VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

England & Wales · Charity number 1151194

Details

Other names	VIC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	08230197
Registered	2013-03-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	VIC Centre 12 Bury Road Haslingden Rossendale Lancashire BB4 5PL
Phone	01706833180
Email	info@vic.org.uk
Website	www.vic.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE NEED, SUFFERING AND DISTRESS AMONGST VETERANS OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR PARTNERS, SPOUSES AND DEPENDENT IN SUCH WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL THINK FIT, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE AND DIVERSE OUTREACH PROGRAMME DEVELOPED, DESIGNED AND DELIVERED BY VETERANS FOR VETERANS IN THE NORTH WEST WHICH SUPPORTS VETERANS SUFFERING THE EFFECTS OF WAR AND HAVE FOUND THE TRANSITION FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN LIFE DIFFICULT AS A MEANS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH; SUPPORT THEIR RESETTLEMENT, REHABILITATION, IF NEEDED AND THEIR RETRAINING TO HELP THEM OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT

Activities: Veterans in Communities is an ex-services charity based in East Lancashire. Established in September 2012, VIC supports ex-service personnel, their families and members of the uniformed services who have experienced difficulties re-integrating with the community on returning to civilian life.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Lancashire
- Rochdale

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£187,409	£236,035	-	-
2024-03-31	£176,222	£218,613	-	-
2023-03-31	£247,609	£224,812	-	-
2022-03-31	£212,429	£187,755	-	-
2021-03-31	£188,708	£199,432	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
RONNIE BARKER	Chair	2013-01-16
Alan James Woods		2022-08-16
Barry Hyde		2015-06-04
Cllr Marilyn Winifred Anne Procter		2022-08-16
JOHN BARRY PAYTON MBE		2013-11-21
Major Charles Robert Smethurst		2014-01-13
Robin Elliott		2025-05-16

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VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1151194

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1151194

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

for

Veterans in Communities
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

N J Grindrod & Co Limited
First Floor
Sovereign House
Barehill Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9BL

Veterans in Communities

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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Veterans in Communities

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

TRUSTEES	R Barker MBE Chairman B G Hyde BEM J B Payton MBE D A Peat OBE (resigned on 7 February 2025) Retd Major C R Smethurst A Woods M Proctor
COMPANY SECRETARY	J B Payton MBE
REGISTERED OFFICE	VIC Centre 12 Bury Road Haslingden Rossendale BB4 5PL
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1151194
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	N J Grindrod & Co Limited First Floor Sovereign House Barehill Street Littleborough Lancashire OL15 9BL
SOLICITORS	Woodcock & Sons Princess Street Haslingden Rossendale Lancashire BB4 5NH

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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

Charitable Objects

The charitable objects of VIC as registered with the Charity Commission are:

To relieve need, suffering and distress amongst veterans of all branches of the Armed Forces and their partners, spouses and dependents in such ways as the Trustees shall think fit, particularly but not exclusively, by providing a comprehensive and diverse outreach programme developed, designed and delivered by veterans for veterans in the North West which supports veterans suffering the effects of war and have found the transition from military to civilian life difficult as a means to preserve and protect their physical and mental health; support their resettlement, rehabilitation, if needed, and their retraining to help them obtain employment.

VIC Mission Statement

To ensure that ex-service personnel and their families can return to, belong and prosper in their communities.

Objectives

- To provide open access to a trusted single point of contact ensuring all who may experience immediate and future difficulty in transitioning from military to civilian life in any way know where to go, who to see and what to do
- To provide a range of interventions to meet the individual need of the AFC member to accomplish transition
- To provide access to every opportunity available to maintain health and wellbeing and achieve a return to economic activity
- To provide ongoing support to veterans and their families that promotes continuing recovery for as long as is required and recognition that family and dependants as integral to recovery
- To deliver back to the community the benefit of their service skills and knowledge
- To provide subject matter expertise and support to Local Authorities and their Armed Forces Community Covenant partners in gaining a 'veterans eye-view' and assistance in engaging with the community
- To highlight and promote awareness of veterans needs
- To establish pathways and partnerships for joint working to achieve mutual outcomes and resource efficiencies

Veterans in Communities is founded on peer support and committed to partnership and collaborative working to achieve positive outcomes that result in returning, belonging and prospering.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

VIC Aims

- To provide support for ex-military personnel, ex-emergency services and prison service personnel and their families
- To encourage others to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to provide help, support and advice to members of the Armed Forces and uniformed civilian communities and build on existing services and develop others
- To encourage the integration of former service personnel into civilian life by encouraging them to contribute their service experience and skills to help the local community
- To work together in partnership with others to support the Armed Forces Community Covenant in recognising in-service and ex-service personnel and their families.
- To establish partnerships through pledges which while not replacing statutory services, work towards addressing issues which affect former armed forces personnel and their families.

Volunteers

VIC could not function without its volunteers. They are found in every area of VIC, contributing their time, skills, knowledge and effort. They plan and deliver so many activities; art group, choir, craft group, walks, allotment, model railway club, sublimation, outreach, peer support, woodworking, skills training and learning, stalls and information stands, fundraising assistance and running our social activities.

Over the year we have calculated the hours that VIC volunteers have provided to our members and the wider community. The volunteers accumulated over 8,700 voluntary hours and if those hours had been paid at national minimum wage VIC would have needed an additional £106,227 of funding.

We are indebted to their commitment, generosity and support and grateful for each and every one of our volunteers.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Fundraising activities

Members of VIC and the public have been incredibly generous with their donations and fundraising efforts, significantly contributing to our financial support. In this financial year, the VIC Choir's fundraising activities raised over £2,600 for VIC.

Sales of arts, crafts, and Veterans in Production products have also seen a positive increase, generating more than £3,900.

In addition to these efforts, VIC has hosted several fundraising events, and members have organized their own initiatives, collectively raising over £16,000 this year.

The public's generosity was especially notable during the Christmas season. Thanks to donations of food and toiletries, we were able to distribute over 65 hampers to individuals living alone or with limited income.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Highlights of the Year

Community Presence & Commemorations

VIC maintained a strong community presence participating in key commemorative events across the year. Members and staff participated in Remembrance events across Lancashire and Greater Manchester, including wreath-laying ceremonies, Last Post performances, and the M60 Ring of Red.

The VIC Standard was paraded at services locally and internationally, including at the Menin Gate in Belgium during the VIC's September Battlefield Tour. The organisation also marked Armed Forces Week through flag-raising ceremonies, veterans' parades, and local festivals such as the Accrington Veterans Day.

The VIC Choir gave regular performances at supermarkets across our area of benefit, raising valuable funds thanks to the generosity of staff, customers, and volunteer collectors.
Plans for "Riding for Forces & Families" were also launched — a veterans' cycling challenge from the Cenotaph in London to Haslingden during Armed Forces Week, with funds supporting VIC, Scotty's Little Soldiers, and Lancashire Army Cadet Force.

Outreach & Support

VIC continued to deliver regular outreach sessions in Clitheroe, Accrington, Burnley, Middleton, Preston (Sandbag Café), and other community venues. These sessions offered vital social opportunities and one-to-one welfare support for veterans and their families.

Partnership initiatives included the Defence Gardens Scheme's nature-based therapy programme at Weeton Barracks, introduced through VIC's attendance at the Thrive Together NW open day and Lancashire Constabulary's Veterans Lead and Local Policing Team who visited the Sandbag Café as part of the "People's Voice" series, deepening engagement with veterans in crisis.

Additionally, VIC representatives joined over 120 attendees at the Forces Wellbeing Collective launch in Wigan, fostering relationships with regional and national support organisations.

Community Projects

VIC members remained actively involved in creative and practical community projects. The Art Group produced scenic backdrop for the Model Railway Club's Glenfinnan Viaduct at the Accrington Veterans Drop-in. The Railway Club meets twice weekly and has benefited from the use of donated magnifiers from Blind Veterans UK, enabling members with visual impairments to participate in detailed modelling work.

Other creative projects included public murals, remembrance benches and allotment work in Helmshore.

Volunteer Engagement & Partnerships

Volunteers continued to play a central role in VIC's work — from supporting events and fundraising to project delivery. The choir fundraising events demonstrated the impact of volunteer collectors, while the cycling challenge preparations received generous in-kind support from our kind sponsors to whom we are indebted.

Collaborations continued with local businesses, community groups, and Armed Forces associations, alongside participation in multi-agency events such as the Forces Wellbeing Collective.

Seasonal Support

In December, VIC coordinated the packing and distribution of over 65 Christmas hampers for veterans and families in need. This was made possible through donations and the dedicated efforts of volunteers.

Social gatherings such as the members' Christmas Dinner, social inclusion trips, meals, and creative activities fostered camaraderie throughout the year.

The VIC Centre also maintained clear opening hours over the holiday periods to ensure continued access to support at a time when many services are closed.

Research Involvement
VIC continued its role in documenting and sharing veteran experiences through academic and creative partnerships. The short film Return, Belong, Prosper, co-produced with Anglia Ruskin University as part of the Stories in Transition project, was screened at local venues, conferences, and selected for an international film festival in Germany.

This research examined how creative engagement supports the transition from military to civilian life, with VIC's work presented alongside other national veteran charities.

Financial review
Financial position
The Statement of Financial Activities set out on page 11 shows how our funds were raised and applied during the year. This statement separates funds, which the charity itself controls - unrestricted funds, from funds which have to be spent in a manner determined by the donor - restricted funds.

The trustees are guarantors of the company. Their liabilities as set out in the memorandum are limited to £10 per guarantor.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal funders

Veterans in Communities is grateful to all the funders who have made the delivery of services possible during the year:

- Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust
- Arnold Clark
- Co-Op Local Community Fund
- Lancashire County Council
- Making a Difference Locally

VIC are delighted to have new and continued relationships and support with Catherine Smyth Media, Avoira, Stitches R Us, Greggs, Asda and Tesco.

Partnership working has proved how vital collaboration and joint working is in meeting the needs of our members. We are fortunate and pleased to have worked with all of our partners; Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Hub, Rossendale and Hyndburn Citizen's Advice, Military Veterans Service, Royal British Legion, Inspire, Armed Forces Covenant Groups in Burnley, Pendle and Rochdale, Selnet, Advocacy Focus SSAFA, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS and Fighting with Pride to name just a few. The support of local businesses and organisations has also been gratefully received and is essential to our development

Investment Policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Investment Policy on an annual basis, considering cash flow needs of the organisation and the level of reserves available for investment.
At this time the Trustees feel there are not sufficient assets available for investment without creating a high risk level for cashflow.
The Trustees do take into consideration the limits of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Consequently, Veterans in Communities holds bank accounts at two separate institutions; National Westminster and CAF Bank. This enables the distribution of funds to mitigate the risks in accordance with FSCS limits.
The Financial Policy and Procedures outlines the checks and balances in place to regulate financial transactions and handling of money within VIC.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves Policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Reserves Policy on an annual basis, considering the reserves available, the need to designate funds against potential redundancy costs, future commitments and the level of risk acceptable to the Trustees.

The Trustees have determined that Veterans in Communities will maintain free reserves equivalent to approximately 25% of the projected expenditure for the following year. In the event that all or any funding is lost, the reserves will enable VIC to maintain a service whilst researching and sourcing other funding to enable continuity and long term viability of the organisation.

At 31st March 2025 VIC has £56,058 as free reserves after designated funds are accounted for. This represents 23% of budgeted expenditure for the financial year 2025/26.

VIC is fortunate to hold the asset of the VIC building within its accounts. However, this building is held in trust for the community and its value cannot be realised to the benefit of VIC.

Designated Funds

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities have considered the development of the organisation and the length of employment of a number of staff. In order to mitigate against any funding risks in the coming year, the Trustees have deemed it prudent to designate funds to cover any required redundancies. As of 31st March 2025, the designated fund will remain at £15,000.

Veterans in Communities had previously designated funds to cover the cost of replacing its vehicle. A new vehicle was purchased during the financial year, and this acquisition is reflected in the financial statements. Following this expenditure, the remaining balance of the designated fund has been transferred to the general fund.

The Trustees have considered it prudent to designate funds to support ongoing staff costs, ensuring continuity of service delivery beyond the lifespan of specific project funding while additional funding streams are pursued. As of 31st March 2025, the designated fund will be set at £10,000.

The Trustees have also designated funds across various projects:

Veterans in Production	£8,213
Creative Community Hub	£1,643
Model Railway club	£380

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Veterans In Communities (VIC) is a registered charity operating within a company limited by guarantee. VIC incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee in September 2012 and achieved charitable status in March 2013.

VIC currently has a Board of 6 Trustees responsible for governance and developing and driving strategy. A sub-group of senior staff and 3 Trustees form the Executive Group that has a day- by-day management role. The Trustees are voluntary social entrepreneurs who are passionate about the area and have worked for years to make it a better place to live and work. They are all local people chosen for their skills and experience. They give generously of their private time, at their own expense, with a shared commitment to building a better future for ex-services personnel, their families and the wider community.

The Trustees are bound by a Code of Conduct and receive induction upon appointment. One third of the Directors, being longest in office, retire annually and are able to be re-elected by the members, if the individual is willing.

The Trustees have not claimed any expenses or received any remuneration during the year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities recognise their responsibility to identify, assess and manage all areas of risk in relation to the organisation. The Risk Management Policy outlines the principles of our risk management approach, the processes for identifying risk, and the methods used to assess those risks and mitigate against them.
It covers all matters where risk can arise, compromising staff and visitor safety. Risk management is undertaken in all areas of the organisation. Overall responsibility for risk management lies with the Board of Trustees. However, it is expected that all staff, volunteers and members will play their part in ensuring risk is minimised on a day-to-day basis.

The main areas of risk are considered to be:
- Governance
- Operational
- Financial
- Environmental or external
- Compliance (law and regulation)

The aim of the Risk Management Policy is to create robust structures, systems and processes that will minimise or eliminate, so far as is reasonably practicable, risks to staff, members, volunteers, the general public and the organisation by promoting consistency in practice. This policy is aimed at creating a strong understanding of the responsibility for the assessment and management of risk at all levels whether through individual practice or in management arrangements.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Veterans in Communities for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

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

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

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

In accordance with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the charity trustees have regard for the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when developing and planning the charitable company's objectives and activities.

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

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 18 August 2025 and signed on the board's behalf by:



R Barker MBE - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Veterans in Communities ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

N Grindrod

N J Grindrod & Co Limited
First Floor
Sovereign House
Barehill Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9BL

18 August 2025

Veterans in Communities

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Voluntary income		128,219	-	128,219	149,526
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		6,500	41,327	47,827	10,142
Activities for generating funds	2	7,205	2,760	9,965	13,878
Investment income	3	1,398	-	1,398	2,676
Total		143,322	44,087	187,409	176,222
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		10,193	7,729	17,922	13,789
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable Activities		177,703	40,410	218,113	204,824
Total		187,896	48,139	236,035	218,613
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(44,574)	(4,052)	(48,626)	(42,391)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		135,867	17,838	153,705	196,096
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		91,293	13,786	105,079	153,705

The notes form part of these financial statements

Veterans in Communities

Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	37,485	270,000	307,485	275,340
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	7,382	-	7,382	9,297
Cash at bank and in hand		70,926	-	70,926	151,124
		78,308	-	78,308	160,421
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(10,714)	-	(10,714)	(12,056)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		67,594	-	67,594	148,365
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		105,079	270,000	375,079	423,705
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	-	(270,000)	(270,000)	(270,000)
NET ASSETS		105,079	-	105,079	153,705

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds:					
General Fund				48,446	46,319
Vehicle Replacement Fund				-	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund				15,000	15,000
VIP				8,213	8,816
The Community Creative Hub				1,643	5,055
VIC Hyndburn				-	249
Railway Club				380	428
VPPP				1,224	-
Ongoing staff costs				10,000	10,000
Garfield Weston				6,388	-
				91,294	135,867
Restricted funds:					
DCEPT				7,736	7,736
Hardship Fund				1,633	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust				1,445	-
Awards For All				1,216	1,216
Battlefields Trip				1,123	1,684
Small Grants				632	5,569
				13,785	17,838
TOTAL FUNDS				105,079	153,705

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2025

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 August 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



R Barker MBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2025

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 August 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

R Barker MBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

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

Freehold property	- not provided
Plant and machinery	- 25% on cost
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	- 33% on cost and 25% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 25% on cost

The property is shown at the value when gifted and is not to be depreciated as it has no specific useful life. Its full value is shown within 'Tangible Fixed Assets' (note 9) and 'Contingent liability' (note 12) and will remain there indefinitely. Correspondingly, the 'Contingent liability' (note 12) will remain there indefinitely until VIC no longer has use for the property and it is gifted back to the Haslingden Community.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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

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

continued...

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Fundraising events	6,879	6,025
Rental income (room hire)	495	5,168
Art sales	472	502
Craft sales	104	407
Other sales	1,272	1,636
Clothing sales	743	140
	9,965	13,878

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Bank interest	1,398	2,676

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	207,502	10,611	218,113

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Accountancy fees	2,994	2,940
Depreciation - owned assets	7,617	-

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

continued...

7. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
Support staff	6	7

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Voluntary income	149,526	-	149,526
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	240	9,902	10,142
Activities for generating funds	11,248	2,630	13,878
Investment income	2,676	-	2,676
Total	163,690	12,532	176,222
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	9,579	4,210	13,789
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	197,328	7,496	204,824
Total	206,907	11,706	218,613
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(43,217)	826	(42,391)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	179,084	17,012	196,096
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	135,867	17,838	153,705

continued...

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2024	270,000	14,632	29,920	23,334	337,886
Additions	-	-	-	39,762	39,762
At 31 March 2025	270,000	14,632	29,920	63,096	377,648
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2024	-	14,632	29,920	17,994	62,546
Charge for year	-	-	-	7,617	7,617
At 31 March 2025	-	14,632	29,920	25,611	70,163
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2025	270,000	-	-	37,485	307,485
At 31 March 2024	270,000	-	-	5,340	275,340

Depreciation on the property is no longer required and has therefore been written back to its original gifted value on the basis that VIC will enjoy use during its lifetime and will not benefit from any appreciation in value after any transfer of ownership.

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Trade debtors	947	2,862
Prepayments and accrued income	6,435	6,435
	7,382	9,297

continued...

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,654	2,525
Social security and other taxes	3,652	2,560
Accruals	4,408	6,971
	10,714	12,056

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Contingent liability in respect of Gifted Property	270,000	270,000

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	46,319	1,889	238	48,446
Vehicle Replacement Fund	50,000	(39,762)	(10,238)	-
Redundancy Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	15,000
VIP	8,816	(603)	-	8,213
The Community Creative Hub	5,055	(3,412)	-	1,643
VIC Hyndburn	249	(249)	-	-
Railway Club	428	(48)	-	380
VPPP	-	1,224	-	1,224
Ongoing staff costs	10,000	(10,000)	10,000	10,000
Garfield Weston	-	6,388	-	6,388
	135,867	(44,573)	-	91,294
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Hardship Fund	1,633	-	-	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	-	1,445	-	1,445
Awards For All	1,216	-	-	1,216
Battlefields Trip	1,684	(561)	-	1,123
Small Grants	5,569	(4,937)	-	632
	17,838	(4,053)	-	13,785
TOTAL FUNDS	153,705	(48,626)	-	105,079

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	27,625	(25,736)	1,889
Vehicle Replacement Fund	-	(39,762)	(39,762)
VIP	150	(753)	(603)
The Community Creative Hub	3,782	(7,194)	(3,412)
Income Generation	3,478	(3,478)	-
VIC Hyndburn	-	(249)	(249)
Railway Club	-	(48)	(48)
VPPP	13,787	(12,563)	1,224
Ongoing staff costs	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Integrated Care Board	88,000	(88,000)	-
Garfield Weston	6,500	(112)	6,388
	143,322	(187,895)	(44,573)
Restricted funds			
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	38,857	(37,412)	1,445
Battlefields Trip	2,760	(3,321)	(561)
Small Grants	2,470	(7,407)	(4,937)
	44,087	(48,140)	(4,053)
TOTAL FUNDS	187,409	(236,035)	(48,626)

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	67,978	(21,259)	46,719
Vehicle Replacement Fund	50,000	-	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	15,000	-	15,000
VIP	9,522	(706)	8,816
The Community Creative Hub	4,496	559	5,055
VIC Hyndburn	409	(160)	249
VIC Heywood Sandbag	501	(501)	-
Railway Club	267	161	428
VPPP	10,911	(10,911)	-
Ongoing staff costs	20,000	(10,000)	10,000
Integrated Care Board	-	(400)	(400)
	179,084	(43,217)	135,867
Restricted funds			
DCEPT	7,736	-	7,736
Hardship Fund	1,633	-	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	1,583	(1,583)	-
Awards For All	1,216	-	1,216
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	1,000	(1,000)	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	1	(1)	-
Developing Veterans	1	(1)	-
Clitheroe	515	(515)	-
Middleton Mess Tin	1,002	(1,002)	-
Battlefields Trip	100	1,584	1,684
Small Grants	2,225	3,344	5,569
	17,012	826	17,838
TOTAL FUNDS	196,096	(42,391)	153,705

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	36,254	(57,513)	(21,259)
Fundraising - Singing	144	(144)	-
Fundraising-Other	14	(14)	-
HMR-INT	15,929	(15,929)	-
VIP	230	(936)	(706)
The Community Creative Hub	2,779	(2,220)	559
VIC Hyndburn	-	(160)	(160)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	-	(501)	(501)
Railway Club	240	(79)	161
VPPP	26,250	(37,161)	(10,911)
Ongoing staff costs	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Integrated Care Board	81,850	(82,250)	(400)
	163,690	(206,907)	(43,217)
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	3,813	(3,813)	-
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	1,468	(3,051)	(1,583)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	(1)	(1)
Developing Veterans	-	(1)	(1)
Clitheroe	-	(515)	(515)
Middleton Mess Tin	-	(1,002)	(1,002)
Battlefields Trip	2,630	(1,046)	1,584
Small Grants	4,621	(1,277)	3,344
	12,532	(11,706)	826
TOTAL FUNDS	176,222	(218,613)	(42,391)

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	67,978	(19,370)	238	48,846
Vehicle Replacement Fund	50,000	(39,762)	(10,238)	-
Redundancy Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	15,000
VIP	9,522	(1,309)	-	8,213
The Community Creative Hub	4,496	(2,853)	-	1,643
VIC Hyndburn	409	(409)	-	-
VIC Heywood Sandbag	501	(501)	-	-
Railway Club	267	113	-	380
VPPP	10,911	(9,687)	-	1,224
Ongoing staff costs	20,000	(20,000)	10,000	10,000
Integrated Care Board	-	(400)	-	(400)
Garfield Weston	-	6,388	-	6,388
	179,084	(87,790)	-	91,294
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Hardship Fund	1,633	-	-	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	1,583	(138)	-	1,445
Awards For All	1,216	-	-	1,216
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	1	(1)	-	-
Developing Veterans	1	(1)	-	-
Clitheroe	515	(515)	-	-
Middleton Mess Tin	1,002	(1,002)	-	-
Battlefields Trip	100	1,023	-	1,123
Small Grants	2,225	(1,593)	-	632
	17,012	(3,227)	-	13,785
TOTAL FUNDS	196,096	(91,017)	-	105,079

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	63,879	(83,249)	(19,370)
Fundraising - Singing	144	(144)	-
Fundraising-Other	14	(14)	-
HMR-INT	15,929	(15,929)	-
Vehicle Replacement Fund	-	(39,762)	(39,762)
VIP	380	(1,689)	(1,309)
The Community Creative Hub	6,561	(9,414)	(2,853)
Income Generation	3,478	(3,478)	-
VIC Hyndburn	-	(409)	(409)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	-	(501)	(501)
Railway Club	240	(127)	113
VPPP	40,037	(49,724)	(9,687)
Ongoing staff costs	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
Integrated Care Board	169,850	(170,250)	(400)
Garfield Weston	6,500	(112)	6,388
	307,012	(394,802)	(87,790)
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	3,813	(3,813)	-
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	40,325	(40,463)	(138)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	(1)	(1)
Developing Veterans	-	(1)	(1)
Clitheroe	-	(515)	(515)
Middleton Mess Tin	-	(1,002)	(1,002)
Battlefields Trip	5,390	(4,367)	1,023
Small Grants	7,091	(8,684)	(1,593)
	56,619	(59,846)	(3,227)
TOTAL FUNDS	363,631	(454,648)	(91,017)

continued...

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Veterans in Communities

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Voluntary income				
Donations	16,485	-	16,485	20,066
Fundraising-Singing	2,689	-	2,689	2,012
HMR-INT	-	-	-	15,929
Income Generation	2,983	-	2,983	-
VPPP	13,787	-	13,787	26,250
Integrated Care Board	88,000	-	88,000	85,039
VIP income	150	-	150	230
Voluntary income - General	3,000	-	3,000	-
Bob Ross fees	1,125	-	1,125	-
	128,219	-	128,219	149,526
Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising events	4,119	2,760	6,879	6,025
Rental income (room hire)	495	-	495	5,168
Art sales	472	-	472	502
Craft sales	104	-	104	407
Other sales	1,272	-	1,272	1,636
Clothing sales	743	-	743	140
	7,205	2,760	9,965	13,878
Investment income				
Bank interest	1,398	-	1,398	2,676
Charitable activities				
Railway club subs	-	-	-	240
Grants	6,500	41,327	47,827	9,902
	6,500	41,327	47,827	10,142
Total incoming resources	143.322	44,087	187,409	176,222
EXPENDITURE				
Other trading activities				
Projects costs	10,193	7,729	17,922	13,789

Veterans in Communities

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
Other trading activities				
Charitable activities				
Wage costs	135,719	30,095	165,814	158,487
Gas, electricity and water	8,836	3,040	11,876	10,627
Telephone and computer costs	4,685	659	5,344	2,794
Post, stationery and adverts	6,150	1,066	7,216	6,089
Motor expenses	110	1,107	1,217	2,075
Travel and refreshments	2,061	1,934	3,995	5,237
Insurance	3,829	547	4,376	3,472
Professional fees	3,990	703	4,693	6,230
Repairs	-	-	-	3,087
Cleaning and hygiene	546	127	673	1,740
Staff training	335	-	335	-
Bank charges	96	19	115	119
Subscriptions	179	26	205	214
Sundries	1,290	353	1,643	1,713
	167,826	39,676	207,502	201,884
Support costs				
Finance				
Motor vehicles	7,617	-	7,617	-
Governance costs				
Auditors' remuneration	2,259	735	2,994	2,940
Total resources expended	187,895	48,140	236,035	218,613
Net expenditure	(44,573)	(4,053)	(48,626)	(42,391)

Veterans in Communities AGM

Summary of Achievements and Performance 2024/25

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Presented by

Amanda Walton,

Chief Executive Officer

Support provided for former Armed Forces services and Emergency Services personnel and their families

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197



Over 100 new members identified, registered and supported



Delivered over 300 outreach sessions across Lancashire & Greater Manchester



Over 200 beneficiaries accessed our social groups and services each week



Registered as a "warm place" during the winter months.



Registered as a "safe space" for vulnerable people

Support provided for former Armed Forces services and Emergency Services personnel and their families

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197



Outgoing referral pathways – Royal British Legion, Blind Veterans UK, housing support providers, Op Fortitude, Military Veterans Service and Op Courage



The centre is used by Inspire, Op Courage, Military Veterans Service, Help 4 Heroes, Blind Veterans, Citizens Advice



Incoming referral pathways – CVS, Social Prescribers, Police, GP's, Military Veterans Service and self-referrals

Support provided for former Armed Forces services and Emergency Services personnel and their families

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197



Organised social inclusion trips to Samlesbury Hall, Embsay Steam railway and the Normandy Battlefields trip to name but a few



Over 65 festive hampers made and delivered to those alone over the Christmas period

THE FORCER PROTOCOL

Worked with Greater Manchester and Lancashire Police on the Forcer Protocol



The VIC Centre remained open over the Christmas period to ensure availability of support for those in need

Support provided for former Armed Forces services and Emergency Services personnel and their families

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197



Housing support and advice

Assistance with house moves

Supply of furniture



Employment advice

Evidencing proof of service



DWP and housing benefits - applications and appeals



Emergency food parcels

Extra Support Initiatives

- Supported other organisations to set up breakfast & social clubs
- Worked with Healthwatch Lancashire on military hearing loss awareness
- Arranged Hepatitis C testing for members
- Collaborated with Blind Veterans UK to obtain magnifiers for our visually impaired members
- Purchased a new minibus using designated funds

Integration Through Community Contribution

Model Railway Club working on the Glenfinnan Viaduct project at Accrington

Art Group – murals, community displays and scenic backdrops

Veterans In Production - Memorial benches created and installed locally

Member-to-member talks & shared lived experiences

Crafty Chatters - Poppies made to commemorate the D-Day landings in Carentan, France

D-Day dioramas built and displayed at Fulwood Barracks Lancashire Infantry Museum

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197

Special Highlights



Staff attended D-Day 80 commemorations at Blackburn Cathedral



Our VIC Standard formally dedicated



The VIC Art Group featured in Christmas Carols on ITV 2024 programme

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197

Working in Partnership to Support the Armed Forces Covenant



VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197

Establishing Complementary Partnerships

- Partnered with Lancashire Constabulary and Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS
- Launched "Riding for Forces & Families" challenge – supporting 3 charities
- Return, Belong, Prosper film showcased locally and internationally
- Ongoing collaborations with universities and creative partners
- Partnership working with the North West Probation Service
- Funded partner within the North West Thrive Together programme

Raising Our Visibility



Winners of the Weston Charity Award 2024



New signage installed on VIC Centre



Demonstrated strong community presence and sustainability

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197

Volunteers

VIC is immensely grateful to each and every one of our volunteers who give so generously of their time and skills

Each and every week they give so much of their time and utilise their skills for the greater good

VIC volunteers are involved in:

- organising and leading groups and activities
- organising walks and social inclusion activities,
- peer support
- VIC Choir members,
- family history research
- manning VIC outreach posts,
- art and crafts groups
- decorating and DIY skills
- stalls and information stands
- administration,
- fundraising events,
- welfare checks
- allotment,
- quizzes
- Veterans in Production (VIP)
- coffee social groups
- model railway club
- Trustees

Over 8700 volunteer hours have been gifted to VIC

Equates to £106,227 of additional funding if paid at National Minimum Wage

Fundraising

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197



Over £61,000 secured in grant funding



Over £10,000 received in trading income



More than £2,500 raised by the VIC Choir during their public performances



Over £23,000 received by way of donations, legacies and fundraising events

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Fundraising Initiatives

- November Walk of Remembrance – 60 miles between memorial sites in Rossendale
- Carp fishing social events
- Choir supermarket performances – raising awareness and fundraising
- Preparation for the Riding for Forces & Families cycle challenge
- Community supporters and individual donors

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197

Thank You to Our Funders

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

NHS
Lancashire and South Cumbria
Integrated Care Board

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

co op
Local Community Fund

Lancashire County Council

Arnold Clark

Making a Difference Locally

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197

Case Study 1

Name changed for anonymity

Army Veteran: Roy

Age 63

Self-Referral (Rossendale)

Issues Identified:

Long-term untreated mental health needs

Loss of PIP claim and payments after external support ceased

VIC Support Provided:

- Took over PIP application, submitted appeal, and worked through the process
- Liaised with Disability Employment Advisor
- Secured successful outcome: backdated PIP payments and increased award at the higher disability rate
- Ensured referral into appropriate clinical services for unresolved mental health issues
- Ongoing wraparound welfare support, providing stability and confidence

Veteran's Words:

"VIC is now a part of my life, and it will be for the rest of my life. I can come to VIC every day if I want to. All local veterans should get involved – you tailor your care and support to each and every veteran on an individual basis."

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197

Case Study 2

Name changed for anonymity

Army Veteran: Kieran

Age – 56

Self-Referral (Accrington)

Issues Identified:
No food in cupboards
Out of work and no income
Not receiving 22-year Army Pension (100% previously awarded to ex-wife by court order)

VIC Support Provided:

- Provided emergency crisis food parcel
- Prepared referral to Hyndburn Household Support Fund – veteran received a £200 Tesco voucher
- Attended DWP Jobcentre to progress case
- Liaised with potential employer in the veteran's local area (no transport available) – resulted in full-time employment after trial days
- Supported pension recovery process – veteran now receives 100% of his 22-year Army Pension directly into his bank account

Impact:
Immediate crisis support prevented hunger, while longer-term interventions secured sustainable employment and restored his full pension rights, ensuring financial stability.

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197

Closing Remarks



Thank you to our staff, trustees, volunteers, and partners



Continued commitment to veterans, families & communities



Proud of our achievements in 2024/25

Looking ahead to 2025/26

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Charity No: 1151194 Company Limited by Guarantee : 8230197

VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1151194

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1151194

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

for

Veterans in Communities
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

N J Grindrod & Co Limited
First Floor
Sovereign House
Barehill Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9BL

Veterans in Communities

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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Veterans in Communities

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

TRUSTEES	R Barker MBE Chairman B G Hyde J B Payton MBE D A Peat OBE Retd Major C R Smethurst Q Zhou A Woods M Procter
COMPANY SECRETARY	J B Payton MBE
REGISTERED OFFICE	VIC Centre 12 Bury Road Haslingden Rossendale BB4 5PL
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1151194
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	N J Grindrod & Co Limited First Floor Sovereign House Barehill Street Littleborough Lancashire OL15 9BL
SOLICITORS	Woodcock & Sons Princess Street Haslingden Rossendale Lancashire BB4 5NH

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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

Charitable Objects

The charitable objects of VIC as registered with the Charity Commission are:

To relieve need, suffering and distress amongst veterans of all branches of the Armed Forces and their partners, spouses and dependents in such ways as the Trustees shall think fit, particularly but not exclusively, by providing a comprehensive and diverse outreach programme developed, designed and delivered by veterans for veterans in the North West which supports veterans suffering the effects of war and have found the transition from military to civilian life difficult as a means to preserve and protect their physical and mental health; support their resettlement, rehabilitation, if needed, and their retraining to help them obtain employment.

VIC Mission Statement

To ensure that ex-service personnel and their families can return to, belong and prosper in their communities.

Objectives

- To provide open access to a trusted single point of contact ensuring all who may experience immediate and future difficulty in transitioning from military to civilian life in any way know where to go, who to see and what to do
- To provide a range of interventions to meet the individual need of the AFC member to accomplish transition
- To provide access to every opportunity available to maintain health and wellbeing and achieve a return to economic activity
- To provide ongoing support to veterans and their families that promotes continuing recovery for as long as is required and recognition that family and dependants as integral to recovery
- To deliver back to the community the benefit of their service skills and knowledge
- To provide subject matter expertise and support to Local Authorities and their Armed Forces Community Covenant partners in gaining a 'veterans eye-view' and assistance in engaging with the community
- To highlight and promote awareness of veterans needs
- To establish pathways and partnerships for joint working to achieve mutual outcomes and resource efficiencies

Veterans in Communities is founded on peer support and committed to partnership and collaborative working to achieve positive outcomes that result in returning. belonging and prospering.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

VIC Aims

- To provide support for ex-military personnel, ex-emergency services and prison service personnel and their families
- To encourage others to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to provide help, support and advice to members of the Armed Forces and uniformed civilian communities and build on existing services and develop others
- To encourage the integration of former service personnel into civilian life by encouraging them to contribute their service experience and skills to help the local community
- To work together in partnership with others to support the Armed Forces Community Covenant in recognising in-service and ex-service personnel and their families.
- To establish partnerships through pledges which while not replacing statutory services, work towards addressing issues which affect former armed forces personnel and their families.

Volunteers

VIC could not function without its volunteers. They are found in every area of VIC, contributing their time, skills, knowledge and effort. They plan and deliver so many activities; art group, choir. craft group, walks, allotment, model railway club, sublimation, outreach, peer support, woodworking, skills training and learning, stalls and information stands, fundraising assistance and running our social activities.

Over the year we have calculated the hours that VIC volunteers have provided to our members and the wider community. The volunteers accumulated over 6,500 voluntary hours and if those hours had been paid at national minimum wage VIC would have needed an additional £67,730 of funding.

We are indebted to their commitment, generosity and support and grateful for each and every one of our volunteers.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Fundraising activities
Members of VIC and the public have been incredibly generous with their donations and fundraising efforts, significantly contributing to our financial support. This financial year, the VIC Choir resumed its fundraising activities and raised over £2,500 for VIC.

Sales of arts, crafts, and Veterans in Production products have also seen a positive increase, generating more than £2,000.

In addition to these efforts, VIC has hosted several fundraising events, and members have organized their own initiatives, collectively raising over £26,000 this year.

The public's generosity was especially notable during the Christmas season. Thanks to donations of food and toiletries, we were able to distribute over 70 hampers to individuals living alone or with limited income.

Achievement and performance
Highlights of the Year

VIC was prominently represented at Armed Forces Day and Remembrance services throughout East Lancashire and in Heywood, Middleton, and Rochdale. Wreaths were laid at multiple locations to honour veterans.

VIC have held over 300 outreach sessions across our area of benefit. Staff and volunteers have continued to provide a proactive service in reaching out to new and existing members at our outreach sessions and our main centre in Haslingden providing a deeper level of one-to-one support where required.

VIC continue to undertake projects within their local communities encouraging beneficiaries to utilise their skills and service experience to help their local communities. In this financial year this has included designing and creating a flower bed in readiness for the Britain in Bloom Competiton, the manufacture and erection of a memorial bench in a local community space and marshalling and assisting with community events.

VIC continue to work collaboratively with existing and new partners in order raise awareness of issues that veterans are faced with and to provide the best possible support for them by working in partnership.

Over 70 festive food hampers were created and delivered to those most in need across our area of benefit prior to Christmas. This was made possible due to several donations that were made to us. Additionally, our centre remained open over Christmas and bank holidays ensuring support was available for those most in need at difficult times of the year, when other support is unavailable.

The Stories in Transition research project, led by Anglia Ruskin University and completed this financial year, explored how veterans adjust to civilian life and redefine their identities. VIC was proud to partner in this research, which focused on capturing veterans' personal experiences through arts, sport, cultural activities, and creative documentary films. Professional filmmakers helped VIC create our own film, showcasing the stories of our members. Additionally, the researchers developed a case study on VIC, analysing our methods and processes to understand their effectiveness and success. You can view the film here: https://vimeo.com/794514966

These accomplishments reflect VIC's ongoing commitment to supporting and engaging with the veteran community, adapting to needs, and creating meaningful connections and opportunities for those we serve.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities set out on page 10 shows how our funds were raised and applied during the year. This statement separates funds, which the charity itself controls - unrestricted funds, from funds which have to be spent in a manner determined by the donor - restricted funds.

The trustees are guarantors of the company. Their liabilities as set out in the memorandum are limited to £10 per guarantor.

Principal funders

Veterans in Communities is grateful to all the funders who have made the delivery of services possible during the year:

- Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- Northern Care Alliance NHS Group
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust
- Changing Futures project, part of the Building Better Opportunities Fund jointly funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund
- Co-Op Local Community Fund
- Tesco Community Grants
- Rossendale Rotary Club
- The Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund

VIC are delighted to have new and continued relationships and support with Catherine Smyth Media, Babble, Veterans into Logistics, Meg Training Solutions, Stitches R Us, Greggs, Asda and Tesco.

Partnership working has proved how vital collaboration and joint working is in meeting the needs of our members. We are fortunate and pleased to have worked with all of our partners; Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Hub, Citizen's Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn, Military Veterans Service, Royal British Legion, Rochdale Metropolitan Council, MIND (Rochdale), Inspire, Armed Forces Covenant Groups in Burnley, Pendle and Rochdale, Selnet, Advocacy Focus SSAFA and Fighting with Pride to name just a few. The support of local businesses and organisations has also been gratefully received and is essential to our development

Investment policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Investment Policy on an annual basis, considering cash flow needs of the organisation and the level of reserves available for investment. At this time the Trustees feel there are not sufficient assets available for investment without creating a high risk level for cashflow.
The Trustees do take into consideration the limits of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Consequently, Veterans in Communities holds bank accounts at two separate institutions; National Westminster and CAF Bank. This enables the distribution of funds to mitigate the risks in accordance with FSCS limits. The Financial Policy and Procedures outlines the checks and balances in place to regulate financial transactions and handling of money within VIC.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Reserves Policy on an annual basis, considering the reserves available, the need to designate funds against potential redundancy costs, future commitments and the level of risk acceptable to the Trustees.

The Trustees have determined that Veterans in Communities will maintain free reserves equivalent to approximately 25% of the projected expenditure for the following year. In the event that all or any funding is lost, the reserves will enable VIC to maintain a service whilst researching and sourcing other funding to enable continuity and long term viability of the organisation.

At 31st March 2024 VIC has £46,319 as free reserves after designated funds are accounted for. This represents 28.3% of budgeted expenditure for the financial year 2024/25. This figure falls slightly outside the parameters set by the Trustees and will be considered and addressed by the Board of Trustees during the year particularly in view of escalating costs.

VIC is fortunate to hold the asset of the VIC building within its accounts. However, this building is held in trust for the community and its value cannot be realised to the benefit of VIC.

Designated Funds

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities have considered the development of the organisation and the length of employment of a number of staff. In order to mitigate against any funding risks in the coming year, the Trustees have deemed it prudent to designate funds to cover any required redundancies. As of 31st March 2024, the designated fund will remain at £15,000.

Veterans in Communities owns a vehicle purchased through grant funding, which has been depreciated over a number of years. Due to the age of the vehicle, the Trustees had previously recognised that there will be additional expenditure to maintain it to an acceptable standard. During this financial year, a replacement vehicle has been sought, therefore as of 31st March 2024 the designated funds set aside to cover the balance of the replacement vehicle remains at £50,000.

The Trustees have felt it prudent to designate funds towards ongoing staff costs in order to retain staff beyond the life of the project funding until additional funding can be secured. The balance of the designated fund in the previous year was £20,000. £10,000 of this fund was used in this financial year against ongoing staff costs, therefore, as of 31st March 2024 the designated fund will remain at £10,000.

The Trustees have also designated funds across various projects:

Veterans in Production	£8,816
Creative Community Hub	£5,055
VIC Hyndburn	£249
Model Railway club	£428

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Veterans In Communities (VIC) is a registered charity operating within a company limited by guarantee. VIC incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee in September 2012 and achieved charitable status in March 2013.

VIC currently has a Board of 8 Trustees responsible for governance and developing and driving strategy. A sub-group of senior staff and 3 Trustees form the Executive Group that has a day- by-day management role. The Trustees are voluntary social entrepreneurs who are passionate about the area and have worked for years to make it a better place to live and work. They are all local people chosen for their skills and experience. They give generously of their private time, at their own expense, with a shared commitment to building a better future for ex-services personnel, their families and the wider community.

The Trustees are bound by a Code of Conduct and receive induction upon appointment. One third of the Directors, being longest in office, retire annually and are able to be re-elected by the members, if the individual is willing.

The Trustees have not claimed any expenses or received any remuneration during the year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities recognise their responsibility to identify, assess and manage all areas of risk in relation to the organisation. The Risk Management Policy outlines the principles of our risk management approach, the processes for identifying risk, and the methods used to assess those risks and mitigate against them.
It covers all matters where risk can arise, compromising staff and visitor safety. Risk management is undertaken in all areas of the organisation. Overall responsibility for risk management lies with the Board of Trustees. However, it is expected that all staff, volunteers and members will play their part in ensuring risk is minimised on a day-to-day basis.

The main areas of risk are considered to be:

- Governance
- Operational
- Financial
- Environmental or external
- Compliance (law and regulation)

The aim of the Risk Management Policy is to create robust structures, systems and processes that will minimise or eliminate, so far as is reasonably practicable, risks to staff, members, volunteers, the general public and the organisation by promoting consistency in practice. This policy is aimed at creating a strong understanding of the responsibility for the assessment and management of risk at all levels whether through individual practice or in management arrangements.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Veterans in Communities for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

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

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

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

In accordance with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the charity trustees have regard for the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when developing and planning the charitable company's objectives and activities.

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

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 10th September 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:



R Barker MBE - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Veterans in Communities ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

N J Grindrod

N Grindrod

N J Grindrod & Co Limited
First Floor
Sovereign House
Barehill Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9BL

10th September 2024

Veterans in Communities

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Voluntary income		149,526	-	149,526	181,044
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		240	9,902	10,142	44,322
Activities for generating funds	2	11,248	2,630	13,878	21,192
Investment income	3	2,676	-	2,676	1,051
Total		163,690	12,532	176,222	247,609
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		9,579	4,210	13,789	17,606
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable Activities		197,328	7,496	204,824	207,206
Total		206,907	11,706	218,613	224,812
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(43,217)	826	(42,391)	22,797
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		179,084	17,012	196,096	173,299
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		135,867	17,838	153,705	196,096

The notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	5,340	270,000	275,340	270,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	9,297	-	9,297	30,958
Cash at bank and in hand		132,285	18,840	151,125	180,786
		141,582	18,840	160,422	211,744
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(12,056)	-	(12,056)	(15,648)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		129,526	18,840	148,366	196,096
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		134,866	288,840	423,706	466,096
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	-	(270,000)	(270,000)	(270,000)
NET ASSETS		134,866	18,840	153,706	196,096

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				46,319	67,978
Vehicle Replacement Fund				50,000	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund				15,000	15,000
VIP				8,816	9,522
The Community Creative Hub				5,055	4,496
VIC Hyndburn				249	409
VIC Heywood Sandbag				-	501
Railway Club				428	267
VPPP				-	10,911
Ongoing staff costs				10,000	20,000
				135,867	179,084
Restricted funds:					
DCEPT				7,736	7,736
Hardship Fund				1,633	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust				-	1,583
Awards For All				1,216	1,216
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF				-	1,000
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund				-	1
Developing Veterans				-	1
Clitheroe				-	515
Middleton Mess Tin				-	1,002
Battlefields Trip				1,684	100
Small Grants				5,569	2,225
				17,838	17,012
TOTAL FUNDS				153,705	196,096

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2024

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 10th September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

R Barker MBE - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

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

Freehold property	- not provided
Plant and machinery	- 25% on cost
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	- 33% on cost and 25% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 25% on cost

The property is shown at the value when gifted and is not to be depreciated as it has no specific useful life. Its full value is shown within 'Tangible Fixed Assets' (note 9) and 'Contingent liability' (note 12) and will remain there indefinitely. Correspondingly, the 'Contingent liability' (note 12) will remain there indefinitely until VIC no longer has use for the property and it is gifted back to the Haslingden Community.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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

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

continued...

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Fundraising events	6,025	8,172
Rental income (room hire)	5,168	9,897
Art sales	502	467
Craft sales	407	735
Other sales	1,636	1,921
Clothing sales	140	-
	13,878	21,192

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Bank interest	2,676	1,051

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	201,884	2,940	204,824

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Accountancy fees	2,940	2,880

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

continued...

7. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Support staff	7	8

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Voluntary income	180,944	100	181,044
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	1,498	42,824	44,322
Activities for generating funds	21,092	100	21,192
Investment income	1,051	-	1,051
Total	204,585	43,024	247,609
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	9,752	7,854	17,606
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	146,582	60,624	207,206
Total	156,334	68,478	224,812
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	48,251	(25,454)	22,797
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	130,833	42,466	173,299
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	179,084	17,012	196,096

continued...

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2023	270,000	14,632	29,920	17,994	332,546
Additions	-	-	-	5,340	5,340
At 31 March 2024	270,000	14,632	29,920	23,334	337,886
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	-	14,632	29,920	17,994	62,546
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2024	270,000	-	-	5,340	275,340
At 31 March 2023	270,000	-	-	-	270,000

Depreciation on the property is no longer required and has therefore been written back to its original gifted value on the basis that VIC will enjoy use during its lifetime and will not benefit from any appreciation in value after any transfer of ownership.

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Trade debtors	2,862	24,522
Other debtors	-	1
Prepayments and accrued income	6,435	6,435
	9,297	30,958

continued...

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,525	6,361
Social security and other taxes	2,560	2,376
Accruals	6,971	6,911
	12,056	15,648

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Contingent liability in respect of Gifted Property	270,000	270,000

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	67,978	(21,659)	46,319
Vehicle Replacement Fund	50,000	-	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	15,000	-	15,000
VIP	9,522	(706)	8,816
The Community Creative Hub	4,496	559	5,055
VIC Hyndburn	409	(160)	249
VIC Heywood Sandbag	501	(501)	-
Railway Club	267	161	428
VPPP	10,911	(10,911)	-
Ongoing staff costs	20,000	(10,000)	10,000
	179,084	(43,217)	135,867
Restricted funds			
DCEPT	7,736	-	7,736
Hardship Fund	1,633	-	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	1,583	(1,583)	-
Awards For All	1,216	-	1,216
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	1,000	(1,000)	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	1	(1)	-
Developing Veterans	1	(1)	-
Clitheroe	515	(515)	-
Middleton Mess Tin	1,002	(1,002)	-
Battlefields Trip	100	1,584	1,684
Small Grants	2,225	3,344	5,569
	17,012	826	17,838
TOTAL FUNDS	196,096	(42,391)	153,705

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	36,254	(57,513)	(21,259)
Fundraising - Singing	144	(144)	-
Fundraising-Other	14	(14)	-
HMR-INT	15,929	(15,929)	-
VIP	230	(936)	(706)
The Community Creative Hub	2,779	(2,220)	559
VIC Hyndburn	-	(160)	(160)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	-	(501)	(501)
Railway Club	240	(79)	161
VPPP	26,250	(37,161)	(10,911)
Ongoing staff costs	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Integrated Care Board	81,850	(82,250)	(400)
	163,690	(206,907)	(43,217)
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	3,813	(3,813)	-
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	1,468	(3,051)	(1,583)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	(1)	(1)
Developing Veterans	-	(1)	(1)
Clitheroe	-	(515)	(515)
Middleton Mess Tin	-	(1,002)	(1,002)
Battlefields Trip	2,630	(1,046)	1,584
Small Grants	4,621	(1,277)	3,344
	12,532	(11,706)	826
TOTAL FUNDS	176,222	(218,613)	(42,391)

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	46,382	21,596	67,978
Vehicle Replacement Fund	50,000	-	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	15,000	-	15,000
VIP	2,692	6,830	9,522
The Community Creative Hub	3,632	864	4,496
VIC Hyndburn	426	(17)	409
VIC Heywood Sandbag	523	(22)	501
Railway Club	-	267	267
VPPP	2,178	8,733	10,911
Ongoing staff costs	10,000	10,000	20,000
	130,833	48,251	179,084
Restricted funds			
DCEPT	7,736	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	3,036	(3,036)	-
Hardship Fund	1,708	(75)	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	22,128	(20,545)	1,583
VIC Sublimination	869	(869)	-
Awards For All	3,455	(2,239)	1,216
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	1,438	(438)	1,000
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	1	-	1
Developing Veterans	1	-	1
Clitheroe	-	515	515
Middleton Mess Tin	2,094	(1,092)	1,002
Battlefields Trip	-	100	100
Small Grants	-	2,225	2,225
	42,466	(25,454)	17,012
TOTAL FUNDS	173,299	22,797	196,096

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	61,644	(40,048)	21,596
Fundraising-Other	828	(828)	-
VIP	6,830	-	6,830
The Community Creative Hub	3,166	(2,302)	864
VIC Hyndburn	48	(65)	(17)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	300	(322)	(22)
Railway Club	468	(201)	267
VPPP	35,000	(26,267)	8,733
Ongoing staff costs	10,000	-	10,000
10th Anniversary	4,471	(4,471)	-
Integrated Care Board	81,830	(81,830)	-
	204,585	(156,334)	48,251
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	12,650	(15,686)	(3,036)
Hardship Fund	-	(75)	(75)
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	24,538	(45,083)	(20,545)
VIC Sublimination	-	(869)	(869)
Awards For All	-	(2,239)	(2,239)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	411	(849)	(438)
Clitheroe	2,100	(1,585)	515
Middleton Mess Tin	1,000	(2,092)	(1,092)
Battlefields Trip	100	-	100
Small Grants	2,225	-	2,225
	43,024	(68,478)	(25,454)
TOTAL FUNDS	247,609	(224,812)	22,797

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	46,382	(63)	46,319
Vehicle Replacement Fund	50,000	-	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	15,000	-	15,000
VIP	2,692	6,124	8,816
The Community Creative Hub	3,632	1,423	5,055
VIC Hyndburn	426	(177)	249
VIC Heywood Sandbag	523	(523)	-
Railway Club	-	428	428
VPPP	2,178	(2,178)	-
Ongoing staff costs	10,000	-	10,000
	130,833	5,034	135,867
Restricted funds			
DCEPT	7,736	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	3,036	(3,036)	-
Hardship Fund	1,708	(75)	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	22,128	(22,128)	-
VIC Sublimination	869	(869)	-
Awards For All	3,455	(2,239)	1,216
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	1,438	(1,438)	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	1	(1)	-
Developing Veterans	1	(1)	-
Middleton Mess Tin	2,094	(2,094)	-
Battlefields Trip	-	1,684	1,684
Small Grants	-	5,569	5,569
	42,466	(24,628)	17,838
TOTAL FUNDS	173,299	(19,594)	153,705

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	97,898	(97,961)	(63)
Fundraising - Singing	144	(144)	-
Fundraising-Other	842	(842)	-
HMR-INT	15,929	(15,929)	-
VIP	7,060	(936)	6,124
The Community Creative Hub	5,945	(4,522)	1,423
VIC Hyndburn	48	(225)	(177)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	300	(823)	(523)
Railway Club	708	(280)	428
VPPP	61,250	(63,428)	(2,178)
Ongoing staff costs	10,000	(10,000)	-
10th Anniversary	4,471	(4,471)	-
Integrated Care Board	163,680	(163,680)	-
	368,275	(363,241)	5,034
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	16,463	(19,499)	(3,036)
Hardship Fund	-	(75)	(75)
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	26,006	(48,134)	(22,128)
VIC Sublimination	-	(869)	(869)
Awards For All	-	(2,239)	(2,239)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	411	(1,849)	(1,438)
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	(1)	(1)
Developing Veterans	-	(1)	(1)
Clitheroe	2,100	(2,100)	-
Middleton Mess Tin	1,000	(3,094)	(2,094)
Battlefields Trip	2,730	(1,046)	1,684
Small Grants	6,846	(1,277)	5,569
	55,556	(80,184)	(24,628)
TOTAL FUNDS	423,831	(443,425)	(19,594)

continued...

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Veterans in Communities

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Voluntary income				
Donations	20,066	-	20,066	15,514
Fundraising-Singing	2,012	-	2,012	29
Creative Community	-	-	-	61
HMR-INT	15,929	-	15,929	38,230
Income Generation	-	-	-	130
VPPP	26,250	-	26,250	35,000
10th Anniversary	-	-	-	1,500
Integrated Care Board	85,039	-	85,039	84,416
VIP income	230	-	230	6,500
Voluntary income - General	-	-	-	(336)
	149,526	-	149,526	181,044
Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising events	3,395	2,630	6,025	8,172
Rental income (room hire)	5,168	-	5,168	9,897
Art sales	502	-	502	467
Craft sales	407	-	407	735
Other sales	1,636	-	1,636	1,921
Clothing sales	140	-	140	-
	11,248	2,630	13,878	21,192
Investment income				
Bank interest	2,676	-	2,676	1,051
Charitable activities				
Railway club subs	240	-	240	-
Grants	-	9,902	9,902	44,322
	240	9,902	10,142	44,322
Total incoming resources	163,690	12,532	176,222	247,609
EXPENDITURE				
Other trading activities				
Projects costs	9,579	4,210	13,789	17,606

Veterans in Communities

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
Other trading activities				
Charitable activities				
Wage costs	151,755	6,732	158,487	156,764
Gas, electricity and water	10,627	-	10,627	7,542
Telephone and computer costs	2,794	-	2,794	2,836
Post, stationery and adverts	6,089	-	6,089	6,817
Motor expenses	2,043	32	2,075	2,979
Travel and refreshments	5,171	66	5,237	4,093
Insurance	3,472	-	3,472	2,343
Professional fees	6,230	-	6,230	7,060
Repairs	2,487	600	3,087	10,574
Cleaning and hygiene	1,740	-	1,740	895
Staff training	-	-	-	300
Bank charges	119	-	119	100
Subscriptions	214	-	214	214
Sundries	1,647	66	1,713	1,809
	194,388	7,496	201,884	204,326
Support costs				
Governance costs				
Auditors' remuneration	2,940	-	2,940	2,880
Total resources expended	206,907	11,706	218,613	224,812
Net income/(expenditure)	(43,217)	826	(42,391)	22,797

VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1151194

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1151194

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

for

Veterans in Communities
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

N J Grindrod & Co Limited
First Floor
Sovereign House
Barehill Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9BL

Veterans in Communities

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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Statement of Financial Activities	10
Statement of Financial Position	11 to 13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 25
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	26 to 27

TRUSTEES	R Barker MBE Chairman B G Hyde J B Payton MBE D A Peat OBE Retd Major C R Smethurst C Gill (resigned 5.10.22) Q Zhou A Woods (appointed 16.8.22) M Proctor (appointed 16.8.22)
COMPANY SECRETARY	J B Payton MBE
REGISTERED OFFICE	VIC Centre 12 Bury Road Haslingden Rossendale BB4 5PL
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1151194
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	N J Grindrod & Co Limited First Floor Sovereign House Barehill Street Littleborough Lancashire OL15 9BL
SOLICITORS	Woodcock & Sons Princess Street Haslingden Rossendale Lancashire BB4 5NH

The trustees who are also
report with the financial
adopted the provisions o
applicable to charities p
applicable in the UK and

OBJECTIVES AND AC

Charitable Objects
The charitable objects of

To relieve need, sufferin
partners, spouses and depe
by providing a compreh
veterans for veterans in th
the transition from milita
mental health; support th
employment.

VIC Mission Statement
To ensure that ex-service

Objectives
- To provide open acces
  and future difficulty in
  see and what to do
- To provide a range of
  transition
- To provide access to ev
  economic activity
- To provide ongoing sup
  is required and recognit
- To deliver back to the c
- To provide subject mat
  Covenant partners in ga
- To highlight and promo
- To establish pathways
  efficiencies

Veterans in Communities
working to achieve positiv

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

VIC Aims

- To provide support for ex-military personnel, ex-emergency services and prison service personnel and their families
- To encourage others to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to provide help, support and advice to members of the Armed Forces and uniformed civilian communities and build on existing services and develop others
- To encourage the integration of former service personnel into civilian life by encouraging them to contribute their service experience and skills to help the local community
- To work together in partnership with others to support the Armed Forces Community Covenant in recognising in-service and ex-service personnel and their families.
- To establish partnerships through pledges which while not replacing statutory services, work towards addressing issues which affect former armed forces personnel and their families.

Volunteers

VIC could not function without its volunteers. They are found in every area of VIC, contributing their time, skills, knowledge and effort. They plan and deliver so many activities; art group, choir, craft group, walks, allotment, model railway club, sublimation, outreach, peer support, woodworking, skills training and learning, stalls and information stands, fundraising assistance and running our social activities.

For the first quarter of this financial year, VIC volunteers continued marshalling at vaccination hubs across our area of benefit helping their communities return to some semblance of normality.

Over the year we have calculated the hours that VIC volunteers have provided to our members and the wider community. The volunteers accumulated over 6,500 voluntary hours and if those hours had been paid at national minimum wage VIC would have needed an additional £64,543 of funding.

We are indebted to their commitment, generosity and support and grateful for each and every one of our volunteers.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Fundraising activities

Members of VIC and the public continued to be very generous with donations and their own fundraising initiatives, raising much needed funds for VIC. The VIC Choir recommenced their fundraising for VIC during this financial year and raised a total in excess of £2,000.

Sales of arts and crafts products have continued to improve this year and sales of Veterans in Production products have substantially increased this year, primarily due to the sales of Remembrance benches for the Salford Veterans Memorial Gardens in Swinton.

Members of the public continued to be very generous, particularly at Christmas. Thanks to the donations of food and toiletries we were able to distribute over 55 hampers to those living alone or with limited income.

Achievement and performance

Highlights of the achievements of Veterans in Communities during the year can be found from page 28 of this document.

VIC were represented at Remembrance Day services across East Lancashire and Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale, with wreaths laid in many places.

VIC has seen an increased demand for our services, as the country emerged from the pandemic and were then impacted with the cost-of-living crisis.

Work continued this year within the North-West portfolio of the Veterans People, Places and Pathways programme, an initiative administered by The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. The portfolio consists of third sector and statutory organisations working collaboratively to provide safe places for veterans to receive help and support within their local community, developing stronger pathways for veterans to access mental health support and treatments and ensures people who are supporting veterans have access to good quality training packages.

Along with Turn to Starboard and Waterloo Uncovered, VIC are partners with Anglian Ruskin University's research programme, Stories in Transition. The research project aims to explore how veterans' author their own stories about life after military service through participation in arts, sport and culture activities, and through producing creative documentary films. The project is unique because it engages with veterans in a creative and empowering way. Unlike measuring instrumental transition 'outcomes', like scores on a questionnaire, the project explores what transition itself really means to veterans and what they think they get out of participating in arts, sport and culture activities.

In September 2022, VIC celebrated our ten-year anniversary. An Evening of Celebration was held on 30th September at Burnley Football Club, with Ex-Royal Engineer, Keith Walmsley and his singers, King of Aces (magician), Steve Sumner (piper), Peter Sweetmore (MC) and Steve Davis, our special guest and after dinner speaker. VIC would also like to thank our corporate sponsors for their support, Vision Commercial Kitchens, Stonegate IT and Filter Fabrications.

Financial review

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities set out on page 10 shows how our funds were raised and applied during the year. This statement separates funds, which the charity itself controls - unrestricted funds, from funds which have to be spent in a manner determined by the donor - restricted funds.

The trustees are guarantors of the company. Their liabilities as set out in the memorandum are limited to £10 per guarantor.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal funders

Veterans in Communities is grateful to all the funders who have made the delivery of services possible during the year:

- Former East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Northern Care Alliance NHS Group
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust
- Changing Futures project, part of the Building Better Opportunities Fund jointly funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund
- Tesco
- Asda Foundation
- Lancashire County Council
- Action Together
- Ribble Valley Borough Council

VIC is also part of the partnership delivering the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams contract across Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale.

VIC are delighted to have new and continued relationships and support with Catherine Smyth Media. Stonegate IT, Filter Fabrications, Vision Commercial Kitchens, Veterans into Logistics, Meg Training Solutions, Stitches R Us, JJ Ormerod, Greggs, Asda, Tesco and Morrisons.

Partnership working has proved how vital collaboration and joint working is in meeting the needs of our members. We are fortunate and pleased to have worked with all of our partners; Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Hub, Citizen's Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn, Military Veterans Service, Royal British Legion, Rochdale Metropolitan Council, MIND (Rochdale), Inspire, Armed Forces Covenant Groups in Burnley, Pendle and Rochdale, to name just a few. The support of local businesses and organisations has also been gratefully received and is essential to our development.

Investment policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Investment Policy on an annual basis, considering cash flow needs of the organisation and the level of reserves available for investment.

At this time the Trustees feel there are not sufficient assets available for investment without creating a high risk level for cashflow.

The Trustees do take into consideration the limits of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Consequently, Veterans in Communities holds bank accounts at two separate institutions; National Westminster and CAF Bank. This enables the distribution of funds to mitigate the risks in accordance with FSCS limits.

The Financial Policy and Procedures outlines the checks and balances in place to regulate financial transactions and handling of money within VIC.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Reserves Policy on an annual basis, considering the reserves available, the need to designate funds against potential redundancy costs, future commitments and the level of risk acceptable to the Trustees.

The Trustees have determined that Veterans in Communities will maintain free reserves equivalent to approximately 25% of the projected expenditure for the following year. In the event that all or any funding is lost, the reserves will enable VIC to maintain a service whilst researching and sourcing other funding to enable continuity and long term viability of the organisation.

At 31st March 2023 VIC has £67,978 as free reserves after designated funds are accounted for. This represents 29.1% of budgeted expenditure for the financial year 2023/24. This figure falls slightly outside the parameters set by the Trustees and will be considered and addressed by the Board of Trustees during the year particularly in view of escalating costs.

VIC is fortunate to hold the asset of the VIC building within its accounts. However, this building is held in trust for the community and its value cannot be realised to the benefit of VIC.

Designated Funds

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities have considered the development of the organisation and the length of employment of a number of staff. In order to mitigate against any funding risks in the coming year, the Trustees have deemed it prudent to designate funds to cover any required redundancies. As of 31st March 2023 the designated fund will remain at £15,000.

Veterans in Communities owns a vehicle purchased through grant funding, which has been depreciated over a number of years. Due to the age of the vehicle, the Trustees recognise that there will be additional expenditure to maintain it to an acceptable standard. As of 31st March 2023, the designated fund will remain at £50,000.

The Trustees have felt it prudent to designate funds towards ongoing staff costs in order to retain staff beyond the life of the project funding until additional funding can be secured. As in the previous year, the Trustees have designated a further £10,000 for the year to the 31st March 2023 to increase the designated funds reserve for ongoing staff costs to a total £20,000.

The Trustees have also designated funds across various projects:

Veterans in Production	£9,522
Creative Community Hub	£4,496
VIC Hyndburn	£409
VIC Heywood	£501
Model Railway club	£267
Veterans Places, Pathways and People	£10,911

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Veterans In Communities (VIC) is a registered charity operating within a company limited by guarantee. VIC incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee in September 2012 and achieved charitable status in March 2013.

VIC currently has a Board of 8 Trustees responsible for governance and developing and driving strategy. A sub-group of senior staff and 3 Trustees form the Executive Group that has a day- by-day management role. The Trustees are voluntary social entrepreneurs who are passionate about the area and have worked for years to make it a better place to live and work. They are all local people chosen for their skills and experience. They give generously of their private time, at their own expense, with a shared commitment to building a better future for ex-services personnel, their families and the wider community.

The Trustees are bound by a Code of Conduct and receive induction upon appointment. One third of the Directors, being longest in office, retire annually and are able to be re-elected by the members, if the individual is willing.

The Trustees have not claimed any expenses or received any remuneration during the year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities recognise their responsibility to identify, assess and manage all areas of risk in relation to the organisation. The Risk Management Policy outlines the principles of our risk management approach, the processes for identifying risk, and the methods used to assess those risks and mitigate against them.
It covers all matters where risk can arise, compromising staff and visitor safety. Risk management is undertaken in all areas of the organisation. Overall responsibility for risk management lies with the Board of Trustees. However, it is expected that all staff, volunteers and members will play their part in ensuring risk is minimised on a day-to-day basis.

The main areas of risk are considered to be:

- Governance
- Operational
- Financial
- Environmental or external
- Compliance (law and regulation)

The aim of the Risk Management Policy is to create robust structures, systems and processes that will minimise or eliminate, so far as is reasonably practicable, risks to staff, members, volunteers, the general public and the organisation by promoting consistency in practice. This policy is aimed at creating a strong understanding of the responsibility for the assessment and management of risk at all levels whether through individual practice or in management arrangements.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Veterans in Communities for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

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

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

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

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

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 8 September 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:



R Barker MBE - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Veterans in Communities ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

N Grindrod FMAAT

N J Grindrod & Co Limited
First Floor
Sovereign House
Barehill Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9BL

8 September 2023

Veterans in Communities

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Voluntary income		190,341	100	190,441	164,690
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		1,498	42,824	44,322	72,116
Activities for generating funds	2	11,695	100	11,795	12,410
Investment income	3	1,051	-	1,051	19
Total		204,585	43,024	247,609	249,235
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		9,752	7,854	17,606	11,403
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable Activities		146,582	60,624	207,206	190,575
Total		156,334	68,478	224,812	201,978
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		48,251	(25,454)	22,797	47,257
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		130,833	42,466	173,299	126,042
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		179,084	17,012	196,096	173,299

The notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	-	270,000	270,000	270,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	13,946	17,012	30,958	15,996
Cash at bank and in hand		180,786	-	180,786	170,180
		194,732	17,012	211,744	186,176
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(15,648)	-	(15,648)	(12,877)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		179,084	17,012	196,096	173,299
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		179,084	287,012	466,096	443,299
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	-	(270,000)	(270,000)	(270,000)
NET ASSETS		179,084	17,012	196,096	173,299

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				67,978	46,322
HMR-INT				-	60
Vehicle Replacement Fund				50,000	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund				15,000	15,000
VIP				9,522	2,692
The Community Creative Hub				4,496	3,632
VIC Hyndburn				409	426
VIC Heywood Sandbag				501	523
Railway Club				267	-
VPPP				10,911	2,178
Ongoing staff costs				20,000	10,000
				179,084	130,833
Restricted funds:					
DCEPT				7,736	7,736
Building Better Opportunities				-	3,036
Hardship Fund				1,633	1,708
Armed Forces Covenant Trust				1,583	22,128
VIC Sublimination				-	869
Awards For All				1,216	3,455
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF				1,000	1,438
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund				1	1
Developing Veterans				1	1
Clitheroe				515	-
Middleton Mess Tin				1,002	2,094
Battlefields Trip				100	-
Small Grants				2,225	-
				17,012	42,466
TOTAL FUNDS				196,096	173,299

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2023

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 8 September 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



R Barker MBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

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

Freehold property	- not provided
Plant and machinery	- 25% on cost
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	- 33% on cost and 25% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 25% on cost

The property is shown at the value when gifted and is not to be depreciated as it has no specific useful life. Its full value is shown within 'Tangible Fixed Assets' (note 9) and 'Contingent liability' (note 12) and will remain there indefinitely. Correspondingly, the 'Contingent liability' (note 12) will remain there indefinitely until VIC no longer has use for the property and it is gifted back to the Haslingden Community.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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

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

continued...

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Fundraising events	8,172	2,032
Rental income	500	4,830
Art sales	467	1,884
Craft sales	735	1,076
Other sales	1,921	1,267
Mini bus hire	-	458
VIP income	-	863
	11,795	12,410

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Bank interest	1,051	19

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	204,326	2,880	207,206

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Accountancy fees	2,880	2,820
Depreciation - owned assets	-	165

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

continued...

7. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
Support staff	8	8

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Voluntary income	164,490	200	164,690
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	35,510	36,606	72,116
Activities for generating funds	12,410	-	12,410
Investment income	19	-	19
Total	212,429	36,806	249,235
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	5,949	5,454	11,403
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	164,948	25,627	190,575
Total	170,897	31,081	201,978
NET INCOME	41,532	5,725	47,257
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	89,300	36,742	126,042
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	130,832	42,467	173,299

continued...

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	270,000	14,632	29,920	17,994	332,546
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	-	14,632	29,920	17,994	62,546
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2023	270,000	-	-	-	270,000
At 31 March 2022	270,000	-	-	-	270,000

Depreciation on the property is no longer required and has therefore been written back to its original gifted value on the basis that VIC will enjoy use during its lifetime and will not benefit from any appreciation in value after any transfer of ownership.

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Trade debtors	24,522	15,236
Other debtors	-	(5,328)
Prepayments and accrued income	6,436	6,088
	30,958	15,996

continued...

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,361	5,719
Social security and other taxes	2,376	-
Accruals	6,911	7,158
	15,648	12,877

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Contingent liability in respect of Gifted Property	270,000	270,000

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	46,382	21,596	67,978
Vehicle Replacement Fund	50,000	-	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	15,000	-	15,000
VIP	2,692	6,830	9,522
The Community Creative Hub	3,632	864	4,496
VIC Hyndburn	426	(17)	409
VIC Heywood Sandbag	523	(22)	501
Railway Club	-	267	267
VPPP	2,178	8,733	10,911
Ongoing staff costs	10,000	10,000	20,000
	130,833	48,251	179,084
Restricted funds			
DCEPT	7,736	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	3,036	(3,036)	-
Hardship Fund	1,708	(75)	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	22,128	(20,545)	1,583
VIC Sublimination	869	(869)	-
Awards For All	3,455	(2,239)	1,216
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	1,438	(438)	1,000
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	1	-	1
Developing Veterans	1	-	1
Clitheroe	-	515	515
Middleton Mess Tin	2,094	(1,092)	1,002
Battlefields Trip	-	100	100
Small Grants	-	2,225	2,225
	42,466	(25,454)	17,012
TOTAL FUNDS	173,299	22,797	196,096

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	61,644	(40,048)	21,596
Fundraising-Other	828	(828)	-
VIP	6,830	-	6,830
The Community Creative Hub	3,166	(2,302)	864
VIC Hyndburn	48	(65)	(17)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	300	(322)	(22)
Railway Club	468	(201)	267
VPPP	35,000	(26,267)	8,733
Ongoing staff costs	10,000	-	10,000
10th Anniversary	4,471	(4,471)	-
Integrated Care Board	81,830	(81,830)	-
	204,585	(156,334)	48,251
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	12,650	(15,686)	(3,036)
Hardship Fund	-	(75)	(75)
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	24,538	(45,083)	(20,545)
VIC Sublimination	-	(869)	(869)
Awards For All	-	(2,239)	(2,239)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	411	(849)	(438)
Clitheroe	2,100	(1,585)	515
Middleton Mess Tin	1,000	(2,092)	(1,092)
Battlefields Trip	100	-	100
Small Grants	2,225	-	2,225
	43,024	(68,478)	(25,454)
TOTAL FUNDS	247,609	(224,812)	22,797

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	24,401	43,921	(22,000)	46,322
HMR-INT	6,303	(6,243)	-	60
Vehicle Replacement Fund	40,000	-	10,000	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	13,000	-	2,000	15,000
VIP	1,758	934	-	2,692
The Community Creative Hub	2,495	1,137	-	3,632
VIC Hyndburn	790	(364)	-	426
VIC Heywood Sandbag	553	(30)	-	523
VPPP	-	2,178	-	2,178
Ongoing staff costs	-	-	10,000	10,000
	89,300	41,533	-	130,833
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	3,122	(86)	-	3,036
Hardship Fund	1,508	200	-	1,708
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	8,902	13,226	-	22,128
VIC Sublimination	1,185	(316)	-	869
Awards For All	3,455	-	-	3,455
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	3,840	(2,402)	-	1,438
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	5,000	(4,999)	-	1
Developing Veterans	1,994	(1,993)	-	1
Middleton Mess Tin	-	2,094	-	2,094
	36,742	5,724	-	42,466
TOTAL FUNDS	126,042	47,257	-	173,299

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	59,061	(15,140)	43,921
East Lancs CCG	80,000	(80,000)	
HMR-INT	38,230	(44,473)	(6,243)
VIP	863	71	934
The Community Creative Hub	3,567	(2,430)	1,137
VIC Hyndburn	277	(641)	(364)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	55	(85)	(30)
Power To Change	20,000	(20,000)	
Railway Club	345	(345)	
VPPP	8,750	(6,572)	2,178
Clitheroe	1,281	(1,281)	
	212,429	(170,896)	41,533
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	10,290	(10,376)	(86)
Hardship Fund	200		200
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	23,363	(10,137)	13,226
VIC Sublimination		(316)	(316)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF		(2,402)	(2,402)
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund		(4,999)	(4,999)
Developing Veterans		(1,993)	(1,993)
Middleton Mess Tin	2,953	(859)	2,094
	36,806		5,724
TOTAL FUNDS	249,235	)	47,257

continued.

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	24,401	65,517	(22,000)	67,918
HMR-INT	6,303	(6,243)	-	60
Vehicle Replacement Fund	40,000	-	10,000	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	13,000	-	2,000	15,000
VIP	1,758	7,764	-	9,522
The Community Creative Hub	2,495	2,001	-	4,496
VIC Hyndburn	790	(381)	-	409
VIC Heywood Sandbag	553	(52)	-	501
Railway Club	-	267	-	267
VPPP	-	10,911	-	10,911
Ongoing staff costs	-	10,000	10,000	20,000
	89,300	89,784	-	179,084
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	3,122	(3,122)	-	-
Hardship Fund	1,508	125	-	1,633
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	8,902	(7,319)	-	1,583
VIC Sublimination	1,185	(1,185)	-	-
Awards For All	3,455	(2,239)	-	1,216
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	3,840	(2,840)	-	1,000
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	5,000	(4,999)	-	1
Developing Veterans	1,994	(1,993)	-	1
Clitheroe	-	515	-	515
Middleton Mess Tin	-	1,002	-	1,002
Battlefields Trip	-	100	-	100
Small Grants	-	2,225	-	2,225
	36,742	(19,730)	-	17,012
TOTAL FUNDS	126,042	70,054	-	196,096

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	120,705	(55,188)	65,517
Fundraising-Other	828	(828)	-
East Lancs CCG	80,000	(80,000)	-
HMR-INT	38,230	(44,473)	(6,243)
VIP	7,693	71	7,764
The Community Creative Hub	6,733	(4,732)	2,001
VIC Hyndburn	325	(706)	(381)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	355	(407)	(52)
Power To Change	20,000	(20,000)	-
Railway Club	813	(546)	267
VPPP	43,750	(32,839)	10,911
Clitheroe	1,281	(1,281)	-
Ongoing staff costs	10,000	-	10,000
10th Anniversary	4,471	(4,471)	-
Integrated Care Board	81,830	(81,830)	-
	417,014	(327,230)	89,784
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	22,940	(26,062)	(3,122)
Hardship Fund	200	(75)	125
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	47,901	(55,220)	(7,319)
VIC Sublimination	-	(1,185)	(1,185)
Awards For All	-	(2,239)	(2,239)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	411	(3,251)	(2,840)
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	(4,999)	(4,999)
Developing Veterans	-	(1,993)	(1,993)
Clitheroe	2,100	(1,585)	515
Middleton Mess Tin	3,953	(2,951)	1,002
Battlefields Trip	100	-	100
Small Grants	2,225	-	2,225
	79,830	(99,560)	(19,730)
TOTAL FUNDS	496,844	(426,790)	70,054

continued...

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Voluntary income				
Donations	15,414	100	15,514	46,343
Gift aid	-	-	-	231
Fundraising-Singing	29	-	29	-
East Lancs CCG	-	-	-	80,000
Creative Community	61	-	61	-
HMR-INT	38,230	-	38,230	38,230
The Community Creative Hub	-	-	-	(114)
Income Generation	9,527	-	9,527	-
VPPP	35,000	-	35,000	-
10th Anniversary	1,500	-	1,500	-
Integrated Care Board	84,416	-	84,416	-
VIP income	6,500	-	6,500	-
Voluntary income - General	(336)	-	(336)	-
	190,341	100	190,441	164,690
Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising events	8,072	100	8,172	2,032
Rental income	500	-	500	4,830
Art sales	467	-	467	1,884
Craft sales	735	-	735	1,076
Other sales	1,921	-	1,921	1,267
Mini bus hire	-	-	-	458
VIP income	-	-	-	863
	11,695	100	11,795	12,410
Investment income				
Bank interest	1,051	-	1,051	19
Charitable activities				
Grants	1,498	42,824	44,322	72,116
Total incoming resources	204,585	43,024	247,609	249,235
EXPENDITURE				
Other trading activities				
Bad debts	-	-	-	388
Carried forward	-	-	-	388

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
Other trading activities				
Brought forward	-	-	-	388
Projects costs	9,752	7,854	17,606	11,015
	9,752	7,854	17,606	11,403
Charitable activities				
Wage costs	107,325	49,439	156,764	153,098
Gas, electricity and water	7,542	-	7,542	7,994
Telephone and computer costs	2,682	154	2,836	4,347
Post, stationery and adverts	6,745	72	6,817	6,163
Motor expenses	2,979	-	2,979	2,332
Travel and refreshments	2,411	1,682	4,093	3,022
Insurance	2,343	-	2,343	3,225
Professional fees	7,060	-	7,060	1,000
Repairs	2,203	8,371	10,574	2,599
Cleaning and hygiene	895	-	895	750
Depreciation	-	-	-	165
Staff training	-	300	300	8
Bank charges	100	-	100	137
Subscriptions	214	-	214	214
Sundries	1,203	606	1,809	2,701
	143,702	60,624	204,326	187,755
Support costs				
Governance costs				
Auditors' remuneration	2,880	-	2,880	2,820
Total resources expended	156,334	68,478	224,812	201,978
Net income/(expenditure)	48,251	(25,454)	22,797	47,257

Summary of Achievements and Performance 2022/23

Support provided for former Armed Forces service personnel and their families

Over 300 outreach sessions delivered across Pendle, Burnley, Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton



142 beneficiaries accessed our social groups, services and support at our outreach areas each week

Over 100 new members identified, registered and supported.



VIC lent our centre to the family of one of our members so that they could hold a 90th birthday celebration for him, his family and VIC friends



Providing support towards addressing issues affecting former armed forces service personnel and their families

- The VIC Centre was open each weekday over the Christmas period recognising that it is a difficult time for veterans who are most isolated
- Over 50 Christmas hampers delivered to those alone during the Christmas period

Social inclusion trips continued with trips to the Fusilier Museum, Whitehough Outdoor Centre, the Police Museum, the Infantry Museum, Royal Armouries, the National Memorial Arboretum, Queen Street Mill and Carnforth Heritage Centre to name but a few.

The VIC centre has been accessed over 2000 times between April 2022 and March 2023.



Providing support towards addressing issues affecting former armed forces service personnel and their families

Implementation of Herbert Protocol working with Lancashire Constabulary to reduce risks in the event of an adult with care and support needs going missing.

THE HERBERT PROTOCOL
Safe & Found

Help and Support



- Housing support and house moves
- Employment and training support and guidance
- PIP and ESA applications and appeals
- Evidencing proof of service
- Supply of furniture
- Emergency food parcels

Cost of Living Crisis



VIC registered as a warm place so that our members and the wider community could access a warm space, a drink and a bowl of soup

Integration of former service personnel into civilian life by encouraging them to contribute their service experience and skills to benefit the local communities

- Sanding down and repainting the shop front of Positive Start in readiness for the Britain in Bloom judges.
- Designing and planting of a floral display within the community flower beds within the grounds of a war memorial for Britain in Bloom.

community projects

- Team of volunteers marshalling at the Sabre Challenge for Rossendale Hospice.
- Refurbishment of garden benches to make stunning memorial benches.
- Painting concrete fences in a back street in Clayton creating lots of positive local interest from the local community.
- Community allotment

Integration of former service personnel into civilian life by encouraging them to contribute their service experience and skills to benefit the local communities

NLTG
NORTH LANCS TRAINING GROUP

VIC members were instrumental in helping a work experience placement from NLTG to develop general skills in a wide range. He has now just applied to join the Army.



The VIC soapbox team came together to build our "Willy's Jeep" entry into Amazing Accrington's soapbox challenge in August 2022. An information stand was held in the town on competition day and the experience has enhanced awareness of VIC and our services.

A model railway club has now been established at the Drop-In at Accrington, a thriving enterprise for both veterans and the wider community sharing knowledge and skills



Working in partnership to support the Armed Forces Covenant - supporting those who serve or who have served in the armed forces and their families

- Full partner in the delivery of the Integrated Neighbourhood Team contract in HMR
- Representations and active participation on Armed Forces Covenant Groups
- Partnership work with Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Hub
- Partnership working with Association of Service Drop-In Centres (ASDIC)



VIC was selected to work within the North-West Armed Forces Wellbeing collective as part of the Veterans' Places, Pathways and People programme. The project ensures that third sector and statutory organisations across the North-West are working together building and strengthening new and existing relationships.

Member of Lancashire Armed Forces Network working together with statutory and other third sector organisations improving inter agency partnerships

Working in partnership to support the Armed Forces Covenant - supporting those who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces and their families

Continue to work collaboratively with the Burnley Football Club in the Community, Accrington Stanley Community Trust and Blackburn Rovers Community Trust. the Royal British Legion, Lancashire Adult Learning, Citizens Advice, SSAFA and Military Veterans Services to name but a few.

PRIDE IN VETERANS STANDARD

FIGHTING WITH PRIDE

VIC have joined the increasing number of veterans organisations joining the Pride in Veterans Standard (PiVS) that recognise the contribution organisations have made and continue to make to the Armed Forces.

VIC staff and volunteers attended many Remembrance services across our area of benefit, laying wreaths at each, including the cenotaph in London. A staff member also took part in the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall

Supporting the health and wellbeing of our members

Peer support
Art Group
VIC Choir
Craft Group
Veterans in Production
Allotment project
Pyrography
Walks
Training and learning
Social events and trips

Working with Community CVS (Blackburn) and the NHS, VIC have worked alongside the Bowel Cancer Screening GP and Community Engagement Officer. Information stands have been held at our outreach sessions, and we have hosted a training event in Rossendale to train Champions to help raise awareness about the screening programme.

Use of VIC Centre for appointments with specialist psychological services such as Military Veterans' Service and Combat Stress. Our centre is also used by partners such as Citizens Advice and Inspire.

Training and support providing access to opportunities available to return to economic activity

Support provided:

- **CV preparation,**
- **Job search,**
- **Identifying training opportunities**
- **Accessing business start-up grants**
- **Securing funding to access training**

- One to one support tailored to meet the needs of the individual and an action plan developed to help them achieve skills, confidence and move towards finding employment
- Delivery of courses to improve skills and increase confidence
- Supported beneficiaries into HGV training, business start up advisors, PIP applications, assessments and appeals
- Supported participants through programmes which have helped them to become more self-confident and assisted with personal development

100% success with PIP applications and appeals

Training and support providing access to opportunities available to return to economic activity

Changing Futures
Building Better Opportunities

VIC are a delivery partner within the Building Better Opportunities, Changing Futures project, funded by The Community Fund and the European Social Fund. The project provides intensive one to one support enabling veterans to move closer to employment

- Project staff help with PIP, UC and ESA applications, assessments and appeals
- Support provided to beneficiaries with housing providers and assisting with house moves including access to furniture
- VIC provide access to on-line training relating to mentoring, mindfulness and home exercise

- **Over 30 participants signed up to the project**
- **10 are now in employment**
- **6 have gone into formal education / training**

Fundraising

- Over £75,000 in grants were secured



- Over £15,000 in trading income



- Over £2,000 raised by the VIC Choir from collections during performances along with VIC fundraising events



- Over £19,000 of donations and fundraising income



Volunteers



VIC is extremely grateful to each and every one of our volunteers who give so generously of their time and skills

Volunteers are involved in:

- organising and leading groups and activities
- administration
- organising walks and social inclusion activities
- fundraising events
- Peer Support
- Welfare checks
- VIC Choir members
- allotment
- manning outreach posts
- VIC Hyndburn
- VIC Clitheroe
- VIC Heywood (Sandbag café)
- VIC Middleton (Middleton Mess Tin)
- Veterans in Production (VIP)
- Art and crafts groups
- Coffee social groups
- Veterans mental health caseworker
- Decorating and DIY skills
- Trustees



Over 6500 volunteer hours have been gifted to VIC

Equates to £64,543 if paid at national minimum wage

Awards and Recognition

VIC were selected to assist with a a research programme being undertaken by Anglian Ruskin University. All of the partners attended a workshop in Bristol, where we saw one another's films and talked about common messages and themes across the partners work, despite this being done in different ways. The workshop was held ahead of a national screening that took place in London at the end of June.

GOUVERNEMENT

Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

VIC applied for the Légion d'Honneur (France's highest distinction honouring exceptional bravery and devotion by all those who have served in France) for one of our WWII veteran members. Jack was visited by serving and retired officers from Royal REME and Jack's story featured in the March 2023 edition of The Craftsman.

On 30th September 2022, VIC celebrated 10 years of supporting veterans. We hosted a large event and partner organisations, corporate sponsors and members of the wider community attended alongside of course our veteran service users, staff and volunteers

Thank you to our funders:

NHS
East Lancashire
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS
Northern Care Alliance
NHS Foundation Trust

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

COMMUNITY FUND

European Union

Lancashire County Council

Ribble Valley Borough Council
www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

action together

ASDA Foundation

TESCO

Case study

- Self-referral in Accrington
- Veteran in mid-fifties
- Very angry, with severe mental health issues
- Unemployed

Tony (name anonymised) came to the drop in centre at Accrington as a self-referral. Tony, in his mid-fifties, suffers poor mental health relating to 'issues' from his time in the military.



VIC staff referred him to Military Veterans Service (MVS) for mental health treatment. Tony also became homeless at this time and VIC supported Tony through homelessness, sourcing temporary accommodation, onwards to securing a forever home.

VIC sourced a flat-full of household goods for his new home, including all appliances, bedding, curtains, a 40" Samsung TV, kitchen goods and pots and pans



Staff assisted Tony to enrol at college to complete security training and qualifications. On completion, VIC staff supported Tony with job search for sustainable employment, assisting him through the arduous application and vetting processes.

Tony also began to undertake mountain climbing and sky diving with friends which he had not been well enough to do for a long time.



Tony is now in full-time paid employment with BAE Systems Samlesbury on the security detail.

MVS told VIC that Tony cannot praise enough, all the support that he has continued to get from all at VIC and the Outreach team.

Tony:- *I like you a lot Ray; you have helped me so much but you don't want anything back from me. Thank you so much for everything.*

VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1151194

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1151194

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

for

Veterans in Communities
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

N J Grindrod & Co Limited
First Floor
Sovereign House
Barehill Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9BL

Veterans in Communities

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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Veterans in Communities

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES	R Barker MBE Chairman B G Hyde J B Payton MBE D A Peat OBE Retired Major C R Smethurst C Gill Q Zhou (appointed 12.8.21) A Woods (appointed 16.8.22) M Procter (appointed 16.8.22)
COMPANY SECRETARY	J B Payton MBE
REGISTERED OFFICE	VIC Centre 12 Bury Road Haslingden Rossendale BB4 5PL
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1151194
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	N J Grindrod & Co Limited First Floor Sovereign House Barehill Street Littleborough Lancashire OL15 9BL
SOLICITORS	Woodcock & Sons Princess Street Haslingden Rossendale Lancashire BB4 5NH

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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

Charitable Objects

The charitable objects of VIC as registered with the Charity Commission are:

To relieve need, suffering and distress amongst veterans of all branches of the Armed Forces and their partners, spouses and dependents in such ways as the Trustees shall think fit, particularly but not exclusively, by providing a comprehensive and diverse outreach programme developed, designed and delivered by veterans for veterans in the North West which supports veterans suffering the effects of war and have found the transition from military to civilian life difficult as a means to preserve and protect their physical and mental health; support their resettlement, rehabilitation, if needed, and their retraining to help them obtain employment.

VIC Mission Statement

To ensure that ex-service personnel and their families can return to, belong and prosper in their communities.

Objectives

- To provide open access to a trusted single point of contact ensuring all who may experience immediate and future difficulty in transitioning from military to civilian life in any way know where to go, who to see and what to do
- To provide a range of interventions to meet the individual need of the AFC member to accomplish transition
- To provide access to every opportunity available to maintain health and wellbeing and achieve a return to economic activity
- To provide ongoing support to veterans and their families that promotes continuing recovery for as long as is required and recognition that family and dependants as integral to recovery
- To deliver back to the community the benefit of their service skills and knowledge
- To provide subject matter expertise and support to Local Authorities and their Armed Forces Community Covenant partners in gaining a 'veterans eye-view' and assistance in engaging with the community
- To highlight and promote awareness of veterans needs
- To establish pathways and partnerships for joint working to achieve mutual outcomes and resource efficiencies

Veterans in Communities is founded on peer support and committed to partnership and collaborative working to achieve positive outcomes that result in returning, belonging and prospering.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

VIC Aims

- To provide support for ex-military personnel, ex-emergency services and prison service personnel and their families
- To encourage others to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to provide help, support and advice to members of the Armed Forces and uniformed civilian communities and build on existing services and develop others
- To encourage the integration of former service personnel into civilian life by encouraging them to contribute their service experience and skills to help the local community
- To work together in partnership with others to support the Armed Forces Community Covenant in recognising in-service and ex-service personnel and their families.
- To establish partnerships through pledges which while not replacing statutory services, work towards addressing issues which affect former armed forces personnel and their families.

Volunteers

VIC could not function without its volunteers. They are found in every area of VIC, contributing their time, skills, knowledge and effort. They plan and deliver so many activities; art group, choir, craft group, walks, allotment, pyrography, sublimation, outreach, peer support, woodworking, skills training and learning, stalls and information stands, fundraising assistance and running our social activities.

VIC volunteers continued marshalling at vaccination hubs across our area of benefit helping their communities return to some semblance of normality.

Over the year we have calculated the hours that VIC volunteers have provided to our members and the wider community. The volunteers accumulated over 7,000 voluntary hours and if those hours had been paid at national minimum wage VIC would have needed an additional £63,234 of funding.

We are indebted to their commitment, generosity and support and grateful for each and every one of our volunteers.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Fundraising activities

Members of VIC and the public continued to be very generous with donations and their own fundraising initiatives, raising much needed funds for VIC. The VIC Choir have not been able to fundraise for us for the most part of the year due to ongoing restrictions within the communities.

Sales of arts and crafts products have continued to improve this year and sales of Veterans in Production products have substantially increased this year, primarily due to the sales of "We Salute You" silhouettes which were sold over the Remembrance period.

Members of the public continued to be very generous, particularly at Christmas. Thanks to the donations of food and toiletries we were able to distribute over 60 hampers to those living alone or with limited income.

Achievement and performance

Highlights of the achievements of Veterans in Communities during the year can be found from page 27 of this document.

We were pleased to be able to open our door again on 12th April 2021 following Covid-19 guidance,, in-line with the Government's Roadmap. There were still restrictions of numbers allowed to partake in activities.

VIC were represented at Remembrance Day services across East Lancashire and Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale, with wreaths laid in many places.

VIC are delighted to have been selected as a partner, along with Turn to Starboard and Waterloo Uncovered, to take part in a research programme. The Stories in Transition aims to explore how veterans author their own stories about life after military service through participation in arts, sport and culture activities, and through producing creative documentary films. The project is unique because it engages with veterans in a creative and empowering way. Unlike measuring instrumental transition 'outcomes', like scores on a questionnaire, the project explores what transition itself really means to veterans and what they think they get out of participating in arts, sport and culture activities.

Financial review

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities set out on page 10 shows how our funds were raised and applied during the year. This statement separates funds, which the charity itself controls - unrestricted funds, from funds which have to be spent in a manner determined by the donor - restricted funds.

The trustees are guarantors of the company. Their liabilities as set out in the memorandum are limited to £10 per guarantor.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal funders

Veterans in Communities is grateful to all the funders who have made the delivery of services possible during the year:

- East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS Northern Care Alliance
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust
- Power to Change
- Changing Futures project, part of the Building Better Opportunities Fund jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund
- The Big Salute
- Asda Foundation
- Rossendale Borough Council
- Department for Work and Pensions (Kickstart programme)

VIC is also part of the partnership delivering the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams contract across Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale.

VIC are delighted to have new and continued relationships and support with Catherine Smyth Media, Stonegate IT, Veterans into Logistics, Meg Training Solutions, Stitches R Us, JJ Ormerod, Greggs, Emotive Capture, Mulberry Roots, Unlock Your You, Asda, Tesco and Morrisons.

Partnership working has proved how vital collaboration and joint working is in meeting the needs of our members. We are fortunate and pleased to have worked with all of our partners; Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Hub, Citizen's Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn, Military Veterans Service, Royal British Legion, Rochdale Metropolitan Council, MIND (Rochdale), Inspire, Armed Forces Covenant Groups in Burnley, Pendle and Rochdale, to name just a few. The support of local businesses and organisations has also been gratefully received and is essential to our development.

Investment policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Investment Policy on an annual basis, considering cash flow needs of the organisation and the level of reserves available for investment.

At this time the Trustees feel there are not sufficient assets available for investment without creating a high risk level for cashflow.

The Trustees do take into consideration the limits of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Consequently Veterans in Communities holds bank accounts at two separate institutions; National Westminster and CAF Bank. This enables the distribution of funds to mitigate the risks in accordance with FSCS limits.

The Financial Policy and Procedures outlines the checks and balances in place to regulate financial transactions and handling of money within VIC.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Reserves Policy on an annual basis, considering the reserves available, the need to designate funds against potential redundancy costs, future commitments and the level of risk acceptable to the Trustees.

The Trustees have determined that Veterans in Communities will maintain free reserves equivalent to approximately 25% of the projected expenditure for the following year. At 31st March 2022 VIC has £46,382 as free reserves after designated funds are accounted for. This represents 18.6% of budgeted expenditure for the financial year 2022/23. In the event that all or any funding is lost, the reserves will enable VIC to maintain a service for 2.2 months whilst researching and sourcing other funding.

VIC is fortunate to hold the asset of the VIC building within its accounts. However, this building is held in trust for the community and its value cannot be realised to the benefit of VIC.

Designated Funds

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities have considered the development of the organisation and the length of employment of a number of staff. In order to mitigate against any funding risks in the coming year, the Trustees have deemed it prudent to designate funds to cover any required redundancies. As at 31st March 2022 the designated fund will increase to £15,000.

Veterans in Communities owns a vehicle purchased through grant funding, which has been depreciated over a number of years. Due to the age of the vehicle, the Trustees recognise that there will be additional expenditure to maintain it to an acceptable standard. As in the previous three years, the Trustees have designated a further £10,000 for the year to the 31st March 2022 to increase the designated funds reserve for vehicle replacement to a total £50,000.

The Trustees have felt it prudent to designate funds towards ongoing staff costs in order to retain staff beyond the life of the project funding until additional funding can be secured. As at 31st March 2022, the designated fund will be £10,000.

The Trustees have also designated funds across various projects:

Veterans in Production	£2,692
Creative Community Hub	£3,632
VIC Hyndburn	£426
VIC Heywood	£523
Veterans Places, Pathways and People	£2,178

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Veterans In Communities (VIC) is a registered charity operating within a company limited by guarantee. VIC incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee in September 2012 and achieved charitable status in March 2013.

VIC currently has a Board of 9 Trustees responsible for governance and developing and driving strategy. A sub-group of senior staff and 3 Trustees form the Executive Group that has a day-by-day management role. The Trustees are voluntary social entrepreneurs who are passionate about the area and have worked for years to make it a better place to live and work. They are all local people chosen for their skills and experience. They give generously of their private time, at their own expense, with a shared commitment to building a better future for ex-services personnel, their families and the wider community.

The Trustees are bound by a Code of Conduct and receive induction upon appointment. One third of the Directors, being longest in office, retire annually and are able to be re-elected by the members, if the individual is willing.

The Trustees have not claimed any expenses or received any remuneration during the year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities recognise their responsibility to identify, assess and manage all areas of risk in relation to the organisation. The Risk Management Policy outlines the principles of our risk management approach, the processes for identifying risk, and the methods used to assess those risks and mitigate against them.
It covers all matters where risk can arise, compromising staff and visitor safety. Risk management is undertaken in all areas of the organisation. Overall responsibility for risk management lies with the Board of Trustees. However, it is expected that all staff, volunteers and members will play their part in ensuring risk is minimised on a day to day basis.

The main areas of risk are considered to be:

- Governance
- Operational
- Financial
- Environmental or external
- Compliance (law and regulation)

The aim of the Risk Management Policy is to create robust structures, systems and processes that will minimise or eliminate, so far as is reasonably practicable, risks to staff, members, volunteers, the general public and the organisation by promoting consistency in practice. This policy is aimed at creating a strong understanding of the responsibility for the assessment and management of risk at all levels whether through individual practice or in management arrangements.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Veterans in Communities for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

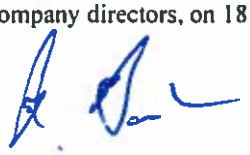
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

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

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

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

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 18 August 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:



R Barker MBE - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Veterans in Communities

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Veterans in Communities ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

N. Grindrod

N Grindrod
MAAT
N J Grindrod & Co Limited
First Floor
Sovereign House
Barehill Street
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9BL

18 August 2022

Veterans in Communities

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Voluntary income		164,490	200	164,690	122,250
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		35,510	36,606	72,116	58,401
Activities for generating funds	2	12,410	-	12,410	7,996
Investment income	3	19	-	19	61
Total		212,429	36,806	249,235	188,708
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		5,949	5,454	11,403	16,155
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable Activities		164,948	25,627	190,575	202,708
Total		170,897	31,081	201,978	218,863
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		41,532	5,725	47,257	(30,155)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		89,300	36,742	126,042	156,197
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		130,832	42,467	173,299	126,042

The notes form part of these financial statements

Veterans in Communities

Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	-	270,000	270,000	270,165
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	(26,470)	42,466	15,996	16,522
Cash at bank and in hand		170,180	-	170,180	121,452
		143,710	42,466	186,176	137,974
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(12,877)	-	(12,877)	(12,097)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		130,833	42,466	173,299	125,877
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		130,833	312,466	443,299	396,042
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	-	(270,000)	(270,000)	(270,000)
NET ASSETS		130,833	42,466	173,299	126,042

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2022

	Notes	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
FUNDS	13		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		46,322	24,401
HMR-INT		60	6,303
Vehicle Replacement Fund		50,000	40,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund		15,000	13,000
VIP		2,692	1,758
The Community Creative Hub		3,632	2,495
VIC Hyndburn		426	790
VIC Heywood Sandbag		523	553
VPPP		2,178	-
Ongoing staff costs		10,000	-
		130,833	89,300
Restricted funds:			
DCEPT		7,736	7,736
Building Better Opportunities		3,036	3,122
Hardship Fund		1,708	1,508
Armed Forces Covenant Trust		22,128	8,902
VIC Sublimination		869	1,185
Awards For All		3,455	3,455
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF		1,438	3,840
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund		1	5,000
Developing Veterans		1	1,994
Middleton Mess Tin		2,094	-
		42,466	36,742
TOTAL FUNDS		173,299	126,042

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2022

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 August 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



R Barker MBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

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

Freehold property	- not provided
Plant and machinery	- 25% on cost
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	- 33% on cost and 25% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 25% on cost

The property is shown at the value when gifted and is not to be depreciated as it has no specific useful life. Its full value is shown within 'Tangible Fixed Assets' (note 9) and 'Contingent liability' (note 12) and will remain there indefinitely. Correspondingly, the 'Contingent liability' (note 12) will remain there indefinitely until VIC no longer has use for the property and it is gifted back to the Haslingden Community.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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

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

continued...

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Fundraising events	2,032	471
Rental income	4,830	3,163
Art sales	1,884	1,930
Craft sales	1,076	1,016
Other sales	1,267	43
Mini bus hire	458	142
VIP income	863	1,231
	12,410	7,996

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Bank interest	19	61

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	187,755	2,820	190,575

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Accountancy fees	2,820	3,276
Depreciation - owned assets	165	248

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

continued...

7. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.22	31.3.21
Support staff	8	8

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Voluntary income	122,050	200	122,250
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	4,165	54,236	58,401
Activities for generating funds	7,996	-	7,996
Investment income	61	-	61
Total	134,272	54,436	188,708
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	1,645	14,510	16,155
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	131,285	71,423	202,708
Total	132,930	85,933	218,863
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	1,342	(31,497)	(30,155)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	87,959	68,238	156,197
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	89,301	36,741	126,042

continued...

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	270,000	14,632	29,920	17,994	332,546
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2021	-	14,632	29,755	17,994	62,381
Charge for year	-	-	165	-	165
At 31 March 2022	-	14,632	29,920	17,994	62,546
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2022	270,000	-	-	-	270,000
At 31 March 2021	270,000	-	165	-	270,165

Depreciation on the property is no longer required and has therefore been written back to its original gifted value on the basis that VIC will enjoy use during its lifetime and will not benefit from any appreciation in value after any transfer of ownership.

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Trade debtors	15,236	10,159
Other debtors	(5,328)	(2)
Prepayments and accrued income	6,088	6,365
	15,996	16,522

continued...

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Trade creditors	5,719	2,281
Social security and other taxes	-	2,405
Accruals	7,158	7,411
	12,877	12,097

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Contingent liability in respect of Gifted Property	270,000	270,000

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.22
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	24,401	43,921	(22,000)	46,322
HMR-INT	6,303	(6,243)	-	60
Vehicle Replacement Fund	40,000	-	10,000	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	13,000	-	2,000	15,000
VIP	1,758	934	-	2,692
The Community Creative Hub	2,495	1,137	-	3,632
VIC Hyndburn	790	(364)	-	426
VIC Heywood Sandbag	553	(30)	-	523
VPPP	-	2,178	-	2,178
Ongoing staff costs	-	-	10,000	10,000
	89,300	41,533	-	130,833
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	3,122	(86)	-	3,036
Hardship Fund	1,508	200	-	1,708
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	8,902	13,226	-	22,128
VIC Sublimination	1,185	(316)	-	869
Awards For All	3,455	-	-	3,455
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	3,840	(2,402)	-	1,438
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	5,000	(4,999)	-	1
Developing Veterans	1,994	(1,993)	-	1
Middleton Mess Tin	-	2,094	-	2,094
	36,742	5,724	-	42,466
TOTAL FUNDS	126,042	47,257	-	173,299

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	59,061	(15,140)	43,921
East Lancs CCG	80,000	(80,000)	-
HMR-INT	38,230	(44,473)	(6,243)
VIP	863	71	934
The Community Creative Hub	3,567	(2,430)	1,137
VIC Hyndburn	277	(641)	(364)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	55	(85)	(30)
Power To Change	20,000	(20,000)	-
Railway Club	345	(345)	-
VPPP	8,750	(6,572)	2,178
Clitheroe	1,281	(1,281)	-
	212,429	(170,896)	41,533
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	10,290	(10,376)	(86)
Hardship Fund	200	-	200
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	23,363	(10,137)	13,226
VIC Sublimination	-	(316)	(316)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	-	(2,402)	(2,402)
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	(4,999)	(4,999)
Developing Veterans	-	(1,993)	(1,993)
Middleton Mess Tin	2,953	(859)	2,094
	36,806	(31,082)	5,724
TOTAL FUNDS	249,235	(201,978)	47,257

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	33,152	1,249	(10,000)	24,401
HMR-INT	9,100	(2,797)	-	6,303
Vehicle Replacement Fund	30,000	-	10,000	40,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	13,000	-	-	13,000
VIP	809	949	-	1,758
The Community Creative Hub	166	2,329	-	2,495
VIC Hyndburn	790	-	-	790
VIC Heywood Sandbag	942	(389)	-	553
	87,959	1,341	-	89,300
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	-	3,122	-	3,122
Hardship Fund	1,408	100	-	1,508
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	31,820	(22,918)	-	8,902
Santander Discovery Grant	1,618	(1,618)	-	-
VIC Sublimination	1,185	-	-	1,185
Awards For All	7,049	(3,594)	-	3,455
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV	17,422	(17,422)	-	-
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	-	3,840	-	3,840
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	5,000	-	5,000
Developing Veterans	-	1,994	-	1,994
	68,238	(31,496)	-	36,742
TOTAL FUNDS	156,197	(30,155)	-	126,042

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	11,822	(10,573)	1,249
East Lancs CCG	80,000	(80,000)	-
HMR-INT	38,230	(41,027)	(2,797)
VIP	1,231	(282)	949
The Community Creative Hub	2,989	(660)	2,329
VIC Heywood Sandbag	-	(389)	(389)
	134,272	(132,931)	1,341
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	13,981	(10,859)	3,122
Hardship Fund	200	(100)	100
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	-	(22,918)	(22,918)
Santander Discovery Grant	-	(1,618)	(1,618)
Awards For All	-	(3,594)	(3,594)
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV	-	(17,422)	(17,422)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	16,034	(12,194)	3,840
Armed Forces Covenant - COVID19	14,269	(14,269)	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	5,000	-	5,000
Developing Veterans	4,952	(2,958)	1,994
	54,436	(85,932)	(31,496)
TOTAL FUNDS	188,708	(218,863)	(30,155)

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	33,152	45,170	(32,000)	46,322
HMR-INT	9,100	(9,040)	-	60
Vehicle Replacement Fund	30,000	-	20,000	50,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	13,000	-	2,000	15,000
VIP	809	1,883	-	2,692
The Community Creative Hub	166	3,466	-	3,632
VIC Hyndburn	790	(364)	-	426
VIC Heywood Sandbag	942	(419)	-	523
VPPP	-	2,178	-	2,178
Ongoing staff costs	-	-	10,000	10,000
	87,959	42,874	-	130,833
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	-	3,036	-	3,036
Hardship Fund	1,408	300	-	1,708
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	31,820	(9,692)	-	22,128
Santander Discovery Grant	1,618	(1,618)	-	-
VIC Sublimination	1,185	(316)	-	869
Awards For All	7,049	(3,594)	-	3,455
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV	17,422	(17,422)	-	-
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	-	1,438	-	1,438
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	1	-	1
Developing Veterans	-	1	-	1
Middleton Mess Tin	-	2,094	-	2,094
	68,238	(25,772)	-	42,466
TOTAL FUNDS	156,197	17,102	-	173,299

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	70,883	(25,713)	45,170
East Lancs CCG	160,000	(160,000)	-
HMR-INT	76,460	(85,500)	(9,040)
VIP	2,094	(211)	1,883
The Community Creative Hub	6,556	(3,090)	3,466
VIC Hyndburn	277	(641)	(364)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	55	(474)	(419)
Power To Change	20,000	(20,000)	-
Railway Club	345	(345)	-
VPPP	8,750	(6,572)	2,178
Clitheroe	1,281	(1,281)	-
	346,701	(303,827)	42,874
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	24,271	(21,235)	3,036
Hardship Fund	400	(100)	300
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	23,363	(33,055)	(9,692)
Santander Discovery Grant	-	(1,618)	(1,618)
VIC Sublimination	-	(316)	(316)
Awards For All	-	(3,594)	(3,594)
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV	-	(17,422)	(17,422)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	16,034	(14,596)	1,438
Armed Forces Covenant - COVID19	14,269	(14,269)	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	5,000	(4,999)	1
Developing Veterans	4,952	(4,951)	1
Middleton Mess Tin	2,953	(859)	2,094
	91,242	(117,014)	(25,772)
TOTAL FUNDS	437,943	(420,841)	17,102

continued...

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Veterans in Communities

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Voluntary income				
Donations	46,143	200	46,343	3,997
Gift aid	231	-	231	23
East Lancs CCG	80,000	-	80,000	80,000
HMR-INT	38,230	-	38,230	38,230
The Community Creative Hub	(114)	-	(114)	-
	164,490	200	164,690	122,250
Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising events	2,032	-	2,032	471
Rental income	4,830	-	4,830	3,163
Art sales	1,884	-	1,884	1,930
Craft sales	1,076	-	1,076	1,016
Other sales	1,267	-	1,267	43
Mini bus hire	458	-	458	142
VIP income	863	-	863	1,231
	12,410	-	12,410	7,996
Investment income				
Bank interest	19	-	19	61
Charitable activities				
Grants	35,510	36,606	72,116	58,401
Total incoming resources	212,429	36,806	249,235	188,708
EXPENDITURE				
Other trading activities				
Purchases	-	-	-	3,530
Bad debts	388	-	388	-
Projects costs	5,561	5,454	11,015	12,625
	5,949	5,454	11,403	16,155
Charitable activities				
Wage costs	129,128	23,970	153,098	145,575
Carried forward	129,128	23,970	153,098	145,575

Veterans in Communities

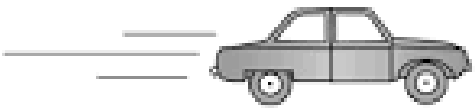
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
Charitable activities				
Brought forward	129,128	23,970	153,098	145,575
Gas, electricity and water	7,994	-	7,994	4,823
Telephone and computer costs	4,147	200	4,347	2,757
Post, stationery and adverts	6,114	49	6,163	1,942
Motor expenses	2,332	-	2,332	2,100
Travel and refreshments	2,451	571	3,022	2,007
Insurance	3,225	-	3,225	3,848
Professional fees	1,000	-	1,000	8,582
Repairs	2,599	-	2,599	24,936
Cleaning and hygiene	750	-	750	953
Depreciation	165	-	165	248
Staff training	8	-	8	53
Bank charges	137	-	137	87
Event costs	-	-	-	60
Subscriptions	214	-	214	1,085
Sundries	1,863	838	2,701	376
	162,127	25,628	187,755	199,432
Support costs				
Governance costs				
Auditors' remuneration	2,820	-	2,820	3,276
Total resources expended	170,896	31,082	201,978	218,863
Net expenditure	41,533	5,724	47,257	(30,155)

Summary of Achievements and Performance 2021/22

Providing support towards addressing issues affecting former Armed Forces service personnel and their families

Over 300 outreach sessions delivered across Pendle, Burnley, Hyndburn, Rossendale, Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton



VIC was able to re-open the doors on 12th April 2021 allowing full access to our services and activities once again

Launching in June 2021, we opened up a new support hub in Clitheroe supporting veterans and their families across Ribble Valley

Social inclusion trips re-started with trips to Bolton Abbey, the National Memorial Arboretum and the Army Foundation College

Over 110 new members identified, registered and supported.



Providing support towards addressing issues affecting former armed forces service personnel and their families

- 74 beneficiaries access our weekly social groups, services and support at our outreach areas
- The VIC Centre was open each weekday day over the Christmas period recognising that it is a difficult time for veterans who are most isolated
- 63 Christmas hampers delivered to those alone on Christmas Day
- Model railway club started at VIC Hyndburn

Across the year:

26 people accessed the the VIC art group



9 people accessed the VIC craft group



19 accessed choir rehearsals and performances



21 people take part in the quiz afternoon held on Thursdays at the centre



Over 1,300 people accessed the VIC centre between April 2021 and March 2022.



Integration of former service personnel into civilian life by encouraging them to contribute their service experience and skills to benefit the local communities

VIC members were instrumental in help a work experience placement from NLTG to develop woodworking skills resulting in an apprenticeship in joinery.

VIC welcomed a volunteer as part of the DofE scheme. He applied his IT skills to create some new marketing literature for VIC and our social enterprises

VIC members are involved in community projects benefiting all. This year these have included:-

- The Whitaker – groundworks and refurbishment work
- Haslingden Community Link – Groundworks and erection and installation of sheds
- Mulberry Roots – putting together furniture and creating a seating area for the children
- Team of volunteers marshalling at the Sabre Challenge for Rossendale Hospice
- Refurbishment of garden benches to make stunning memorial benches
- Dismantling, transportation and installation of a donated kitchen at Whitehough outdoor activity centre (Burnley FC in the Community)
- Painting concrete fences in a back street in Clayton creating lots of positive local interest from the local community

VIC members continued with the marshalling programme up until June. They volunteered their skills and experience supporting our communities by providing a further 850 hours of outdoor marshalling in April and May at vaccination centres in Rawtenstall, Accrington and Darwen

Working in partnership to support the Armed Forces Covenant - supporting those who serve or who have served in the armed forces and their families

- Full partner in the delivery of the Integrated Neighbourhood Team contract in HMR
- Representations and active participation on Armed Forces Covenant Groups
- Partnership work with Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Hub

A VIC member of staff received a collaboration award from the RBL recognising her work in strengthening the links between the RBL and VIC. As a result she was invited to a service at Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen

Two VIC beneficiaries assisted local RBL Poppy Appeals in November 2021

Attended several Remembrance Day parades and services across our areas of benefit

Member of Lancashire Armed Forces Network working together with statutory and other third sector organisations improving inter agency partnerships

Working in partnership to support the Armed Forces Covenant - supporting those who serve or who have served in the armed forces and their families

- Continue to work collaboratively with the Burnley Football Club in the Community, the Royal British Legion, Lancashire Adult Learning, Citizens Advice, SSAFA and Military Veterans Services to name but a few

- New collaborations with Accrington Stanley Community Trust and Blackburn Rovers Community Trust.

Invited to participate in the MOD's NW regional focus group relating to the new Armed Forces Covenant legislation

Collaboration with Burnley FC in the Community to hold a veterans art exhibition at the football club

VIC were selected to be a part of the NW portfolio of the Veterans' Places, Pathways and People programme, entitled North West Armed Forces Wellbeing Network.



Supporting the health and wellbeing of our members

Peer support
Art Group
VIC Choir
Craft Group
Veterans in Production
Allotment project in Rossendale
Pyrography
Walks
Training and learning
Social events and trips

Over 90 people attended the VIC Open Day, Operation Return in October 2021

44 people have participated in our annual programme of countryside walks

Over 60 people attended social inclusion trips to Queen St Mill, Bridgewater Canal

50 people attended Xmas lunch at Rose and Bowl
The VIC Centre was open on Bank Holidays

Use of VIC Centre for appointments with specialist psychological services such as Military Veterans' Service and Combat Stress. Our centre is also used by partners such as Citizens Advice and Inspire.

Over 50 people directly benefited from our Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten funding:-

- One to one appointments
- Access to learning opportunities
- Maintaining social contact
- Talking to family members

Training and support providing access to opportunities available to return to economic activity

VIC volunteer attending accredited course relating to Digital Marketing

- One to one support tailored to meet the needs of the individual and an action plan developed to help them achieve skills, confidence and move towards finding employment

- Delivery of courses to improve skills and increase confidence
- Supported beneficiaries into HGV training, business start up advisors, PIP applications, assessments and appeals

- Supported participants through programmes which have helped them to become more self-confident and assisted with personal development

Staff, volunteers and VIC members attended SafeTALK training

Information, Advice and Guidance training provided for staff and volunteers

Training and support providing access to opportunities available to return to economic activity

Changing Futures
Building Better Opportunities

VIC are a delivery partner within the Building Better Opportunities, Changing Futures project, funded by The Community Fund and the European Social Fund. The project provides intensive one to one support enabling veterans to move closer to employment

- Project staff help with PIP, UC and ESA applications, assessments and appeals
- Support provided to beneficiaries with housing providers
- VIC provide access to on-line training relating to mentoring, mindfulness and home exercise
- Support in applying to have a participant's daughter's birth re-registered to include his name on the certificate

- **27 participants signed up to the project**
- **6 are now in employment**
- **4 have gone into formal training and/or job search**
- **12 are still on the programme and we are working towards results for those**

Fundraising

- Over £60,000 in grants were secured



- Over £10,000 in trading income



- Over £1,000 raised by the VIC Choir from collections during performances along with VIC fundraising events



- Over £45,000 of donations raised



Volunteers



VIC is extremely grateful to each and every one of our volunteers who give so generously of their time and skills

Volunteers are involved in:

- organising and leading groups and activities
- administration
- organising walks and social inclusion activities
- fundraising events
- Peer Support
- Welfare checks
- Marshalling
- VIC Choir members
- allotment
- manning outreach posts
- VIC Hyndburn
- VIC Heywood (Sandbag café)
- VIC Middleton (Middleton Mess Tin)
- Veterans in Production (VIP)
- Art and crafts groups
- Coffee social groups
- Veterans mental health caseworker
- Decorating and DIY skills
- Trustees



7000+ volunteer hours gifted to VIC

Equated to £63,234 if paid at minimum wage

Awards and Recognition

VIC were finalists in the Not For Profit category of Rossendale Business Awards 2021

ROSSENDALE BUSINESS AWARDS
AWARDS 2021
www.r-awards.co.uk
Finalist

VIC applied for the Légion d'Honneur award for a VIC beneficiary. The French government make these awards to D-Day veterans as a way of honouring and thanking those who fought and risked their lives to secure France's liberation during the Second World War

GOUVERNEMENT
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

a.r.u. | Anglia Ruskin University

VIC have been selected as a partner by the Veterans & Families Institute team of Anglia Ruskin University as part of their new research programme

Awards and Recognition

Retired Colonel David Richmond CBE, Independent Veterans Advisor to UK Government Ministers at the Cabinet Office, visited the VIC centre in January 2022.

He was keen to learn more about VIC and the work we do; he spent time talking to several veterans to learn what improvements they think could be made to help veterans successfully transition from military to civilian life.

Invited by Forces in the Community to join a multi-agency pilot project focusing on a veterans virtual hub. As a result of this one of our VIC volunteers has received accredited training in Digital Marketing

VIC were short listed in the 'The Armed Forces Community Lockdown Awards' in the Most Outstanding Charitable Contribution or Gesture in Lockdown category.

Thank you to our funders:

NHS
East Lancashire
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS
Northern Care Alliance
NHS Foundation Trust

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

power to change

COMMUNITY FUND

European Union
European Social Fund

bfbs

ASDA Foundation

Rossendale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

KICKSTART SCHEME

Case study 1:

- Self-referral in Accrington
- Veteran in late thirties
- Required help with finances and housing
- At risk of eviction just before Christmas
- Unemployed

Mark came to the drop in centre at Accrington as a self-referral. Mark, in his late thirties, suffers injuries sustained from his military service and these cause daily issues for him.



He was seeking help relating to housing; his private landlord was suing Mark and trying to evict him. A personal plan was devised and staff members at VIC liaised with the the housing officers ensuring they were aware of his veteran status.



In December 2021, new social housing was secured for Mark and he was able to move in prior to his eviction date.

VIC staff also placed a referral with Military Veterans Service and Mark received treatment with his mental health.

"I'm really grateful for the work that VIC have done for me. I don't know how I would have got by without you."

Mark spent Christmas decorating his new flat, he is now happy, more confident and more motivated.
Mark has now embarked on a college course and is moving towards employment

Mark is very thankful for all the support that VIC has given him during this distressing period in his life

Wanting to engage and help others, Mark asked VIC if we knew of someone who required his almost new, old bed. VIC staff and volunteers helped to take the bed from Mark's flat to the house of another veteran in need.



Case study 2:

- Two veterans in late eighties
- Recently bereaved
- Isolated and lonely



Bernard was encouraged to come to VIC by his daughter, following the passing of his late wife. Bernard was isolated and lonely and would visit the centre for a brew and a chat a couple of times a week.

Not long after, Jim came to VIC following a referral by the Rossendale INT team after becoming recently widowed. Jim has no family or children, only a brother who lives in Canada. It took 3 or 4 attempts for Jim to walk over our threshold and ask for help.



VIC staff saw the commonality between them and addressed the immediate issue of social isolation for both gentlemen by introducing them to each other. The two former service men realised they had much in common and began to visit the centre together on a regular basis.

Jim was loaned a tablet by VIC from our Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten programme. With some IT help from his young neighbour, which resulted in her assisting him with a video call with his brother in Canada for the very first time on the evening of 5th August 2021. Jim told us he was "over the moon".



Bernard and Jim are now firm friends. They have signed up together for our trips and activities, often travel to various VIC social groups in Accrington and Ribble Valley as well those based in Rossendale.

"VIC has given us a new lease of life, the chance to make some new friends and have a reason to live"

VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1151194

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1151194

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

for

Veterans in Communities
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

N J Grindrod & Co Limited
The Old Post Office
128 Ramsden Road
Wardle
Rochdale
Lancashire
OL12 9NT

Veterans in Communities

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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Veterans in Communities

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

TRUSTEES	R Barker MBE Chairman C E Crawforth C Gill B G Hyde J B Payton MBE D A Peat OBE Major C R Smethurst Q Zhou (appointed 12.8.21)
COMPANY SECRETARY	J B Payton MBE
REGISTERED OFFICE	VIC Centre 12 Bury Road Haslingden Rossendale BB4 5PL
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	08230197 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1151194
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	N J Grindrod & Co Limited The Old Post Office 128 Ramsden Road Wardle Rochdale Lancashire OL12 9NT
SOLICITORS	Woodcock & Sons Princess Street Haslingden Rossendale Lancashire BB4 5NH

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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

Charitable Objects

The charitable objects of VIC as registered with the Charity Commission are:

To relieve need, suffering and distress amongst veterans of all branches of the Armed Forces and their partners, spouses and dependents in such ways as the Trustees shall think fit, particularly but not exclusively, by providing a comprehensive and diverse outreach programme developed, designed and delivered by veterans for veterans in the North West which supports veterans suffering the effects of war and have found the transition from military to civilian life difficult as a means to preserve and protect their physical and mental health; support their resettlement, rehabilitation, if needed, and their retraining to help them obtain employment.

VIC Mission Statement

To ensure that ex-service personnel and their families can return to, belong and prosper in their communities.

Objectives

- To provide open access to a trusted single point of contact ensuring all who may experience immediate and future difficulty in transitioning from military to civilian life in any way know where to go, who to see and what to do
- To provide a range of interventions to meet the individual need of the AFC member to accomplish transition
- To provide access to every opportunity available to maintain health and wellbeing and achieve a return to economic activity
- To provide ongoing support to veterans and their families that promotes continuing recovery for as long as is required and recognition that family and dependants as integral to recovery
- To deliver back to the community the benefit of their service skills and knowledge
- To provide subject matter expertise and support to Local Authorities and their Armed Forces Community Covenant partners in gaining a 'veterans eye-view' and assistance in engaging with the community
- To highlight and promote awareness of veterans needs
- To establish pathways and partnerships for joint working to achieve mutual outcomes and resource efficiencies

Veterans in Communities is founded on peer support and committed to partnership and collaborative working to achieve positive outcomes that result in returning, belonging and prospering.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

VIC Aims

- To provide support for ex-military personnel, ex-emergency services and prison service personnel and their families
- To encourage others to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to provide help, support and advice to members of the Armed Forces and uniformed civilian communities and build on existing services and develop others
- To encourage the integration of former service personnel into civilian life by encouraging them to contribute their service experience and skills to help the local community
- To work together in partnership with others to support the Armed Forces Community Covenant in recognising in-service and ex-service personnel and their families.
- To establish partnerships through pledges which while not replacing statutory services, work towards addressing issues which affect former armed forces personnel and their families.

Volunteers

VIC could not function without its volunteers. They are found in every area of VIC, contributing their time, skills, knowledge and effort. Ordinarily they are involved in the design and delivery of many activities; art group; choir; craft group; walks; outreach; woodwork courses; one to one IT support; skills training; stalls and information stands; fundraising assistance.

This year however has been extraordinary, and VIC volunteers have worked just as hard but in different ways. During first lockdown Positive Start (a local charity) had food that was to be used for those most isolated and clinically vulnerable; but they did not have the resources to get the food to those most in need. VIC volunteers rose to the occasion and delivered food each Friday for 11 weeks.

Towards the end of 2020, VIC assisted Rossendale Primary Care with some preparation work for them to provide a vaccination centre in Rawtenstall. VIC were then asked to provide marshals at the entry point of their vaccination site, ensuring a smooth flow of patients arriving for vaccinations.

Over the year we have calculated the hours that VIC volunteers have provided to our members by way of welfare support calls, hosting groups and activities via Zoom and delivering food. The volunteers accumulated over 3,900 voluntary hours and if those hours had been paid at national minimum wage VIC would have needed an additional £34,008 funding.

In addition, we calculated the number of hours accumulated by our volunteers whilst marshalling at the vaccination centres. Their hours totalled over 3,000 hours which equates to an additional £26,160 if paid at national minimum wage.

We are indebted to their commitment, generosity and support and grateful for each and every one of our volunteers.

VIC were devastated by the death of Tracey Vick, the partner of core volunteer, Darren Horsnell. Darren and Tracey were founder members and volunteers at the inception of VIC. Tracey passed away last September after a battle with cancer. She gave so much of her time to helping to raise awareness of VIC and supporting us with fundraising activities. She is much missed.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Fundraising activities

The VIC Choir have not been able to fundraise for us this year as they have not been permitted to venture out into the communities.
Members of VIC and the public continued to be very generous with donations and their own fundraising initiatives, raising much needed funds for VIC.

Sales of arts and crafts products have improved this year within the limited times that we have been able to be open. Sales of Veterans in Production products have substantially increased this year, primarily due to the sales of soldier silhouettes which were sold over the Remembrance period.

Highlights of the achievements of Veterans in Communities during the year can be found from page 26 of this document.

Staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic; normal services could not be provided but they worked proactively ensuring the essential needs of our members were met. During the first lockdown VIC worked with Positive Start delivering food to those most in need, isolated or vulnerable. The Mayor of Rossendale thanked staff and volunteers of VIC in June 2020, for supporting Rossendale residents during the pandemic.

Due to ongoing restrictions planned commemorations for VE Day, VJ Day and Remembrance services had to be curtailed. VIC commemorated the 75th anniversaries of both VE and VJ day at the VIC Centre in Haslingden in May and August respectively. VIC were also represented at the flag raising ceremony in Clitheroe for VJ Day.

VIC held our own short Remembrance Day services at the Memorial Gardens in Haslingden and at the cenotaph in Bacup Cemetery.

VIC received the Silver Award from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme during the year.

Since December, a team of VIC volunteers have been marshalling at vaccination hubs across our area of benefit helping the communities return to some semblance of normality.

Financial review

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities set out on page 9 shows how our funds were raised and applied during the year. This statement separates funds, which the charity itself controls - unrestricted funds, from funds which have to be spent in a manner determined by the donor - restricted funds.

The trustees are guarantors of the company. Their liabilities as set out in the memorandum are limited to £10 per guarantor.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal funders

Veterans in Communities is grateful to all the funders who have made the delivery of services possible during the year:

- East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust
- Changing Futures project, part of the Building Better Opportunities Fund jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund
- Lancashire Community Foundation
- Asda Foundation
- Co-op Local Community Fund
- Tesco Community Grants

VIC is also part of the partnership delivering the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams contract across Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale.

VIC are delighted to have new and continued relationships and support with Catherine Smythe Media, In4Sight, Veterans into Logistics, Meg Training Solutions, Stitches R Us, JJ Ormerod, Greggs, Emotive Capture, Mulberry Roots, Unlock Your You, Asda, Tesco and Morrisons.

Partnership working has proved how vital collaboration and joint working is in meeting the needs of our members. We are fortunate and pleased to have worked with all of our partners; Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Hub, Citizen's Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn, Military Veterans Service, Royal British Legion, Rochdale Metropolitan Council, MIND (Rochdale), Inspire, Armed Forces Covenant Groups in Burnley, Pendle and Rochdale, to name just a few. The support of local businesses and organisations has also been gratefully received and is essential to our development.

Investment policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Investment Policy on an annual basis, considering cash flow needs of the organisation and the level of reserves available for investment.

At this time the Trustees feel there are not sufficient assets available for investment without creating a high risk level for cashflow.

The Trustees do take into consideration the limits of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Consequently Veterans in Communities holds bank accounts at two separate institutions; National Westminster and CAF Bank. This enables the distribution of funds to mitigate the risks in accordance with FSCS limits.

The Financial Policy and Procedures outlines the checks and balances in place to regulate financial transactions and handling of money within VIC.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities review the Reserves Policy on an annual basis, considering the reserves available, the need to designate funds against potential redundancy costs, future commitments and the level of risk acceptable to the Trustees.

The Trustees have determined that Veterans in Communities will maintain free reserves equivalent to approximately 25% of the projected expenditure for the following year. In the event that all or any funding is lost, the reserves will enable VIC to maintain a service whilst researching and sourcing other funding to enable continuity and long term viability of the organisation.

At 31st March 2021 VIC has £35,510 as free reserves after designated funds are accounted for. This represents 18.1% of budgeted expenditure for the financial year 2021/22.

VIC is fortunate to hold the asset of the VIC building within its accounts. However, this building is held in trust for the community and its value cannot be realised to the benefit of VIC.

Designated Funds

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities have considered the development of the organisation and the length of employment of a number of staff. In order to mitigate against any funding risks in the coming year, the Trustees have deemed it prudent to designate funds to cover any required redundancies. As at 31st March 2021 the designated fund will remain at £13,000

Veterans in Communities owns a vehicle purchased through grant funding, which has been depreciated over a number of years. Due to the age of the vehicle, the Trustees recognise that there will be additional expenditure to maintain it to an acceptable standard. As in the previous three years, the Trustees have designated a further £10,000 for the year to the 31st March 2021 to increase the designated funds reserve for vehicle replacement to a total £40,000.

Veterans in Communities had designated a sum of £5,000 to ensure equipment and materials could be purchased for VIC Hyndburn. £4,210 of this has been utilised. As at 31st March 2021 the designated fund remains at £790.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Veterans In Communities (VIC) is a registered charity incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee in September 2012 and achieved charitable status in March 2013.

VIC has a Board of currently 8 Trustees responsible for governance and developing and driving strategy. A sub group of senior staff and 3 Trustees form the Executive Group that has a day- by-day management role. The Trustees are voluntary social entrepreneurs who are passionate about the area and have worked for years to make it a better place to live and work. They are all local people chosen for their skills and experience. They give generously of their private time, at their own expense, with a shared commitment to building a better future for ex-services personnel, their families and the wider community.

The Trustees are bound by a Code of Conduct and receive induction upon appointment. Their term of office lasts for 3 years, at the end of which they are able to be re-elected by the members, if the individual is willing.

The Trustees have not claimed any expenses or received any remuneration during the year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees of Veterans in Communities recognise their responsibility to identify, assess and manage all areas of risk in relation to the organisation. The Risk Management Policy outlines the principles of our risk management approach, the processes for identifying risk, and the methods used to assess those risks and mitigate against them.
It covers all matters where risk can arise, compromising staff and visitor safety. Risk management is undertaken in all areas of the organisation. Overall responsibility for risk management lies with the Board of Trustees. However, it is expected that all staff, volunteers and members will play their part in ensuring risk is minimised on a day to day basis.

The main areas of risk are considered to be:
- Governance
- Operational
- Financial
- Environmental or external
- Compliance (law and regulation)

The aim of the Risk Management Policy is to create robust structures, systems and processes that will minimise or eliminate, so far as is reasonably practicable, risks to staff, members, volunteers, the general public and the organisation by promoting consistency in practice. This policy is aimed at creating a strong understanding of the responsibility for the assessment and management of risk at all levels whether through individual practice or in management arrangements.

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

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 15 September 2021 and signed on the board's behalf by:



R Barker MBE - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Veterans in Communities

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Veterans in Communities ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

N. Grindrod

N Grindrod
MAAT
N J Grindrod & Co Limited
The Old Post Office
128 Ramsden Road
Wardle
Rochdale
Lancashire
OL12 9NT

15 September 2021

Veterans in Communities

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Voluntary income		122,050	200	122,250	124,532
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		4,165	54,236	58,401	69,432
Activities for generating funds	2	7,996	-	7,996	17,163
Investment income	3	61	-	61	244
Total		134,272	54,436	188,708	211,371
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		1,645	14,510	16,155	9,657
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable Activities		131,285	71,423	202,708	174,169
Total		132,930	85,933	218,863	183,826
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		1,342	(31,497)	(30,155)	27,545
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		87,959	68,238	156,197	128,652
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		89,301	36,741	126,042	156,197

The notes form part of these financial statements

Veterans in Communities

Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	165	270,000	270,165	270,413
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	(20,218)	36,742	16,524	10,104
Cash at bank and in hand		121,450	-	121,450	157,094
		101,232	36,742	137,974	167,198
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(12,097)	-	(12,097)	(11,414)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		89,135	36,742	125,877	155,784
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		89,300	306,742	396,042	426,197
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	-	(270,000)	(270,000)	(270,000)
NET ASSETS		89,300	36,742	126,042	156,197

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				24,401	33,152
HMR-INT				6,303	9,100
Vehicle Replacement Fund				40,000	30,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund				13,000	13,000
VIP				1,758	809
The Community Creative Hub				2,495	166
VIC Hyndburn				790	790
VIC Heywood Sandbag				553	942
				89,300	87,959
Restricted funds:					
DCEPT				7,736	7,736
Building Better Opportunities				3,122	-
Hardship Fund				1,508	1,408
Armed Forces Covenant Trust				8,902	31,820
Santander Discovery Grant				-	1,618
VIC Sublimination				1,185	1,185
Awards For All				3,455	-
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV				-	17,422
Awards For All - VIP				-	7,049
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF				3,840	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund				5,000	-
Developing Veterans				1,994	-
				36,742	68,238
TOTAL FUNDS				126,042	156,197

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

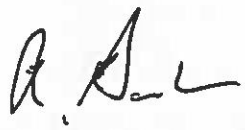
The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2021

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 15 September 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



R Barker MBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

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

Freehold property	- not provided
Plant and machinery	- 25% on cost
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	- 33% on cost and 25% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 25% on cost

The property is shown at the value when gifted and is not to be depreciated as it has no specific useful life. Its full value is shown within 'Tangible Fixed Assets' (note 9) and 'Contingent liability' (note 12) and will remain there indefinitely. Correspondingly, the 'Contingent liability' (note 12) will remain there indefinitely until VIC no longer has use for the property and it is gifted back to the Haslingden Community.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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

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

continued...

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Fundraising events	471	1,109
Rental income	3,163	2,677
Art sales	1,930	2,217
Craft sales	1,016	1,038
Other sales	43	2,788
Cafe income	-	2,280
Mini bus hire	142	376
Fundraising - choir	-	3,898
VIP income	1,231	780
	7,996	17,163

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Bank interest	61	244

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	199,432	3,276	202,708

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Accountancy fees	3,276	2,400
Depreciation - owned assets	248	356

continued...

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

7. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.21	31.3.20
Support staff	8	8

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Voluntary income	124,532	-	124,532
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	-	69,432	69,432
Activities for generating funds	17,163	-	17,163
Investment income	244	-	244
Total	141,939	69,432	211,371
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	7,519	2,138	9,657
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	147,548	26,621	174,169
Total	155,067	28,759	183,826
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(13,128)	40,673	27,545
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	101,088	27,564	128,652

continued...

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	87,960	68,237	156,197

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	270,000	14,632	29,920	17,994	332,546
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2020	-	14,632	29,507	17,994	62,133
Charge for year	-	-	248	-	248
At 31 March 2021	-	14,632	29,755	17,994	62,381
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2021	270,000	-	165	-	270,165
At 31 March 2020	270,000	-	413	-	270,413

Depreciation on the property is no longer required and has therefore been written back to its original gifted value on the basis that VIC will enjoy use during its lifetime and will not benefit from any appreciation in value after any transfer of ownership.

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Trade debtors	10,159	3,759
Other debtors	-	3
Prepayments and accrued income	6,365	6,342
	16,524	10,104

continued...

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,281	2,848
Social security and other taxes	2,405	1,679
Accruals	7,411	6,887
	12,097	11,414

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Contingent liability in respect of Gifted Property	270,000	270,000

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.20	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.21
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	33,152	1,249	(10,000)	24,401
HMR-INT	9,100	(2,797)	-	6,303
Vehicle Replacement Fund	30,000	-	10,000	40,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	13,000	-	-	13,000
VIP	809	949	-	1,758
The Community Creative Hub	166	2,329	-	2,495
VIC Hyndburn	790	-	-	790
VIC Heywood Sandbag	942	(389)	-	553
	87,959	1,341	-	89,300
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	-	3,122	-	3,122
Hardship Fund	1,408	100	-	1,508
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	31,820	(22,918)	-	8,902
Santander Discovery Grant	1,618	(1,618)	-	-
VIC Sublimination	1,185	-	-	1,185
Awards For All	7,049	(3,594)	-	3,455
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV	17,422	(17,422)	-	-
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	-	3,840	-	3,840
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	5,000	-	5,000
Developing Veterans	-	1,994	-	1,994
	68,238	(31,496)	-	36,742
TOTAL FUNDS	156,197	(30,155)	-	126,042

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	11,822	(10,573)	1,249
East Lancs CCG	80,000	(80,000)	-
HMR-INT	38,230	(41,027)	(2,797)
VIP	1,231	(282)	949
The Community Creative Hub	2,989	(660)	2,329
VIC Heywood Sandbag	-	(389)	(389)
	134,272	(132,931)	1,341
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	13,981	(10,859)	3,122
Hardship Fund	200	(100)	100
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	-	(22,918)	(22,918)
Santander Discovery Grant	-	(1,618)	(1,618)
Awards For All	-	(3,594)	(3,594)
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV	-	(17,422)	(17,422)
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	16,034	(12,194)	3,840
Armed Forces Covenant - COVID19	14,269	(14,269)	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	5,000	-	5,000
Developing Veterans	4,952	(2,958)	1,994
	54,436	(85,932)	(31,496)
TOTAL FUNDS	188,708	(218,863)	(30,155)

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	63,603	(31,395)	944	33,152
Donations	-	3,633	(3,633)	-
Fundraising - Singing	-	3,964	(3,964)	-
Fundraising-Other	-	3,630	(3,630)	-
East Lancs CCG	-	(2,989)	2,989	-
HMR-INT	-	9,100	-	9,100
Vehicle Replacement Fund	20,000	-	10,000	30,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	13,000	-	-	13,000
VIP	29	780	-	809
The Community Creative Hub	(544)	710	-	166
Income Generation	-	2,173	(2,173)	-
Trading	-	533	(533)	-
VIC Hyndburn	5,000	(4,210)	-	790
VIC Heywood Sandbag	-	942	-	942
	101,088	(13,129)	-	87,959
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	(265)	265	-	-
Hardship Fund	1,530	(122)	-	1,408
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	14,213	17,607	-	31,820
Santander Discovery Grant	4,350	(2,732)	-	1,618
VIC Sublimination	-	1,185	-	1,185
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV	-	17,422	-	17,422
Awards For All - VIP	-	7,049	-	7,049
	27,564	40,674	-	68,238
TOTAL FUNDS	128,652	27,545	-	156,197

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	331	(31,726)	(31,395)
Donations	3,633	-	3,633
Fundraising - Singing	3,964	-	3,964
Fundraising-Other	3,649	(19)	3,630
East Lancs CCG	80,000	(82,989)	(2,989)
HMR-INT	38,230	(29,130)	9,100
VIP	780	-	780
The Community Creative Hub	4,860	(4,150)	710
Income Generation	3,777	(1,604)	2,173
Trading	533	-	533
VIC Hyndburn	-	(4,210)	(4,210)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	2,182	(1,240)	942
	141,939	(155,068)	(13,129)
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	8,354	(8,089)	265
Hardship Fund	-	(122)	(122)
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	27,909	(10,302)	17,607
Santander Discovery Grant	-	(2,732)	(2,732)
VIC Sublimination	2,912	(1,727)	1,185
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV	19,914	(2,492)	17,422
Awards For All - VIP	9,998	(2,949)	7,049
Action Together	345	(345)	-
	69,432	(28,758)	40,674
TOTAL FUNDS	211,371	(183,826)	27,545

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	63,603	(30,146)	(9,056)	24,401
Donations	-	3,633	(3,633)	-
Fundraising - Singing	-	3,964	(3,964)	-
Fundraising-Other	-	3,630	(3,630)	-
East Lancs CCG	-	(2,989)	2,989	-
HMR-INT	-	6,303	-	6,303
Vehicle Replacement Fund	20,000	-	20,000	40,000
Redundancy Contingency Fund	13,000	-	-	13,000
VIP	29	1,729	-	1,758
The Community Creative Hub	(544)	3,039	-	2,495
Income Generation	-	2,173	(2,173)	-
Trading	-	533	(533)	-
VIC Hyndburn	5,000	(4,210)	-	790
VIC Heywood Sandbag	-	553	-	553
	101,088	(11,788)	-	89,300
Restricted funds				
DCEPT	7,736	-	-	7,736
Building Better Opportunities	(265)	3,387	-	3,122
Hardship Fund	1,530	(22)	-	1,508
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	14,213	(5,311)	-	8,902
Santander Discovery Grant	4,350	(4,350)	-	-
VIC Sublimination	-	1,185	-	1,185
Awards For All	-	(3,594)	-	(3,594)
Awards For All - VIP	-	7,049	-	7,049
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	-	3,840	-	3,840
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	5,000	-	5,000
Developing Veterans	-	1,994	-	1,994
	27,564	9,178	-	36,742
TOTAL FUNDS	128,652	(2,610)	-	126,042

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	12,153	(42,299)	(30,146)
Donations	3,633	-	3,633
Fundraising - Singing	3,964	-	3,964
Fundraising-Other	3,649	(19)	3,630
East Lancs CCG	160,000	(162,989)	(2,989)
HMR-INT	76,460	(70,157)	6,303
VIP	2,011	(282)	1,729
The Community Creative Hub	7,849	(4,810)	3,039
Income Generation	3,777	(1,604)	2,173
Trading	533	-	533
VIC Hyndburn	-	(4,210)	(4,210)
VIC Heywood Sandbag	2,182	(1,629)	553
	276,211	(287,999)	(11,788)
Restricted funds			
Building Better Opportunities	22,335	(18,948)	3,387
Hardship Fund	200	(222)	(22)
Armed Forces Covenant Trust	27,909	(33,220)	(5,311)
Santander Discovery Grant	-	(4,350)	(4,350)
VIC Sublimination	2,912	(1,727)	1,185
Awards For All	-	(3,594)	(3,594)
Armed Forces Covenant H&RV	19,914	(19,914)	-
Awards For All - VIP	9,998	(2,949)	7,049
Action Together	345	(345)	-
Armed Forces Covenant - VSNBF	16,034	(12,194)	3,840
Armed Forces Covenant - COVID19	14,269	(14,269)	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	5,000	-	5,000
Developing Veterans	4,952	(2,958)	1,994
	123,868	(114,690)	9,178
TOTAL FUNDS	400,079	(402,689)	(2,610)

continued...

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Veterans in Communities

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Voluntary income				
Donations	3,797	200	3,997	6,183
Gift aid	23	-	23	-
East Lancs CCG	80,000	-	80,000	80,000
HMR-INT	38,230	-	38,230	38,230
Voluntary income - General	-	-	-	119
	122,050	200	122,250	124,532
Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising events	471	-	471	1,109
Rental income	3,163	-	3,163	2,677
Art sales	1,930	-	1,930	2,217
Craft sales	1,016	-	1,016	1,038
Other sales	43	-	43	2,788
Cafe income	-	-	-	2,280
Mini bus hire	142	-	142	376
Fundraising - choir	-	-	-	3,898
VIP income	1,231	-	1,231	780
	7,996	-	7,996	17,163
Investment income				
Bank interest	61	-	61	244
Charitable activities				
Grants	4,165	54,236	58,401	69,432
Total incoming resources	134,272	54,436	188,708	211,371
EXPENDITURE				
Other trading activities				
Purchases	996	2,538	3,534	7,111
Projects costs	649	11,972	12,621	2,546
	1,645	14,510	16,155	9,657
Charitable activities				
Wage costs	102,433	43,142	145,575	133,843
Carried forward	102,433	43,142	145,575	133,843

Veterans in Communities

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
Charitable activities				
Brought forward	102,433	43,142	145,575	133,843
Gas, electricity and water	2,960	1,863	4,823	5,752
Telephone and computer costs	1,640	1,117	2,757	2,443
Post, stationery and adverts	1,391	551	1,942	3,005
Motor expenses	2,100	-	2,100	2,949
Travel and refreshments	1,121	886	2,007	7,647
Insurance	2,221	1,627	3,848	3,591
Professional fees	7,082	1,500	8,582	6,613
Repairs	4,344	20,592	24,936	2,400
Cleaning and hygiene	838	115	953	1,073
Depreciation	248	-	248	356
Staff training	53	-	53	546
Bank charges	87	-	87	60
Event costs	60	-	60	20
Subscriptions	1,056	29	1,085	740
Sundries	376	-	376	731
	128,010	71,422	199,432	171,769
Support costs				
Governance costs				
Auditors' remuneration	3,276	-	3,276	2,400
Total resources expended	132,931	85,932	218,863	183,826
Net income/(expenditure)	1,341	(31,496)	(30,155)	27,545

VIC
VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES
Return Belong Prosper

Veterans in Communities

Summary of achievements and performance 2020/21

Encouraging members to use their skills and experience to benefit the local community



Over 100 new members identified, registered and supported

Members have offered help to other:

- Family tree research
- Garden clearing and maintenance
- Restoration of community benches
- IT learning and support



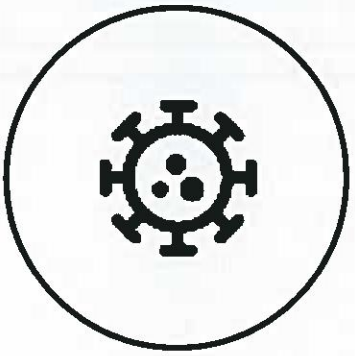


Members volunteer within many of our peer support activities and projects simultaneously raising funds for VIC

Activities include:

- Veterans in Production
- Art and crafts groups
- Coffee groups
- Fundraising events

Encouraging members to use their skills and experience to benefit the local community (continued)



VIC members demonstrated support to The Royal Signals detachment at their Covid testing sites in Rawtenstall and Clitheroe

VIC members volunteered their skills and experience supporting our communities by providing over 3,000 hours of outdoor marshalling at vaccination centres in Rawtenstall, Accrington and Darwen





Partnering with Positive Start, VIC members helped to deliver 1,320 food parcels to members of the community who were most isolated and clinically vulnerable

Working in partnership to support the Armed Forces Covenant -

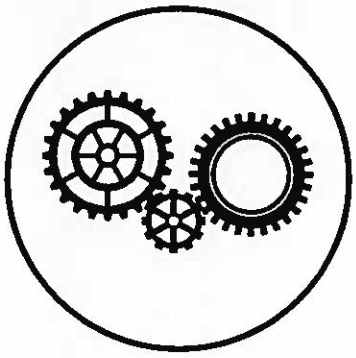
supporting those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families

EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

SILVER AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.

Received the Silver Award of Defence Employers Recognition Scheme



- Full partner in the delivery of the Integrated Neighbourhood Team contract in HMR
- Representation and active participation on Armed Forces Covenant Groups
- Member of newly formed Lancashire Armed Forces Network

- Commemorated both VE and VJ Day at the VIC Centre
- Represented at Ribble Valley Borough Council's VJ Day commemorations at Clitheroe castle

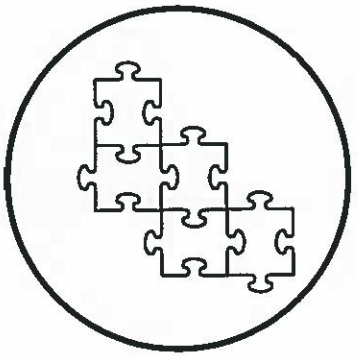


- Remembrance Day commemorations held in Haslingden and Bacup

Establishing partnerships to work towards addressing issues affecting former armed forces personnel and their families

New connections made:

- MEG Training Solutions provided VIC livery to their training vehicles
- My Space Housing Solutions offering veteran's housing in Middleton



Work with established partners:

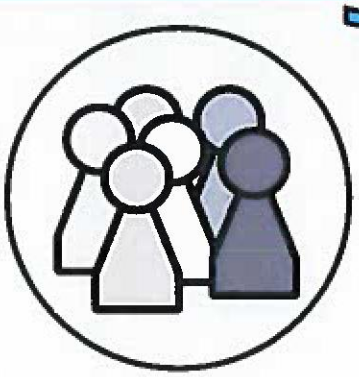
- Burnley FC in the Community - maintenance and groundwork at Whitehough Outdoor Activity Centre
- Veterans Living History Museum
- Lancashire Adult Learning
- Royal British Legion
- INT teams
- MVS

- Healthier Heroes offering homeless veterans accommodation in Burnley
- Blackburn Rovers Community Trust launching a veterans breakfast club with VIC to provide welfare to support
- Unlock Your You providing a mental health service

Supporting health and wellbeing of our members



- VIC staff worked remotely during the worst of the pandemic
- The VIC centre remained open throughout
- Project workers made 4000+ welfare calls to our beneficiaries during the lockdowns



Peer support

Veterans in Production

Art Group

VIC Choir

Craft Group

Allotment project in Rossendale

Pyrography

Walks

Training and learning

- Existing projects were hosted via Zoom



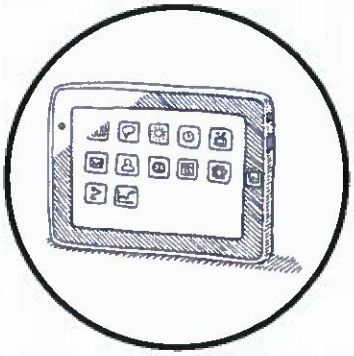
- 24 people directly benefited from Developing Veterans, one of our new projects launched to relieve isolation, make new friends and learn new skills



Supporting health and wellbeing (continued)

Over 50 people directly benefited from our Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten funding:-

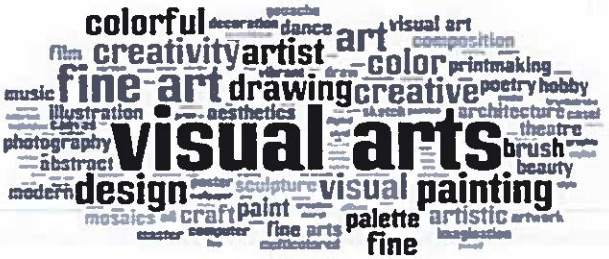
- One to one appointments
- Access to learning opportunities
- Maintaining social contact
- Talking to family members



Over 120 Christmas hampers delivered to those alone on Christmas Day



The VIC Centre was open every day throughout the pandemic and on Bank Holidays. The centre only closing for Christmas Day



Over 53 entries were received to our inaugural art competition, which celebrated the many talents of our members.

Return to economic activity



Building Better Opportunities, Changing Futures project, funded by The Community Fund and the European Social Fund, provided intensive one to one support enabling veterans to move closer to employment

One to one tailored support

- to meet the needs of the individual
- action plan developed
- help to achieve skills, confidence and move towards finding employment

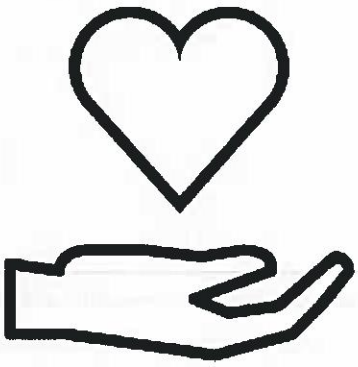




Support provided to access training and learning opportunities to improve skills and increase confidence

Fundraising





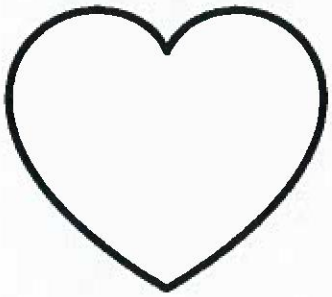
Over £45,000 in grants were secured

Over £4,000 of fundraising events and donations raised

Over £12,000 in trading income

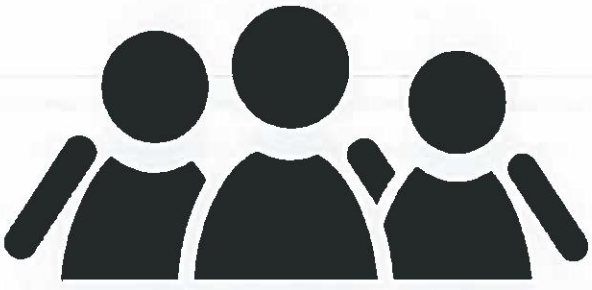


Volunteers



VIC is extremely grateful to each and every one of our volunteers who give so generously of their time and skills

3900 + volunteer hours gifted to VIC



Equated to £34,008

if paid at minimum wage



This year volunteers have been involved in:

- Food deliveries
- Peer Support
- organising and leading groups and activities
- administration,
- organising walks when permitted,
- fundraising,
- VIC Choir members,
- allotment,
- Welfare checks,
- VIC Hyndburn
- VIC Heywood (Sandbag café)
- VIC Middleton (Middleton Mess Tin)
- Trustees
- Marshalling
- Weekly hot food deliveries and Christmas lunches

Awards and Recognition

PATHFINDER
THE ORIGINAL RESETTLEMENT MAGAZINE

VIC shortlisted in "The Armed Forces Community Lockdown Awards" in the Most Outstanding Charitable Contribution or Gesture in Lockdown category

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

SILVER AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.

Received the Silver Award of Defence Employers Recognition Scheme

VIC invited to an on-line conversation with Graeme Stevenson of "Put Some Colour in Your Life" discussing the benefits of art as a therapeutic activity

Put Some Colour In Your Life



Thank you

The Mayor of Rossendale thanked VIC and our volunteers for supporting the residents of Rossendale during the pandemic

Thank you to our funders:

NHS
East Lancashire
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS
The Pennine Acute Hospitals
NHS Trust

THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST

COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
For Lancashire

TESCO
Community Grants

ASDA foundation
Transforming Communities, Improving Lives

co
op

COMMUNITY
FUND

European Union

Impact—Case Study One

Margaret joined VIC, recognising the support that we have provided to her son. She was not able to spend time abroad in the winter of 2020 as she would normally . Covid restrictions also meant that she could no longer do her normal volunteering activities with a charity shop or engage with her local bowling group.

Travelling 30 miles per day, she would come to the VIC centre and help us in making welfare calls to our members, many of whom are vulnerable, and this could be the only contact they would have during the lockdown periods.

In January VIC provided COVID marshals for the Rossendale Primary Care Network vaccination centre. Margaret was one of the first to volunteer for the early morning shift and for five months she never missed a shift, even through her first winter for many years in the UK.

Subsequently Margaret has been helping at VIC Hyndburn helping to run the retail element and dealing with customers utilizing her experience of charity shop work. She has recently become a valued member of the regular outreach team VIC Ribble Valley .

Sadly she also lost her husband this year and volunteering has provided focus during this difficult period.

Margaret has told us "Both of my sons have been in the Army. VIC have supported Matthew and I want to give back to VIC. I have experience in helping with veterans and I feel that I can help" others.

Impact—Case Study Two

Harold is one of the older members of the Sandbag Café. He joined VIC about three years ago and has told us "VIC has changed my life; I was quite isolated before but VIC have provided so many opportunities".

He sadly lost his wife after she contracted Covid-19; she died quite suddenly which was a huge shock to him. He was supported by VIC through this difficult time but unfortunately it could only be done over the telephone.

Using the Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten project we were able to loan a tablet to Gordon. He has now joined Facebook, finding cousins and relatives he had lost contact with. He found the internet a fantastic source of information during lockdown and discovered he could read the newspapers on-line for free, saving him money! He used the internet to find information on his old regiment and old Manchester which was a great joy to him. He has said it had distracted him from his recent bereavement, giving him something productive to do, keeping his mind busy. He joined chats on zoom when the Sandbag Café was unable to open.

When exercise was allowed, he went for walks and was one of the first to return when we briefly re-opened the Sandbag Café. He benefited from the food deliveries and Christmas meals. He befriended another isolated VIC member in his village and would visit weekly with cake for a chat, (Covid guidelines permitted). Harold joined the VIC walks and this year Harold completed a 1000 mile walk raising in excess of £1,300 for VIC.