579,817 |

## 10 Employees (Continued)

**Key management personnel**
The key management personnel of the charity are as detailed in the trustees report. The total employee benefits (including gross salary, employer's national insurance, employers pension contributions and benefits in kind) of the key management personnel of the charity were £122,952 (2020: £78,808).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

## 11 Tangible fixed assets

| | Property improvements | IT equipment | Motor vehicles | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Cost** | | | | |
| At 1 April 2020 | 134,794 | 3,630 | 9,594 | 148,018 |
| Additions | 348,404 | - | 23,500 | 371,904 |
| At 31 March 2021 | 483,198 | 3,630 | 33,094 | 519,922 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | | |
| At 1 April 2020 | 373 | 3,630 | 9,594 | 13,597 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | 13,918 | - | 1,567 | 15,485 |
| At 31 March 2021 | 14,291 | 3,630 | 11,161 | 29,082 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | | |
| At 31 March 2021 | 468,907 | - | 21,933 | 490,840 |
| At 31 March 2020 | 134,421 | - | - | 134,421 |

## 12 Investment property

| | 2021 |
|---|---|
| | £ |
| **Fair value** | |
| At 1 April 2020 | - |
| Additions through external acquisition | 144,441 |
| At 31 March 2021 | 144,441 |

Investment property comprises a residential property purchased in October 2020 by the charity for rental appreciation. The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of the price paid for the property when purchased. The trustees are of the opinion that there is no material difference between the cost price and the fair value price at the year end.

Contained in the above are amounts totalling £nil (2020: £nil) in relation to land.

## 13 Fixed asset investments

| | Other investments |
|---|---|
| **Cost or valuation** | |
| At 1 April 2020 & 31 March 2021 | 10 |
| **Carrying amount** | |
| At 31 March 2021 | 10 |
| At 31 March 2020 | 10 |

| Other investments comprise: | Notes | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Investments in subsidiaries | 21 | 10 | 10 |

## 14 Debtors

| **Amounts falling due within one year:** | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade debtors | 76,655 | 60,428 |
| Other debtors | 42,973 | 93,432 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 2,484 | - |
| | 122,112 | 153,860 |

## 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade creditors | 88,049 | - |
| Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings | 10 | 10 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 4,913 | 4,684 |
| | 92,972 | 4,694 |

## 16 Retirement benefit schemes

**Defined contribution schemes**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £20,681 (2020: £16,750). There were no amounts outstanding during the current or prior year.

## 17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

| | Movement in funds | | | | Movement in funds | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Balance at 1 April 2019 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 1 April 2020 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 31 March 2021 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Arts Council of Wales | 7,199 | 36,475 | (30,009) | - | 13,665 | 20,250 | (23,394) | - | 10,521 |
| ACE Health | 11,000 | 134,087 | (108,142) | - | 36,945 | 131,051 | (139,137) | (270) | 28,589 |
| ACE Community Support | 27,961 | 53,514 | (49,212) | - | 32,263 | 50,718 | (42,525) | (360) | 40,096 |
| Charities Aid Foundation | 9,699 | 12,474 | (22,514) | 341 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tier 0 | - | 200,839 | (188,082) | - | 12,757 | 246,339 | (185,195) | - | 73,901 |
| Cardiff University - Caer Heritage | 103 | - | - | (103) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Together Trust | - | 15,355 | (75) | - | 15,279 | 168,630 | (33,536) | (2,713) | 147,660 |
| Children In Need | - | 31,074 | (8,544) | - | 22,530 | 7,768 | (25,551) | - | 4,747 |
| Working Well | 34,125 | 126,888 | (116,812) | - | 44,200 | 126,867 | (107,842) | - | 63,225 |
| Youth Innvoation | - | 24,000 | (21,569) | - | 2,431 | 30,000 | (24,881) | (90) | 7,460 |
| ACE Giving | - | - | - | - | - | 10,083 | - | - | 10,083 |
| Dusty Shed | - | 5,648 | (5,648) | - | - | 6,777 | (4,791) | - | 1,986 |
| ACE Housing | - | - | - | - | - | - | (5,012) | 5,012 | - |
| Caer Enterprises | - | - | - | - | - | 24 | - | - | 24 |
| Food Support | - | - | - | - | - | 62,928 | (33,571) | - | 29,357 |
| The National Lottery Heritage Fund | - | 155,854 | (108,536) | - | 47,318 | 117,228 | (82,719) | (90) | 81,737 |
| Redress | - | - | - | - | - | 24,729 | (24,729) | - | - |
| Macmillan | - | - | - | - | - | 19,594 | (19,594) | - | - |
| Moondance Foundation | 181,363 | - | (53,561) | - | 127,802 | - | (59,900) | - | 67,902 |
| Pantry | 8,948 | 12,191 | (21,136) | (3) | - | 10,086 | (15,789) | 5,703 | - |
| MIND (Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund: Wales) | - | - | - | - | - | 19,852 | (17,867) | - | 1,985 |
| COVID Support | - | - | - | - | - | 94,923 | (72,988) | - | 21,935 |
| HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | - | - | - | - | - | 81,279 | (81,279) | - | - |

**17 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Welsh Gov - Communitites Facilties Programme | - | 261,647 | (373) | - | 261,274 | 23,000 | (16,599) | - | 267,675 |
| Postcode Lottery | 250 | - | - | (250) | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 280,648 | 1,070,046 | 733,467 | (15) | 616,464 | 1,252,126 | 1,016,899 | 7,192 | 858,883 |

**17 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

**Arts Council of Wales**: This money was used to fund a project to engage young people from 14-16, 16-18 and 16-24 age categories.

**ACE Health:** This money was for the development and delivery of health and wellbeing initiatives, including social prescribing, community development, participation and engagement work.

**ACE Community Support**: This money is to the support a programme to provide information, practical support and advice to vulnerable community members in Ely and Caerau.

**Charities Aid Foundation:** This money was used to deliver CAF resilience programme.

**Tier 0:** This money is to support a mental health service which provides psychological interventions through 1-1 guided self-help sessions and the delivery of psychoeducational courses.

**Cardiff University - Caer Heritage:** This money was used to work with young people in danger of exclusion at Michaelston Sixth Form College. To identify and support a range of work/volunteering placement opportunities with partner organisations.

**Together Trust:** This money is to deliver Building Communities Trust (BCT) invest local programme.

**Children In Need:** This money is to fund a project which uses local heritage and history as inspiration for experimental and exploratory STEM activities and projects.

**Working Well:** This is a partnership project with Tempo and Citizens Cymru to combine asset based community development with community organising approaches to enable sustainable solutions to in work poverty to be identified, piloted and developed.

**Youth Innovation:** This money was used to support local groups, organise and support voluntary youth activities.

**ACE Giving** - An opportunity for individuals to make a financial contribution to ACE's charitable work through donations, sponsorship and fundraising activities.

**Dusty Shed:** This money was used to support a Men's Shed project based at the Dusty Forge.

**ACE Housing**- Provision of a high quality, affordable, well maintained rental home to a local family, with additional support through ACE services where necessary.

**Caer Enterprises** - Development of social enterprise and income generating activity related to ACE's CAER Heritage project, including sales of CAER T-shirts and art.

**17 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

**Food Support**-Budget for developing community food projects including Dusty Community Kitchen, Cafe Barr and Food for Life Get Togethers.

**The National Lottery Heritage Fund:** This money was used to deliver the CAER Heritage Project.

**Redress Warm and Safe project** - Affordable warmth advice and support for community members in / at risk of fuel poverty delivered through drop in / case work sessions.

**Macmillan**- A project exploring how community development approaches can be used to increase the range of supportive care available for people who are dying, those supporting someone who is dying and people who are facing or experiencing bereavement.

**Moondance Foundation:** This money is to fund the Caer Heritage Project.

**Pantry:** This money is to support the membership food club providing affordable food shop for members in food poverty / insecurity. The project includes running a community food shop and delivery service using surplus food supplied by Fareshare project to support struggling working families to get involved in the design and delivery of community projects tackling in work poverty.

**MIND (Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund: Wales)** - A project to increase the capacity and reach of the Phone Friends project and to make it more accessible for people with a learning disability, working in partnership with Cardiff People First.

**COVID Support-** Misc income to help support projects during Covid 19.

**HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** - Funding received to cover wage and salary costs during the pandemic.

**Welsh Government:** This is a capital fund to support the refurbishment and renovation of community buildings.

**Postcode Lottery:** This money is to support the development of the 'Diana Gardens' site, community activity on and around the site and community capacity-building with local volunteers.

## 18 Designated funds

| | Balance at 1 April 2019 | Movement in funds: Incoming resources | Balance at 1 April 2020 | Transfers | Balance at 31 March 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Running costs | 9,788 | - | 9,788 | (9,788) | - |
| Dusty Forge Redevelopment | 95,007 | - | 95,007 | - | 95,007 |
| Fixed asset fund | - | - | - | 21,933 | 21,933 |
| Investment property | - | - | - | 144,441 | 144,441 |
| | 104,795 | - | 104,795 | 156,586 | 261,381 |

**Running costs:** Comprise those funds which ACE may at its discretion set aside funds for specific purposes which would otherwise form part of the general reserves of the organisation. The funds are set aside funds for the use, running costs, activities and events . This fund was transferred to general free reserves in the year.

**Dusty Forge Redevelopment:** Comprise those funds set aside for future redevelopment work at the Dusty Forge building.

**Fixed asset fund**: relates to the net book value of the charity's unrestricted fixed assets.

**Investment property**: relates to the value of the property held for investment to generate unrestricted rental income for the charity.

**19 Analysis of net assets between funds**

| | Unrestricted 2021 | Designated 2021 | Restricted 2021 | Total 2021 | Unrestricted 2020 | Designated 2020 | Restricted 2020 | Total 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by: | | | | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | - | 21,933 | 468,907 | 490,840 | - | - | 134,421 | 134,421 |
| Investment properties | - | 144,441 | - | 144,441 | - | - | - | - |
| Investments | 10 | - | - | 10 | 10 | - | - | 10 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 82,642 | 95,007 | 389,976 | 567,625 | 159,845 | 104,795 | 482,043 | 746,683 |
| | 82,652 | 261,381 | 858,883 | 1,202,916 | 159,855 | 104,795 | 616,464 | 881,114 |

## 20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).

## 21 Subsidiaries

The charity holds the entire issued shared capital of 1 ordinary share of £10 in ACE Community Enterprises Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales.

The company was incorporated on 07 February 2014 and remains dormant, company Number 08881835, registered office, Dusty Forge, Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff, CF5 5BZ.

| Name of undertaking | Registered office | Nature of business | Class of shares held | % Held Direct | % Held Indirect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACE Community Enterprises Limited | England and Wales | Dormant | Ordinary | 100.00 | |

## 22 Charges

The National Heritage Memorial Fund have a registration of charge over the leasehold of Caerau Evangelical Church, Church Road, Caerau, Cardiff, CF5 5LQ.

## 23 Cash generated from operations

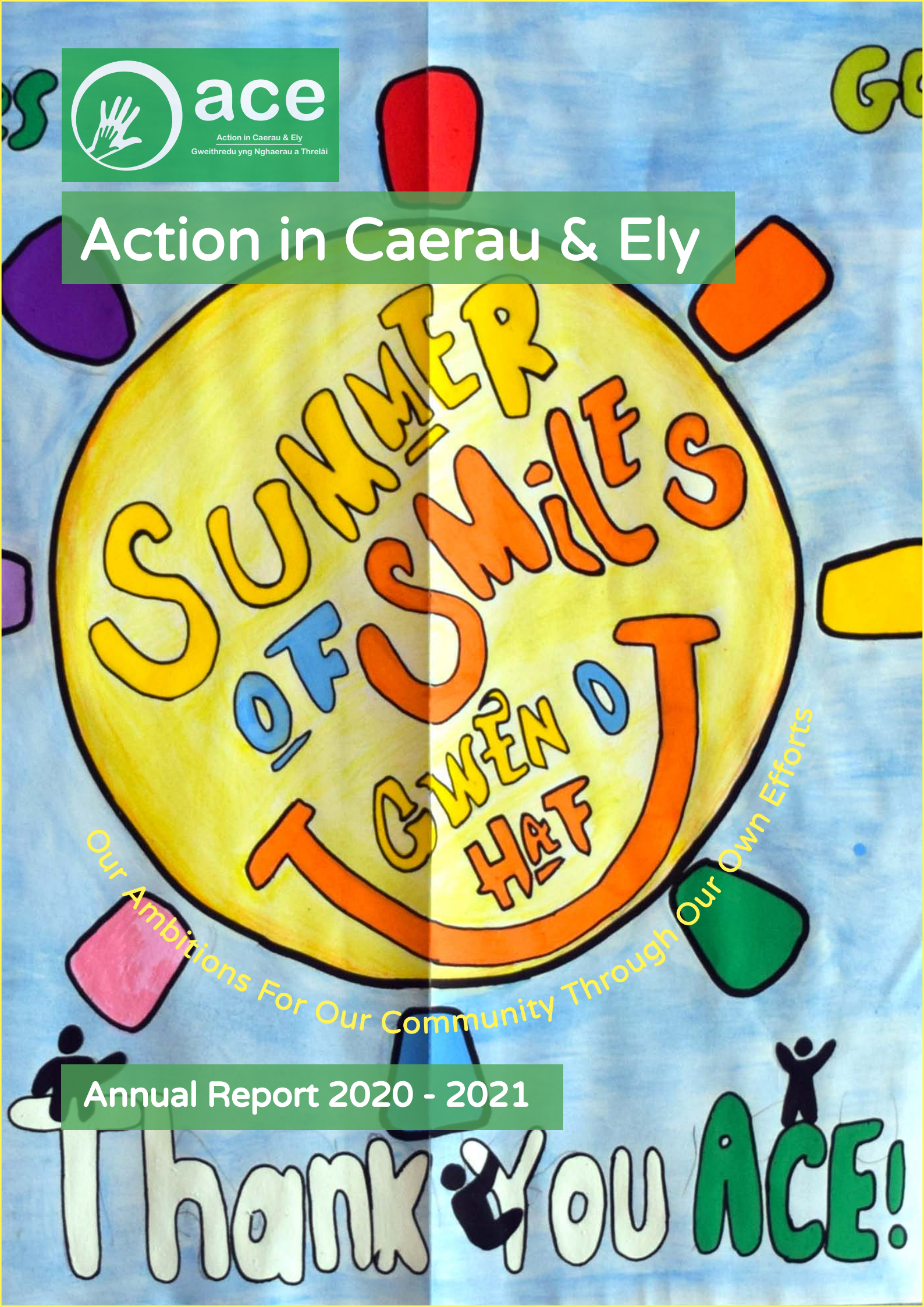
| | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Surplus for the year | 321,802 | 335,917 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities | (864) | (1,464) |
| Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | 15,485 | 373 |
| Movements in working capital: | | |
| Decrease/(increase) in debtors | 31,748 | (134,864) |
| Increase in creditors | 88,278 | - |
| **Cash generated from operations** | 456,449 | 199,962 |

## 24 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

ace
Action in Caerau & Ely
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

# Action in Caerau & Ely




## Annual Report 2020 - 2021

*"Our Ambitions For Our Community Through Our Own Efforts."*

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# 1. Message from the Chair

No one would expect much to happen in a year when the country was in lockdown and the Our Place Dusty Forge centre was consistently closed to the public. But ACE isn't constrained by normal expectations. The pace of change accelerated in 2020-21, and it's arguably our most successful year so far.

The start of the pandemic saw an astonishing transformation of work priorities for staff and volunteers as they readjusted to home working and meeting community needs in new ways. Our charity was recognised as a critical front-line resource, and extra grants were secured for food and fuel poverty and health projects. It was a tough time for everyone, but ACE proved its worth.

Meanwhile a £300,000 refurbishment programme for the Dusty Forge was under way, transforming its dowdy run-down facilities into bright community spaces, training rooms and ground-floor offices.

That was just the start of a revolution in ACE's presence in the area. Work on the Hidden Hillfort Heritage Centre started in Caerau, creating opportunities for today's residents and links with their ancient Celtic past. The Centre with its neighbouring play area was opened by First Minister Mark Drakeford this September. In a significant step forward in November 2020, ACE bought a house next door to the Dusty. At a stroke we took a new role as a socially responsible landlord housing a local family, an investment of our reserves to safeguard the future, and a permanent physical stake in our community.

In the autumn of 2020 our co-founder and Director John Hallett announced he would be leaving us in April. This news could have stopped us in our tracks. Yet we were able to explore the transition to new leadership calmly and systematically, including the challenging idea that senior development managers Dave Horton and Michelle Powell might take over jointly as Co-Directors. Dave and Michelle slipped seamlessly into these new roles without the usual months of disruption of a new appointment at the top. They aren't the same as John. But they are brilliant successors.

Other game-changing appointments in 2020-21 included Helen Bull in the

new and much-needed post of Volunteer Development Officer, and volunteer Dave King as trustee and Treasurer. He immediately set about a radical overhaul of our financial monitoring and reporting systems to bring them into line with our rising budgets and highly complex funding arrangements.

Sadly, the financial year ended with the devastating blow of the death at the age of just 42 of Caroline Barr, ACE Health Development Officer and Pantry Manager, who was widely seen as the heart and soul of ACE's community volunteering. The pain of her loss was, and still is, palpable. She has been remembered at ACE's tenth anniversary celebration in July 2021, in artwork created with staff and volunteers by Artist Nic Parsons, and in the naming of Dusty's new 'Café Barr'.

The 2021-22 financial year started with ACE in its most comfortable advance funding position to date. Full sustainability is not on the cards and there will probably be rocky years ahead. But grants and project opportunities are still rolling in, including new ideas for social care, and a planned "Library of Things" equipment lending initiative in partnership with Benthyg Cymru.

The team has since then pulled off a remarkable achievement with the post-lockdown 'Summer of Smiles' activities for local young people and their families. Its success is a sound basis for future development of our youth services. ACE is even preparing to take a ground-breaking new role in the new GRACE project, helping local men under the supervision of the Probation Service to build supportive links in their neighbourhoods and to make their own contributions to community life.

We've achieved so much together despite the disruptions of a global pandemic. We are very aware of the significant challenges facing our community over the coming winter and beyond. We will do everything we can to ensure that all of our brilliant community's resources are mobilised to support people through these times.

***Mel Witherden, ACE Chair, September 2021.***

# 2. About ACE - our vision and values

## Our Vision:

To create 'vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live'.

We work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision
- Co-producing projects and services that make use of assets and meet needs
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities

### Our Theory of Change:

Need:
We tackle poverty, disadvantage and related complex needs on all fronts using a fully integrated approach.

Solutions:
Co-produced initiatives build confidence, skills, capacity and resilience, improving mental health and promoting supportive social networks.

Outcomes:
Local people report a range of outcomes including improved wellbeing, securing employment, completing training, stronger social networks and greater aspirations.

Impact:
Local people who have developed confidence, skills and energy contribute these to collective approaches to community development

If you would like to find out more about our strategic plan for 2021-2023 please email daveh@aceplace.org

- Local people know their community best.
- Everyone has something unique to contribute.
- Everyone's contribution should be valued equally.
- Poverty should not be accepted as a fact of life.
- Social injustice should be challenged and changed.

# 3. 10 years of ACE!

**In July 2021 we celebrated ACE's 10th birthday. What a journey it's been! From humble beginnings in a small office in Glyn Derw, through the challenges and opportunities of the Communities First programme, to the hustle and bustle of the Dusty Forge and our brand new Community Heritage Centre. Join us for a look back over 10 colourful years!**

## A potted history of ACE

**2001**
The Welsh Government's Communities First programme is launched, aimed at tackling poverty in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales. It gets off to a slow start in Ely and Caerau but by 2006 there are 4 community workers led by Project Coordinator Iona Gordon. Early efforts are focused on building relationships and discussing local needs and ambitions.

**2006 - 2010**
A number of new projects are set up with support from the Communities First team. The Mill Park project begins running activities for children and young people and ends up regenerating the park and play area. The brilliant Unity group is established at Church Road. The Ely Garden Villagers are supported to run their annual bonfire night displays. Conversations begin - How can we sustain this work into the future whilst putting it more firmly into local people's hands? The idea of a community based organisation begins to take root.

ACE's first board of trustees meet at the old Ely Housing Office to sign the organisation's Memorandum and Articles of Association. The organisation is registered as a Company Ltd by Guarantee and **ACE – Action in Caerau and Ely is born!**

**April 2013**
ACE takes on the running of Communities First in Ely, Caerau, Fairwater and Pentrebane. In practice this means CF staff hand in their notice with Cardiff Council and are re-employed by ACE. A bold move that provides ACE with its first employees and plenty of energy and enthusiasm.

**March 2014**
ACE employs a Development Manager, the first member of staff outside of the Communities First programme. They are tasked with building the organisation and diversifying its income so it can survive once CF finishes.

**June 2014**
ACE staff move into offices at the brand new Ely and Caerau Community Hub. The venue quickly becomes home to a range of CF/ACE projects including a community garden, community ambassador meetings and the installation of the famous concrete sheep!

**February 2015**
The Dusty Forge Youth and Community Centre is earmarked for closure by Cardiff Council. ACE decides to make a home there. Soon after, the Dusty Shed (Cardiff's first Men's Shed) is launched in the old bookies. A community garden begins to take shape, courtesy of Billy Mainprize. Parts of the building are brought back into use for a range of community-led activities and Our Place Dusty Forge gradually becomes a thriving community centre.

**September 2016**
An initial application is made to the Heritage Lottery Fund proposing an exciting new community regeneration project building on ACE's work with Cardiff University on the CAER Heritage Project. Plans include a community heritage centre and heritage themed playground.

**March 2018**
The Communities First programme is closed down after 17 years. ACE stands alone! By this time, major projects such as CAER Heritage, Working Well and work with health services are bringing in resources from other sources. ACE Training, the organisation's first social enterprise, is providing earned income to support the organisation. By this stage there are 22 members of staff and 32 volunteers.

**March 2021**
ACE bids a fond and grateful farewell to our first Director, John Hallett.

**September 2021**
The CAER Hidden Hillfort Heritage Centre and playground are opened on Church Road and ACE has a beautiful new base from which to develop further action with local people. The organisation has 34 staff and over 70 volunteers, two buildings and a community wildlife garden, and works with over 6000 people every year.

# 4. Saying goodbye to John

At the end of March, John Hallett stepped down as Director of ACE. Following a careful and thorough transition process, the ACE board appointed Michelle Powell and Dave Horton as Co-Directors. John, Michelle and Dave have worked together since the very beginning of ACE, shaping it through their vision and hard work into the thriving charity it is today.

It has been hard to say goodbye to our friend and founding Director, John. We're so grateful for all of the hard work, heart and soul that he poured into ACE and into the community in Ely and Caerau. After 18 years living in Ely, John and his wife Sophie have moved to West Wales to start a new chapter with more adventures to come. We wish them all the best.

In July 2021, under Covid restrictions, we held an outdoor party for staff and volunteers in the car park of the Dusty Forge to celebrate ACE's 10th anniversary and give John a good send off. There were emotional speeches and an incredible 10th birthday cake made by Thereze McCarthy. John was presented with a book of farewell messages, a present and a gift of ceramic mugs made by ACE Artist Nic Parsons in our arts workshop.

It was the first time that many of ACE's staff and volunteers had seen each other in person since the beginning of the pandemic. It was also a bittersweet occasion as we had recently suffered the loss of our dear friend and colleague Caroline Barr. Staff and volunteers came together to share our memories of Caroline, making clay moulds and pressing items into the clay that reminded us of Caroline. Nic Parsons then used these moulds to create the collaborative artwork to commemorate Caroline that is now on display in the main reception area of the Dusty Forge.

# 5. *In memory of Caroline*

In March everyone involved with ACE was utterly devastated at the loss of our beautiful friend and colleague, Caroline Barr. Caroline started with ACE as a volunteer several years ago, joining in with litter picks and other activities. She was a wonderful and inspiring presence from the beginning and, when she later applied for a job with us, we were delighted to welcome her to the staff team. She took up a place right at the heart of the 'ACE family' where her kindness and hospitality meant she was ideally suited to leading our food projects, including establishing our very successful Community Pantry. She dedicated endless hours, days, weeks, months and years of her time to helping people in our community and made a lasting difference to so many lives. She leaves a hole in ACE that will never be filled and we have been finding ways to keep her 'with us' as we move forward.

Our ACE Arts Coordinator, Nicola Parsons, helped colleagues, volunteers and friends to create a piece of collaborative art in Caroline's memory which is on permanent display at Dusty Forge. ACE volunteers have also launched Café Barr, a twice weekly café serving healthy, tasty food on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It's already becoming a focus of social life at the Dusty Forge. We'd love to see you there!

The following poem was written using quotes from Caroline's memorial book by her dear friend and colleague, Nerys Sheehan:

*Caroline, our friend, our colleague, our angel above,*
*We will miss your humour, your kindness, your love.*
*Your warmth and determination to make the world a better place,*
*Your lovely qualities made you perfect for your role here in ACE.*
*You were the definition of selfless,*
*So many memories, too many to share.*
*The many ways you showed how you care.*
*A bowl of soup, a reassuring hug,*
*A cup of coffee in your favourite mug.*
*Your legacy will continue forever more,*
*We will welcome those in need through the door,*
*With a smile, some soup and pick them up off the floor,*
*With kindness, humility and no judgement at all.*
*We will smile, share stories, laugh and cry,*
*All the while looking for signs you are by.*
*Time stood still on the awful day,*
*Together as a family we will never be the same.*
*Your footprints of kindness pave the way,*
*For us all to want to be the brightness in someone's day.*
*We watched you grow and bloom into a beautiful flower,*
*Be proud of everything you did, and rest in eternal power.*

# ACE Stories

## My ACE journey - Sheree Madea

I originally came to ACE about five years ago for support for my mental health and wellbeing and joined the art group. That helped me through a very bad breakdown. From there I got to meet Caroline and Catherine in the pantry team as well as Caroline's youngest daughter Elizabeth. They were always welcoming and let me know about community events, and **they guided me and supported me not just mentally but helping me financially as well.**

Then fast forward to recently just before lockdown, my life situation had started to improve a lot. **I heard through one of the ACE team members that they were looking for more volunteers in the pantry**. I wasn't actually aware that you could volunteer your time, because I would have done it sooner. I thought it was the perfect opportunity for me to thank the whole of the ACE team, everybody who had helped me along my journey from when I went through my struggles to the present time.

I was really struggling in lockdown with not being able to see family and friends, **so all round it was a way of me giving back and me keeping my own mental health and wellbeing going**. It was a way to say thank you for giving me that helping hand and possibly helping others in that same way. **I started off being supported and now I'm on the other side of things, helping others and volunteering my time. Ever since then I haven't looked back, I've loved it.**

I didn't know where to start or what I could do and nobody passed judgement, everybody was welcoming. Literally every member of staff, I've got to say, somewhere along the lines I've had that relationship and kinda been guided on and I feel like a lot of people have felt like that as well. And that's why they feel like it's second nature to give back, they just feel so thankful and they don't know how to outlet that gratefulness. **You want to do something good for someone else, you want to help, and continue on that bowling ball of kindness.** It sounds cliché but it's true!

Helping people makes me feel amazing! You feel so humble and so grateful. It's been so nice meeting new people and building new friendships. It's been kind of therapeutic in a way, we all offload and share our problems with each other, we help and support each other. It's been really good at building my skills as well, because in this small amount of time, I've developed my communication skills, I've done first aid, I've done a food hygiene course, I've done a nutritional course, it's helped my family home life as well. I've been learning about food poverty and how to tackle it and you know teach others those skills that you are learning as well, it's just been absolutely great in that sense.

It helps me to build up my experience for future job roles because I've been doing something with my time, I've been learning. I always worked from a young age and then when I had children that was kind of absent from my life so **it's been good to build up that part of me that used to be**.
It's fascinating to see how the whole ACE team works as well, from people who come in and want to volunteer to the funding and how that's done. So if I didn't have those significant steps **from being supported to then coming on the volunteer team to building up my skill set and getting involved in other things as well… every part of the journey has been significant because it's got me to where I am today**. And it's grown me as a person, definitely in the last few months since lockdown.

I definitely want to continue to be a part of the pantry. I would like to grow my skill set, I feel like this is my forté, this is something I would like to do for a career as well as a volunteer based role because I love it. **I love being involved, I love being active within the community and I love just being part of something that's unique and it's different to any other job role or anything out there**, it doesn't feel like a job, it feels natural to do something like that. So for me personally I see myself hopefully training and coming further in the next few years, as my daughter goes into full time education and I have that extra time.

When I joined pantry, I was quite overwhelmed and quite honoured to be a part of Caroline's team. And that's genuine, because **she showed passion for what she did. She wasn't just sitting down with dreams and ideas, she was trying to make that happen**. And it kind of inspired me to think I would like to do something like that myself. When she passed, it was devastating to the whole team, but it did hit me because this person I began to grow with, she's now all of a sudden gone. Her daughter too was so welcoming to my children, she had adopted her mum's ways and that kindness and caringness is embedded inside her.

In recent days, **Caroline has been my motivation to keep going because she helped me and others so much, that should be lived on**. It inspired me and it made me determined that this woman's dream needs to be carried on, her legacy needs to grow, because she had so much left to do and that deserves to be spoken and heard. So I suppose this is my way of giving back to her as well, more than anything.

It's been a difficult few months since Caroline's passing, but I have to commemorate Stacie for taking on the job at hand. She's taken the pantry on such a journey that I think Caroline would be proud of, I really do. It's not an easy position to be put in, and Caroline was a friend of hers. Helen has been brilliant too, she handled the transition in a lovely way, so professionally and with such care. Now Stacie has taken that torch and she's carrying us all through and she's doing really well. It's a privilege to be part of it.

# 6. Community Support

## 6.1 Community Support

ACE delivers tailored energy advice and support to those facing financial hardship. We work with GP surgeries, schools and others to ensure that those most at risk are identified and able to access support. Our advice helps people to claim benefits and challenge benefit decisions, reduce energy costs, replace broken appliances and clear debt.

**£249,158.64**

ACE generated **£249,158.64** back into the community through income maximisation, fuel savings, warm home discount applications and access to grants.

During the lockdowns we switched to telephone appointments, delivered food and checked on the welfare of people isolating at home. Having this presence in the community enabled people to express concerns for neighbours. We were able to generate £249,158.64 back into the community through income maximisation, fuel savings, warm home discount applications and access to grants.

In 2020-21 we supported 2857 vulnerable households. Emma received supermarket vouchers when her income fell due to furlough. She said: "I think this grant is a fantastic help for families who are struggling at these times, it helped me immensely when I was down to my last couple of pounds knowing I could feed my children with the help of this grant".

## 6.2 Working Well – Weekenders Project

*"It made us sit down as a family at least once a week to enjoy a game and have fun conversations, we really enjoyed trying new board games".* ***- Michelle***

CRONFA GYMUNEDOL COMMUNITY FUND

The Weekenders Project is funded by the National Lottery Helping Working Families Programme. During lockdown we conducted research with families and found that 83% of households had worsened mental health. Children were fed up with screens and parents were juggling working from home with home schooling, feeling guilty they weren't able to spend quality time together.

We designed a 6 week programme of activities to help families feel more connected, learn, give back and be active. Conversation starters and emotional literacy activities helped to develop family wellbeing. After lockdown, we also began a monthly Saturday stay and play session, accessible to those who work in the week.

Families reported that they enjoyed having a set time to do something new and spend quality time together. They felt more connected as a family and had lots of fun too. Two parents of the original group enjoyed the experience so much that they have now taken a lead on developing the project and will be taking this forward.

## 6.3 - Your Local Pantry Dusty Forge

Our community food shop membership scheme reduces food shopping bills through providing access to good quality surplus food. Our partners include Food Cardiff, Church Action on Poverty, and Fareshare Cymru. Cardiff and Vale Nutrition and Dietetic Service provide training and support to Pantry volunteers to encourage members to try new ingredients and make healthier food choices.

By March 2020 our pantry had 200 members, with over 100 accessing the shop on a weekly basis. Even with limiting Covid restrictions in place we still have over 60 families each week accessing the shop with members saving an average of £15 for each shop, giving an estimated total saving of £30,000 on food costs.

Our trained team of 8 volunteers run the pantry while supporting members to learn cooking skills, make social connections and access other activities. Early in the pandemic members could not attend the Pantry, so we quickly switched to food deliveries. Up to 50 deliveries of vital food packages went out each week to our most vulnerable members.

**200 members**
save an average of £15 for each shop at the Pantry

## 6.4 - Dusty Community Shop

The Dusty Community Shop is run by a team of dedicated volunteers, providing clothing and household items on a 'pay what you can' basis since 2016. "We get people coming in off the streets, cold and hungry, so we help them out and give them some clothes and a cup of tea or coffee. We make everyone feel welcome." - Stella, Volunteer.

Covid-19 restrictions forced the shop to stay closed for most of 2020. After careful planning, the shop reopened in May 2021. We continue to prioritise the safety of our community members, volunteers and pantry members. We are so grateful for the patience, hard work and dedication of our volunteers in the shop.

The Community Shop serves around 100 people a week. We are now open again with Covid-safe arrangements in place on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Many families have bought second-hand school uniforms from the shop. A highlight was our halloween costumes sale which raised £345 for ACE. Donations are welcome, either cash or good quality items.

*"I feel like I'm making a real impact, helping people that need it most." -* ***Tracy, Volunteer***

# 7. Health and wellbeing

## 7.1 Mental Health Support

*"I do not know how I would have coped if I had not had the support of the service."* ***- Patient***.

The 1:1 Guided Self-Help and Social Prescribing Service (formally known as 'Tier 0') provides Psychological Interventions in two ways. The 1:1 Guided Self-Help sessions involve working with patients through a range of workbooks on different topics from anxiety and depression to procrastination and perfectionism. The Psychoeducational courses 'Stress Control' and 'ACTion for Living' were paused throughout 2020-21 due to COVID-19.

In response to COVID-19 ACE introduced new measures to support service delivery through a new way of working. As 1:1 appointments were no longer possible in GP surgeries, telephone and video call appointments were implemented. Appointment times were also increased from 30 to 60 minutes to allow for more support to patients during the pandemic.

The response from existing and new patients has been positive, with 991 patients engaging in the 1:1 Guided Self-Help sessions alone in 2020-21, evidencing the need for the service. Positive outcomes reported by participants were improvements in: managing their mental health, physical health & self care, social networks, identity & self esteem, and trust & hope for the future.

## 7.2 'Yourspace' Wellbeing support

'Yourspace' provides 1:1 support to help people connect to local groups, activities and services in order to improve wellbeing and works with the community to develop wellbeing activities. The service was commissioned by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board as part of the Cardiff South West Primary Care Cluster's transformation project to enhance support for local patients.

The Covid pandemic increased the need for wellbeing support while removing opportunities for people to come together. We worked with the Cluster's Integrated Care Hub to reach out to patients identified as vulnerable. We developed and adapted activities in response to changing restrictions, providing a mix of online groups, outdoor activities and resources for use at home.

From April-Sept 2020 we called 127 people to offer wellbeing support, making over 1000 calls and helping with food, prescription collection, digital inclusion and access to key services. Over the whole year 232 people received 1:1 support, 41 accessed a group/activity and 141 received resources to help them stay active and feel connected at home.

*"It's been invaluable, it's been a lifeblood. Knowing that you are going to call has kept me going knowing there is something in the diary. Without those things I would feel much more alone."*

## 7.3 ACE Phone Friends

Initially piloted with in the Compassionate Communities project, Phone Friends connects people with a volunteer from their local community for a friendly, weekly telephone chat for 15 to 30 minutes. We match people who have shared interests and hobbies. Often people find out about all sorts of things they have in common as they get to know one another.

In the first lockdown there was an urgent need to replace the lost informal, day-to-day contact that people previously enjoyed at the Dusty Forge. At the same time, many of our volunteers were having to shield for health reasons and were feeling frustrated at being unable to volunteer with food and prescription deliveries. Phone Friends filled the gap.

Initially Phone Friends supported 27 people, working with 'Yourspace' and health service partners to identify those most in need. With support from the Coronavirus Mental Health Support Fund Wales, we partnered with Cardiff People First to include people with a learning disability as participants and volunteers, reaching 37 additional people between Nov '20 and March '21.

*"As someone who has been helped and given new hope by the ACE Phone Friend Project, formed by caring people with a listening ear who understand the confusion, loss and loneliness that so many of us are experiencing during the dark days of this pandemic, I know we all matter and no one should feel forgotten or unimportant. Communicating with each other because we care is vital. Whether a listening ear is needed or the opportunity to become a volunteer, as I want to, this is possible. Phone Friends can help us be positive and look forward to better times ahead."* ***- Elaine.***

## 7.4 ACE Compassionate Communities

ACE Compassionate Communities is funded and supported by Macmillan Cancer Care and works with the communities of South West Cardiff to enhance support and compassion for people experiencing isolation, loneliness or disconnection from the community due to illness, caring responsibilities, approaching end of life and/or bereavement.

Networks of support of family, friends and neighbours are vital to those experiencing care-giving, ill health, death and bereavement. Covid has affected people's support networks and their confidence in accessing them. ACE Compassionate Communities hopes to increase the support people receive from their local community and offer bespoke support to those who need it, when they need it most.

Our new bereavement peer support groups, 'Grief Space', have proved to be a very meaningful source of support. 40 people benefitted from artist-led 'Creative Grief Space' sessions. We delivered wellbeing boxes with Kindness Cards made by local children to 42 people. We collected prescriptions for 78 people. And through our Phone Friends pilot, 27 people received a weekly phone call during lockdown.

*"At Grief Space, I really feel that by sharing our bereavements, both recent ones and older, we all realise that whatever emotion we experience, in whatever order we experience them in, we're all normal."* ***- Helen.***

# 8. ACE Projects

## 8.1 ACE Youth

ACE Youth work provides a safe and accessible space for young people. We listen to young people and their families and community and develop provisions that empower them. Adapting quickly to ever-changing Covid restrictions, we have delivered online cooking and wellbeing sessions, as well as street based and outdoor youth clubs, engaging with 550 young people in 2020-21.

ACE Youth workers have observed the impact of Covid-19 on young people's confidence and social skills: young people are bored, anxious and lack confidence in large groups. Our regular weekly street based sessions and partnership working have helped to resolve increasing tensions and anti-social behaviour. Our youth garden sessions have proved beneficial in improving confidence for six young people.

Our youth cooking course was a success throughout lockdown. We delivered over 55 food parcels and recipes fortnightly to young people in Caerau and Pentrebane, who prepared food and shared pictures on our Facebook page. We aim to continue our food related work in our upcoming open access youth club.

*"We have enjoyed attending the weekly ace youth meetings at the dusty, it has helped us with the confidence to try new things. We thoroughly enjoyed the summer activities too and are looking forward to youth club."*
***- Local young person.***

# ACE Stories

## Learning with CAER - Doug Smith

I have been volunteering on and off for about 15 years, which started off with a community garden at Redhouse farm. My wife, daughter and I had been involved in a bad accident and I hadn't really done anything for a couple of years. I wasn't injured but it was so close, and had we been hit another inch or two to the left it could have been a lot worse. I was having a lot of bad dreams and generally I didn't want to go out.

I became involved in CAER after I'd been up to the hog roast they'd had up at the site, and once I had been to the work sessions a few times, I just had a bit more interest. The main change for me through getting involved in CAER has been getting the University course. They run a scheme called Pathways to a Degree which is a collection of part time modules which allow you to gain sixty credits for the course next year. I doubt that I would have got to this point on my own.

I spent most of my time at school sat at the back messing about, and barely passed my CSE's. Later on, with the bouts of unemployment I had, they were offering courses like forklift courses and other stuff. I did college for 6 months, car mechanics and so between work and unemployment that got me started and I haven't stopped ever since. My daughter started college and the day that she signed on, I went and signed on for Environmental Management. I did that for 2 years as a HND. It was mostly outside, we did all sorts, fencing and lots of other things. I like working with people generally, and perhaps I'll just keep on in that direction.

I'd done the environmental course which is why I like to get out into the woods and hopefully get them tidied up and sorted out. I like the woodland more than anything, I am interested in the history and I did the writers course. Over the next few years, I'd like to see the woods developed as an asset and then eventually you could get one or two jobs out of it, you could get qualified people or train people up to look after the woods. That's a long term thing that's been floating around in my mind.

CAER has already made a difference just helping people recognise the Hillfort is here. I suppose a lot of people, apart from coming up here to walk their dogs, didn't really realise what was here. I think once this place has been done up and been in the papers and on TV, hopefully it will be another asset for the community. I don't think it will make a difference to everyone but the people that care about it, it will. It'll give them something to do, something to be proud of. There's 5000 years of history here so you know, if the theories are all correct and this is where it all started off, communities grew outwards from here.

I'm a full-time carer for my wife. She has good days and bad days, and all this all gets me out of the house to be honest. It's a nice place to come up and work, it's a good atmosphere and basically we're a community. That sounds a bit cheesy, but I stood with the rest of our group at the opening of the heritage centre, and it made it all worth it.

## 8.2 CAER Heritage Hidden Hillfort

The last 18 months has been challenging for all of us, stuck in our homes and unable to meet up with friends, relatives and all the community and volunteering groups that mean so much to us. The Hidden Hillfort Project is no exception.

We're now in our second year of a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to create a Community Heritage Centre at Caerau Hillfort along with accessible heritage trails, interpretation, learning and creative opportunities. During the last year we've had to find new ways of doing things and making sure local people are still at the heart of everything. In 2020-21 over 600 people participated or visited project activities, from online zoom workshops and virtual 'Ask an Archaeologist' sessions with local schools, to getting their hands dirty with the CAER Big Dig where almost 200 local people did 'mini-digs' in their gardens to help discover the history of their local community.

Outside of lockdowns our regular volunteering group 'Love Our Hillfort' meets weekly on a Friday to litter pick, create pathways and clear vegetation around the Hillfort. Their work has really made a difference – recently installed footfall counters at the site have shown us that over 18,000 people visited the Hillfort in 2020-21, almost double that of the previous year. The CAER Team have been fantastic, particularly Sulafa, Charlotte and Nic who have made sure everything has kept running and even developed a Heritage Food Parcel project to help local families during these difficult times.

In January 2021 renovation work by Willis Construction started on the old Gospel Hall on Church Road to turn it into a new Community Heritage Centre. Alongside that development has been the installation of a new children's playpark in the parkland next to the centre funded by Wales and West Housing Association and Cardiff Council. Both were co-designed by local people and were opened in September by First Minister Mark Drakeford and MP for Cardiff West Kevin Brennan. There's lots more work to do over the coming 12 months. We've welcomed a new member to the team, Rosie, and we'd love more people to get involved – if you're interested please contact the CAER team at caerheritage@aceplace.org

## Curiosity Club

During the lockdown we adapted to online delivery and created a new website with learning resources for young people and we hosted digital youth sessions. The young people helped to create an online Iron Age experience which we hosted at the Cardiff Science festival in February 2021.

Since then, Curiosity have engaged with around 200 young people. We have run one off events such as the Summer of Smiles fun day and the CAER heritage centre opening, alongside the summer holiday enrichment programme and our usual youth club sessions.

Curiosity Club have been working to set up a Cardiff wide STEM network to share resources, knowledge and explore STEM opportunities outside of the team's expertise. It will also provide opportunities to young people in their individual area of interest that might not otherwise be possible.
Find out more about Curiosity club here https://www.curiosityclub.uk/

## 8.3 ACE Training

ACE Training is our locally based training enterprise. We offer courses in Health and Safety, Emergency First Aid at Work, Manual Handling and Asbestos Awareness. Our courses are accessed by people who are currently seeking employment and local businesses whose staff need training or refresher courses.

*"Fi was really helpful and with a bit more revising I passed when I sat the test 3rd time lucky! The Dusty Forge is a friendly place with 'five star' staff who go out of their way to help. Really pleased and hopefully starting work soon."*
***- Dennis Price (Level 1 Health & Safety in Construction Environment)***

There are 8,400 people in Cardiff who are unemployed (not incl. long-term sick), 4.3% of the population. Across the city 5.1% of the population have no qualifications (Nomis 2020-21). The construction industry continued to operate throughout the pandemic. There were opportunities for employment, but no means of delivering training for those who needed qualifications to work on a construction site.

By July 2020, training centres could re-open and we carefully adapted to a new way of working safely throughout Covid. We provided training to 155 learners, in partnership with 10 employment support organisations (all course places fully funded) and 3 businesses. 61% of learners achieved a qualification that will enable them to gain employment.

## 8.4 Volunteering

Volunteers are the life-blood of ACE. Without volunteers, many of our projects would not be able to run, and lives in Ely & Caerau would suffer. Throughout an incredibly difficult 18 months, 75 volunteers have supported and helped deliver projects for our local communities and have done it with passion and pride.

Covid's impact resulted in people being thrust into isolation, losing jobs and struggling financially. Others were too anxious to leave their homes or needed to isolate for health reasons. As such, projects adapted and volunteers stepped up wherever they could to make life better for those in their communities.

Many projects had to close temporarily, yet volunteers were able to continue running the Pantry, to ensure people could feed their families, delivered food and prescriptions to those who were unable to get out, and phoned those isolated and lonely to ensure people stayed connected. Our volunteers have been simply amazing!

## 8.5 Summer of Smiles

During the summer of 2021 Cardiff Council planned and funded a programme of activities for young people, children and families called 'Summer of Smiles'. Participants enjoyed a huge range of activities that were provided right across the city.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on everyone in very many ways. For young people and children, it has meant extended periods away from school and significant disruption to their social lives, often leading to increased anxiety, stress and depression. By the summer there was an urgent need for positive, fun, sociable activities to raise spirits.

Through Summer of Smiles ACE were able to bring smiles to 1132 children, parents, carers and young people in Ely and Caerau. Activities included: Go Karting, Pop-up music and sports sessions, a CAER time travelling fun day, gorge walking, day trips, T-shirt design and printing, watch making, dance workshops, and an ACE Youth celebration at Dusty Forge.

*"Being able to attend the Go-Kart trip was a highlight of my summer. I really enjoyed the racing and pizza and wouldn't have been able to attend if it wasn't for free. Thanks to Dannielle, Esther and Taylor for making it a great day."* – ***Summer of Smiles participant.***

## 8.6 ACE Arts

*"I love doing the art, everything - I love all the teachers and new friends. I feel relaxed when I'm here and I feel supported."* ***- Amanda.***

ACE Arts creates opportunities to explore the arts for people who face barriers to engaging with art (due to income, mental health, disability, etc.). Art group members develop their own creative practice through free weekly workshops. Our professional artists support every participant to create work in a range of art forms, develop their skills and improve their wellbeing.

Art activities were paused for months at a time due to Covid-19, but we adapted to meet together in small, safe groups as soon as restrictions allowed, with 26 people engaging in creative sessions across 6 workshops a week, funded by Arts Council Wales. 35 people accessed art workshops between April 2020 and July 2021.

Participants developed skills and confidence and made beautiful ceramic, textile and print-based art work which was displayed in Wales Millennium Centre's 'Your Voice' Exhibition throughout August 2021. Participants report feeling more confident, creative and happy. Linda told us: 'I feel more confident since coming here, it helps with my depression.'

# ACE Stories

## Mike's Story - Being part of the community

I moved to Cardiff two years ago. I had a lot going on, was worried about a family member's health and was getting quite anxious so the GP referred me to Mags (ACE Primary Mental Health Worker). Mags was lovely and so kind. When she contacted me about helping with Phone Friends and I had recently been talking to my friend about volunteering, it felt like it fell in my lap really. Sometimes things just come your way.

Mags has been so nice to me. I think when you've been dealing with mental health problems you become a bit more aware, some people who haven't ever had problems like that don't realise what it's like. It's not a nice place to be, and I don't always have great days, but it's nice to try to perhaps give a little back to people with similar difficulties and concerns.

I wanted to do volunteering, particularly being a bit stuck inside for a while, I thought it would be great to do something. I thought if I had been feeling anxious and worried there must be so many other people who are feeling anxious and worried and it was a good opportunity to help out. Giving is quite rewarding as well. I'm retired and look after my mum; it's been important for me to have that sense of purpose as well.

I've been involved in Phone Friends for six months now. You get a reliable person calling you each week, who will just listen without prejudice, doesn't judge, and helps you stay positive. I call two people every week and I've learned a lot about building a rapport and earning trust. Some people have had hard experiences of being let down so it's about letting them have confidence in you. A really core one is about learning to listen. How often do we really listen to what people are saying and not just end up talking about ourselves? It's almost like a new skill that I'm still trying to develop.

I think Phone Friends has stretched me in a way, the responsibility of committing to a regular call. Quite often you don't feel like it, you've had a bad day, and you've got to push yourself into a friendlier place, to think of others and be more compassionate. Quite a few times I've done a call, thinking I wasn't exactly going to enjoy that one, and afterwards it's like oh, that went well, it was actually quite rewarding. You think, get over yourself a bit.

It's also been about opening doors. I didn't know about this place, being new to the area, so meeting all these lovely people... it's a nice community down here. It's really reassuring to know that this place is here. I think a big change for me has been around identity, being part of the community. I'm beginning to feel more grounded, developing friendships and getting to know people from the area. So hopefully that continues. I thought I was a very independent person but I think we all need some human contact at times. I'd love to get more involved, as things change over the years, you've got so many great projects going on. I love getting down here and getting involved.

# 9. Partners and other projects

## 9.1 Dusty Shed

The Dusty Shed is an independent charity, administered by its members, that augments the work of the Dusty Forge by supporting lonely and socially isolated people in Caerau and Ely. It does this by providing a physically and emotionally safe place where members can engage in woodworking and craft activities, or simply swap stories over a cup of tea. The members also provide voluntary 'odd job' support to the Forge.

During the pandemic the Shed closed, but maintained contact with its members through a WhatsApp group, and took the opportunity to develop a covered breakout area where more socially oriented activities can occur. Since it reopened in May 2021, Shed membership has doubled, due mainly to the utilisation of this new facility.

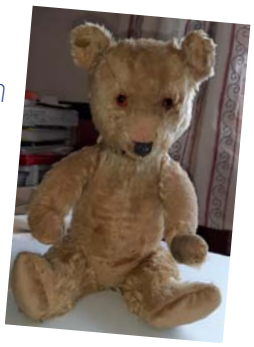
*"I felt welcome as soon as I got chatting to some of the guys in the workshop and I thought this is a decent safe place and I would like to be involved!"*
***- Dusty Shed member.***

Dusty Shed members support each other emotionally, by the sharing of life skills, and in the physical activities they undertake, by the sharing of knowledge. Many members have commented that since attending the Shed they have a renewed feeling of self-worth.

## 9.2 Repair Café

Our repair cafe team at the Dusty Forge celebrated our second anniversary in October – two years of great challenges during the pandemic and growing popularity! The Dusty provides a welcoming venue for monthly pop-up repair cafe events run by our enthusiastic and skilled team of volunteer fixers. Our free service complements several other projects encouraging sustainability at the Dusty, including the community pantry, community kitchen and the new Library of Things with Benthyg.

Our customers mainly bring broken household items for repair so that we can keep our everyday lives going. But people visit our repair cafe from wider Cardiff and beyond, for example bringing bikes, family heirlooms and elderly teddy bears to be mended. Our new volunteer Gareth offers expert 1-2-1 advice on making the best use of digital equipment such as phones, tablets, and laptops.



*"It's great to meet up with loads of new people… from all walks of life but with the same need… to help them by repairing their item and preventing it just being thrown out with the rubbish and into landfill. I'd encourage everyone to consider what they would enjoy doing in their spare time and how they can help out within the community." -* ***Nigel (Volunteer), a.k.a. 'Mr. Fix it.' 71 .***

## 9.3 Benthyg - Library of Things

ACE has teamed up with Benthyg Cymru to open a Library of things based at the Dusty Forge. The idea is to share our resources within our community, so that everyone can borrow whatever they need cheaply and easily. It creates a culture of resilience and environmental sustainability that brings communities together to share items, knowledge and skills.

Items available to borrow include gardening and DIY tools, camping equipment and much more, all available to borrow for less than you'd expect to pay second hand, and with the opportunity to pay in time instead of cash. Dale Ovenstone, ACE Estates manager and Benthyg Development Officer, is looking after the Library of things.

*"Just sign up, become a member and borrow useful items for a small fee. Why buy when you can borrow? People can donate useful items they don't need and items can be delivered and collected. Want to get involved? Volunteering offers the opportunity to broaden your horizons, meet new people and share knowledge & skills with our community."* ***- Dale.***

# 10. ACE's Covid response

Life at the Dusty Forge changed significantly when COVID hit in early 2020. Our doors closed, activity was drawn to a minimum with only key services such as the Pantry, Phone Friends and Youth Food Cooking at home projects being delivered. Intermittently across the year, ACE Training provided health and safety courses to those seeking employment.

The New Year was not filled with joy, we were still in lockdown; the Dusty Forge still closed for several months to come. However, there was light at the end of the tunnel! Lockdown restrictions eased at the end of April and outdoor activities were able to restart, Grow Cardiff gardening group and Love Our Hillfort volunteer sessions being the first to resume.

In May we were able to open the doors of the Dusty Forge and welcome back the ACE Arts Group and the Dusty Community Shop, both dearly missed by participants, volunteers and staff. By June something exciting was beginning to happen, there was renewed interest from volunteer led social and wellbeing support groups Knit and Natter and Retreat, who were keen to resume their much missed activity, and excitingly a new group, Allie's Crochet, was set up. There was a renewed vigour in the community, people were starting to mobilise, clearly ready to step outside, wanting to be a part of something more than life had previously allowed. As the months progressed the Dusty Forge was increasingly becoming that well-loved hub and place of activity that we all knew it to be.

ACE's risk assessments for the building and activities meant that we were able to put in place a series of safety measures to keep people safe and minimize the risk of exposure to COVID. Groups, community members, volunteers and staff all

took a lead in implementing this, completing forms upon forms week on week following all safety measures set in place; without them we would not have been able to keep the Dusty a COVID safe space. Whilst COVID has been exceptionally hard to live with there have been many positives we have learnt along the way. The most impactful for ACE is how we have not only been able to diversify the activities, projects and services we deliver but also the way in which we operate daily.

***Michelle Powell, Co-Director***

# 11. ACE Giving

ACE Giving is the new quick and easy way to make a donation to ACE through our local giving page. Could you commit to a small monthly contribution to ACE? Everything raised goes towards continuing and developing ACE's essential work, and every bit counts! It's easy to sign up here on our Local Giving page: **https://localgiving.org/charity/ace-action-in-caerau-ely/**

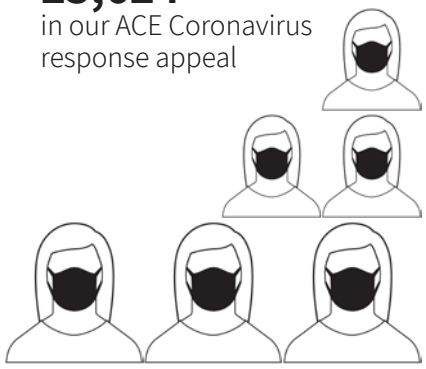
We have been blown away by the generosity of supporters in the financial year April 2020 - March 2021. We raised £3624 in our ACE Coronavirus response appeal, which enabled us to respond rapidly as the pandemic erupted and direct help to the people who needed it most. In October 2020 our staff and volunteers walked and ran a combined 100 miles for ACE and raised £1820. Our Director, John Hallett, also ran 100 miles by himself in 6 days! In December, our first Winter Fuel Crisis Appeal raised £806 to fund emergency boiler repairs for people left unable to heat their homes in winter.

In March 2022, 5 ACE staff members plan to run the Cardiff Half Marathon, which has been postponed several times. In October 2021 they ran and walked 10 miles each to celebrate ACE's 10th birthday and kick start their training and they raised £119 to support our Phone Friends project.

Our current Winter Warmth Appeal started with a brilliant idea from one of our pantry volunteers, to offer people in need a 'stay warm at home' box. Filled with blankets, slippers, hot water bottles and thoughtful treats, the boxes will support wellbeing over the cold winter months and help people know that someone cares for them. If you would like to donate, please visit **https://localgiving.org/appeal/winterwarmthappeal/.**

We are so grateful to everyone who supports ACE, and especially to our small but faithful crew who donate every month through direct debit. We hope to have 10 regular supporters by the end of 2022. Could you commit to a small monthly contribution to ACE? Every pound raised helps to continue and develop our essential work. It's easy to sign up here on our Local Giving page: **https://localgiving.org/charity/ace-action-in-caerau-ely/**

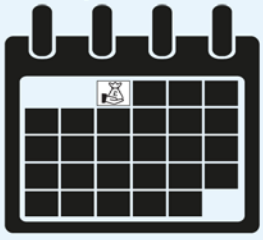
**ACE raised**
**£3,624**
in our ACE Coronavirus response appeal



You can make a **One Off Payment** - from as little as:

will support activities such as our mental health work, helping families manage money and benefits or helping to keep the award winning Dusty Forge centre open.

Better still, by choosing **'Give Monthly'**:



you can make a regular, monthly donation - this helps ACE plan ahead and work sustainably.

**Thank you for all your support! It makes a real difference to the lives of real people in our community.**

# 12. ACE Trustees

**Mel Witherden (Chair)** is a retired third sector/charity consultant.
**Dave King (Treasurer)** is a qualified accountant and experienced treasurer
**Marian Dixey** lives in Fairwater. She is an active volunteer and has worked for the NHS for over 30 years.
**Martin Hulland** is the head teacher of Cardiff West Community High School.
**Helen McCarthy** lives in Ely and is a lead volunteer on the CAER Heritage Project.
**Jean O'Keefe** lives in Caerau. She is an active local volunteer.
**Anne O'Regan** lives in Caerau. She is an active local volunteer.
**Oonagh Scott** grew up in Ely. She is a successful business woman.
**James Roach** lives in Ely. He is an active volunteer and contributes finance skills.
**Dr Dave Wyatt** is reader in Early Medieval History and Director of Civic Mission at Cardiff University. He is co-director of the CAER Hidden Hillfort Project.
**Chris Lannen** is a qualified Financial Advisor
**Leyton Smith** lives in Caerau. He is an active volunteer on ACE community health projects.

# ACE Volunteers

***THANK YOU to all of our volunteers, without whom our work would not be possible!***

Adam Mules
Alice Clarke
Alex Withey
Amanda Ward
Andrew Williams Way
Anne-Louise Pring
Anne O'Regan
Arthur Brown
Bea Roberts
Bridget Rendle
Candy Moss
Carlin Underhill
Caroline Holroyd
Catherine Oakley
Charlotte McIntosh
Chris Lannen
Christina Dunn
Christine Broke
Christine Howell
Dale Gooding
Dale Ovenstone
Dave King
Dave Wyatt
Deanne lannen
Diane Katy
Doug Smith
Doug Stowell
Elaine Harris
Elizabeth Lewis (Liz)
Emily Andrews
Fiona Robinson
Frankie Curtis
Hayely Sterio
Helen Green
Helen Hanrahan
Helen McCarthy
Issy Gooch
Jacqie Young
James Roach
Jamie Hayes
Janice Refalo
Jay Sheppard
Jean O'Keefe
Jeff Clarke
Julie Chancellor
Karl Hayes
Katie Riggs
Kelly Thomas
Kerry Pace
Kyle Bebb
Lauren Ford
Leyton Smith
Lisa Twine
Lynne Beresford
Margaret James
Mari Dunphy
Marian Dixey
Mark Hughes
Martin Hulland
Mel Witherden
Michaela Ward
Michael Hack
Mike Kelly
Natasha Hayes
Oonagh Scott
Pat Stowell
Paulino Rodrigues
Penny Smith
Pete Herbert-James
Rob Jones
Rosemary Freeman
Sally Owens
Sarah Evans
Sarah North
Sarah Whitfield
Scott Morgan
Sheree Richards
Sian Davies
Stacey Bedford
Stella Attard
Tania Clarke
Terry Samuel
Tracy Olsen

# ACE Staff

**Amber Williams**
Primary Mental Health Worker
**Becci Booker**
Community Artist
**Becki Miller**
Senior Development Officer – Working Well / Primary Mental Health Worker / Mental Health Development Worker
**Becky Matyus**
ACE Arts Sustainability and Accessibility Officer
**Carly Whelpley**
Mental Health Coordinator
**Caroline Barr**
Community Health Development Officer / Youth Support Worker
**Charlotte McCarthy**
Caer Development Officer / Curiosity Development Officer / Mental Health Development Worker
**Christina Evans**
Wellbeing Connector
**Dale Ovenstone**
Estates Officer / Benthyg Development Officer
**Danielle Afferion**
Youth Support Worker
**Dave Horton**
Co-Director
**Donna Hurley**
Working Well Development Officer
**Esther Yeboah-Afari**
Senior Youth Development Officer
**Fiona McCormick**
Training Support Officer
**George Keane**
Dusty Shed / Communications Marketing Officer /Web Developer
**Hasan Roap**
Finance Officer
**Hazel Cryer**
Health and Wellbeing Coordinator
**Helen Bull**
Volunteer Development Officer
**James Thomas**
Primary Mental Health Worker / Wellbeing Connector
**Janine Campbell**
Community Health Development Worker / Food Project Officer
**Julie Evans**
Senior Administrator
**Kate Miller**
Primary Mental Health Worker
**Kimberley Jones**
Macmillan Development Officer
**Lynette Hartman**
Wellbeing Connector
**Mags Lyons**
Senior Wellbeing Officer
**Michelle Powell**
Co-Director
**Nerys Sheehan**
Senior development Officer - Community Support / Working Well
**Nicola Parsons**
Community Arts Coordinator
**Poppy Hodgkinson**
Curiosity Development Officer
**Rachel Hart**
Wellbeing Connector
**Rosie Freeman**
Hidden Hillfort Curator
**Sabrina Driscoll**
Primary Mental Health Worker
**Sam Froud-Powell**
Community Support Coordinator
**Sarah Griffiths**
Together for Trowbrige and St Mellons - Community Development Officer
**Sharon McGrath**
ACE Receptionist
**Stacie Leek**
Primary Mental Health Worker / Pantry Food Project Officer
**Taela Mae-Davies**
Macmillan Development Officer
**Vaida Barzdiate**
Community Health Development Officer / Diana Garden Development Officer

***We would like to thank the staff who have moved on to pastures new for their hard work and dedication to ACE.***

Aled Williams
Billy Mainprize
Denise Rahman
Imogen Higgins
John Hallett
Kathryn Hobbs
Sheila Littleboy
Sophie Randall
Sulafa Abushal
Taylor Jeffries

# 13. Finance Report

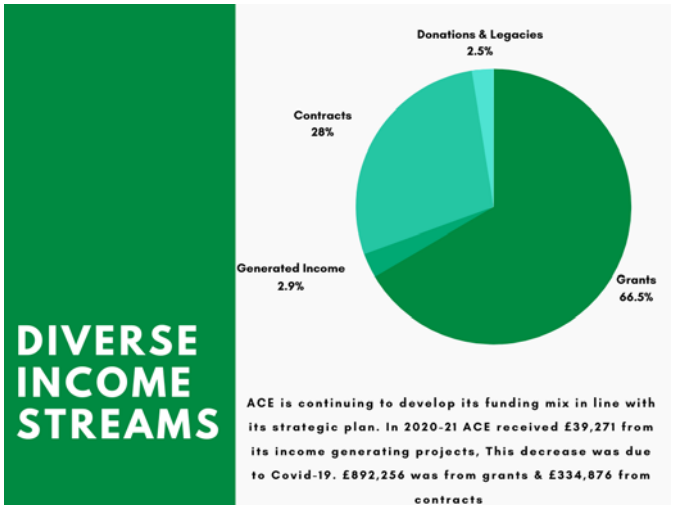
ACE received a total income of 1,342,043 in the 2020-21 financial year. This is an increase of £158,031 from the previous year. Of this, ACE spent £1,020,241 with £321,802 being carried forward as restricted project income. The income was made up of service delivery contract income (28%), generated income (6%) and project grant income (66%).

Some of our biggest funders for the year included NHS Cardiff and Vale (Tier 0 Mental Health service and Yourspace Wellbeing service - £376,930) and The National Lottery Community Fund (Working Well - £161,198).

The Income received in 2020-21 was spread across 37 projects. The year 2020-21 has been different to any other we have experienced as we all responded to a changing climate due to the impact of COVID-19. ACE made full use of available COVID response grants to repurpose ACE projects, activities and services to meet the needs presented by COVID within our communities and to assist with the shortfall of income generated from loss of training delivery and room hire.

Over our last 9 years of operation ACE has added approx. £9m to the local economy across Cardiff West. A proportion of this income was a result of the Welsh Government Communities First programme. Post Communities First the period of 2018-2021 £3,310,765 million has been generated through social enterprise activities, grant applications and fundraising.

The year 2020-21 has been another successful year where ACE has been implementing its strategic plan objectives to diversify income streams and acquire and develop new property. ACE invested a proportion of its reserves to purchase a house, an asset that will protect ACE reserves. This investment creates an enterprise stream that can contribute to ACE's management costs, which are not usually provided for in the funding that ACE is able to secure, as well as resources to feed back into community activity and services. Moreover, the investment means a property has been renovated and brought back into use and provides a forever home to a local family. One that has a conscientious and socially responsible landlord and is supported through ACE's Community Support offering, working alongside the family to ensure they are safe, and feel protected in their new home.



# 14. Our Funders and Partners

## ACE Funders

## ACE Partners

ace
Action in Caerau & Ely
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

Our Place: Dusty Forge
460 Cowbridge Rd West , Ely
Cardiff CF5 5BZ, Tel: 029 2000 3132

Email: info@aceplace.org
Website: www.aceplace.org
Facebook: ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely
Twitter: @elycaerau