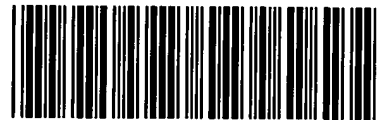


*Register*

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 05653946  
CHARITY NUMBER: 1151656

**FISCUS NORTH LIMITED  
(BY GUARANTEE)  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

THURSDAY



\*AEBC41GG\*

A20

18/09/2025

#33

COMPANIES HOUSE

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

---

**Registered charity name** Fiscus North Limited (By Guarantee)

**Charity registration number** 1151656

**Company registration number** 05653946

**Principal office and registered office** Co-op Centre  
Whitehouse Road  
Hendon  
Sunderland  
SR2 8AH

**The trustees** Mr. A. McGill  
Mrs. L. Robson  
Mr. D. Watson  
Ms. L. R. Rutter

**Company secretary** Mrs. J. Elliott

**Accountants** Torgersens  
Chartered Accountants  
East Suite, Ground Floor  
Avalon House  
St Catherine's Court  
Sunderland  
SR5 3XJ

**Independent Examiner** Mrs A Henshaw FCCA  
Torgersens  
Chartered Accountants  
East Suite, Ground Floor  
Avalon House  
St Catherine's Court  
Sunderland  
SR5 3XJ

**Bankers** The Co-operative Bank Plc  
PO Box 250  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

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

### **Administration details**

FISCUS North Limited is a company limited by guarantee (Company No. 05653946) first registered on 14 December 2005 and was registered as a charity (No. 1151656) on 16 April 2013.

The principal address and registered office of the charitable company is:

Co-op Centre  
Whitehouse Road  
Hendon  
Sunderland  
SR2 8AH

### **The trustees who served the charitable company during the year were:**

Mr. A. McGill  
Mrs. L. Robson  
Mr. D. Watson  
Ms. L. R. Rutter

### **Organisational Structure, Governance and Management**

FISCUS North Limited (by guarantee) is a registered charity, set up to relieve poverty and advance education in the North of England. The provisions of its Memorandum and Articles of Association govern it.

Fiscus North Limited (by Guarantee) has a Board of Management who are responsible for the strategic direction of policy of the charitable company. At present the committee has four members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charitable company. The Charity CEO is appointed by the Trustees to develop and manage the operations and activities of the charity.

### **Recruitment of Trustees**

The Directors of the charitable company are also trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the charitable company's articles are known as members of the Board of Management. The trustees are appointed by the members of the charitable company at the annual general meeting. Trustee vacancies can only be filled by co-opted trustees until the next AGM.

### **Risk Analysis**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charitable company is exposed and to ensure that appropriate systems and controls are established to mitigate those risks and to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. To ensure all assets and services are appropriately insured. Major risks have been reviewed and procedures are in place to maintain quality. These procedures are periodically reviewed, at least annually, in order to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charitable company.

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

### **Objects and Activities**

The object of the charitable company, which has been accepted as a charitable object by the Charity Commissioners, is to relieve poverty by providing and promoting the provision of financial advice, information and support services to persons living and working in the North East of England ("the area of benefit") who are in condition of need, hardship or distress by reason of their social or economic circumstances and advance the education of such persons in the areas of financial management through the provision of information, advice, training and debt management assistance so they are better equipped to meet their needs and to participate more fully in society.

### **Activities**

The charitable company meets its objectives through our activities and services which we provide at FISCUS Co-op Centre, our community base which is a 3-storey building constructed from recycled shipping containers, situated in the heart of the Hendon community, Sunderland. FISCUS also delivers a wide range of outreach Welfare Benefit & Debt Advice services along with crisis support at 16 community Foodbanks across the City of Sunderland and the West End of Newcastle.

### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Trustees have had regard to the Charities Commission guidance on their legal duty on public benefit; and are satisfied that the charitable company delivers public benefit and due regard is paid to the evidence on public benefit when deciding on what new projects and activities the charity should undertake.

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

### **Achievements and Performance**

Throughout 2024, demand for all FISCUS services has continued to increase at the Co-op Centre and at all community foodbank outreach venues. The Co-op Centre remains at full capacity and was 'home' to 12 other charities and community organisations throughout the year. Our most vulnerable customers have continued to be negatively impacted by the ongoing cost-of-living (COL) crisis and the continued high costs of energy and basic essentials throughout 2024. The COL continues to negatively and financially impact our Charity and we are also braced for the increases in Employers National Insurance contributions that affect our sector and all businesses from April 2025.

FISCUS continues to demonstrate that our in-depth local knowledge of the local communities that we serve and our local networks enables us to play a vital role in supporting vulnerable adults, families, children and young people. Whilst it is becoming ever more difficult for charities like FISCUS to fill the gaps created by increases in demand, public sector cuts and the continued cost of living increases, we are still expected to do so without little or no local or central government support.

Community foodbanks are at crisis point and delivering more food parcels than ever before. Last year, there were 1699 foodbank sites across the UK. FISCUS provided Advice, Food Parcels and Crisis Support from 16 foodbanks in Sunderland (10) and Newcastle (6) – 1% of all foodbanks in the UK. We believe we are unique in the amount of foodbanks we support with our wrap-around, inclusive 'More Than Food' advice & crisis support services. Trussell (formerly Trussell Trust) food banks issued 3.12 million (3,121,404) food parcels in the UK last year - an increase of 4% in the previous year. 1.14 million (1,144,096) food parcels were delivered to families with children nationally. Pensioners are increasingly turning to foodbanks due to not being able to make ends meet. Between 2018/19 and 2023/24 food bank support for pensioner households has more than quadrupled - an increase of 345%. The majority of customers attending FISCUS Warm Welcome Space (WWS) on an evening are of pension age and we have seen an increase in demand for support for people aged over 60. Often, pensioners and older people do not want to seek help, especially from food banks or benefit advice seeing such support as 'handouts'. At FISCUS we try to remove this stigma and use engagement services such as our WWS to break down barriers and act as a conduit towards increased awareness and support.

The most vulnerable people and families that FISCUS supports remain in very difficult situations and have to make changes to their households and to the way they live. Many people report not being able to afford, food, clothing, bills and especially heating their homes. Income levels -both benefits and employment income are simply not high enough to keep up with the cost of living and everyday expenses. Individuals, families and children are going hungry and without the basics or essentials; many are living in uninsulated and cold homes. The cost-of-living crisis has continued and is hitting those worst off - disproportionately affecting those already on the breadline. The majority of individuals, families, children and young people we serve live in Sunderland and Newcastle's most deprived communities; these communities are some of the hardest-hit in the country and people living in them are often in dire situations and struggle to make ends meet.

During the year, FISCUS expanded our Benefits Advice & Crisis Support at the Co-op Centre and across community foodbanks in Sunderland, working - as we do best, in partnership to achieve better outcomes for the people we serve. Our charity's small team of dedicated staff are supported by community volunteers and together they have risen to the challenges and delivered a huge amount of support to those most in need over the past year. FISCUS Trustees would like to thank the team of staff and volunteers for their fantastic efforts and willingness to go the extra mile to help people who are vulnerable and facing hardship and crisis.

Small charities such as FISCUS have community focus and community embeddedness. We are deeply embedded in the communities that we serve, aiming to understand the specific challenges and issues of the communities we serve. We aim to build strong, trusting relationships with individuals and families and local residents to become a trusted source of support, advice and guidance. FISCUS is often a 'first responder' being the first point of contact for people in crisis, offering immediate and targeted assistance.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

During the past 20 years, FISCUS has become well-known for providing safe, accessible, and inclusive spaces and services for individuals, groups and the wider community - supporting inclusion and belonging. As a small charity, FISCUS needs to remain responsive and agile. We can often make decisions and implement changes more quickly than larger organisations. We can adapt our projects and services to meet changing needs and circumstances more effectively, ensuring resources are directed where they are needed most. As a small charity, FISCUS is more innovative, able to lead to new approaches and solutions for addressing complex challenges faced by those most vulnerable in our society and local communities. FISCUS ability to identify and focus on specific issues or communities, allows for more targeted and effective support. Although we operate with limited resources, this in turn requires us to be more capable and efficient in our use of our funds and resources. FISCUS is a recognised community hub not only in Hendon, but across the most disadvantaged communities in Sunderland. We support 'local' to help strengthen our local economies for example by keeping resources within the community, partnership working and recycling and redistributing pre-loved items.

Last year we outlined 4 strategic goals for 2024:

1. **Helping People Through Crisis**
2. **Creating Community Spaces to Connect**
3. **Sustainable Recycle & Reuse**
4. **Diversity, Equality & Inclusion in our work and communities we work with**

The table below identifies examples of progress towards these goals:

<b>Progress Made Towards FISCUS Goals 2024</b>
<b>1. Helping People Through Crisis</b>
<b>More Than Food initiatives in Sunderland &amp; Newcastle</b>
3549 people were supported by FISCUS during 2024 via a range of Advice & Crisis Support. Of these, 1574 benefitted from Welfare Benefits, Debt & Crisis Advice provided by FISCUS. Benefits & Financial Gains identified totalled £1,504,107.52 million in benefit entitlements that people were missing out on. Of this, almost £1.2 million pounds (£1,180,599.44) financial gains were identified among FISCUS Sunderland Service Users and £323,508.08 among Newcastle Foodbank Service Users. This averages out at £955.60 for every person case loaded and supported with Advice. Our partnership work with Sunderland Foodbank resulted in 1951 ambient and fresh food parcels being issued by FISCUS Foodbank during the year. FISCUS Advice staff also issued 1214 food parcels being issued and fulfilled by FISCUS Advice & Crisis staff at 10 other community foodbanks during FISCUS & Sunderland Foodbank outreach sessions.
<b>Warm Welcome Space</b>
We continued our new Warm Welcome Space one evening and one day per week throughout the year with 15 – 22 people attending the Monday evening sessions every week. Staff and volunteers prepared a hot meal, refreshments and social activities. They also delivered around 10 hot meals after each session to people in the local community who are struggling with the cost of living crisis.
<b>Crisis items and essentials distributed to people in need</b>
2559 individuals and families received items or Bundles of crisis support including Baby & Child Essentials, Adult & Young People's Clothing, Shoes & Footwear, Hygiene Packs, Period Products, Ambient Food Parcels, Fresh Food Parcels, Furniture Items, Supermarket Vouchers, Christmas Present Bags, Tents, Sleeping Bags, Christmas Dinners/Hampers. This figure would be far higher if family members benefitting were counted.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

<b><i>£ Value of Crisis items and essentials given out in 2024</i></b>
Crisis items distributed had a value of approximately £260,639. We also saved 4.7 tonnes of surplus food from going to landfill by using it as ingredients for fresh food parcels and cooking community meals for our Warm Welcome Spaces. Surplus food was provided by Fareshare and funded by Sunderland City Council Strategic Advice Services
<b><i>Total debt consolidated, reduced or written off</i></b>
<b>£366,966.18</b> in personal debt has been dealt with, reduced, managed and written off among FISCUS customers.
<b><i>Community Foodbanks (Outreach) Vouchers issued</i></b>
FISCUS issued 3165 ambient and fresh fruit and veg food parcels to individuals and families across Sunderland. This included 828 fruit, veg and mixed Fare Share bags to young teenage mams and their families and 816 at FISCUS Warm Welcome Space throughout the year. Of the total food parcels issued by FISCUS Advice & Crisis staff, 1214 ambient food parcels were distributed at 10 other community foodbanks across the City. This was only made possible with the continued support from Sunderland Foodbank (DCP) who supply food to FISCUS Foodbank and to all other Trussell Foodbanks in Sunderland. Our fresh fruit and veg and fresh food from Fare Share has been a result of continued support from Sunderland City Council Strategic Advice Services.
<b><i>2. Ensuring no child goes without essentials to reduce and alleviate child poverty</i></b>
<b><i>Bundles for Babies Baby Bank</i></b>
Our Bundles for Babies, Baby Bank continues to receive many tonnes of donations each year. We continue to be extremely busy with referrals into both services from community organisations, mid-wives, health visitors, social workers, social prescribers, foodbanks, homelessness organisations, mother & baby units, supported accommodation, hostels and organisations working with some of the most vulnerable children, young people and adults in our communities. Our Baby Bank aims to ensure no child goes without essentials to reduce and alleviate child poverty in Sunderland.
<b><i>£ Value of Christmas presents given out</i></b>
650+ large bags & bundles of presents, blankets, hoodies/oodies were distributed at Christmas with a value of approximately £52,000. 229 were delivered to looked after children and young people in supported and independent living. We also supported over 120 people living in hostels and move on accommodation with Christmas gifts and provided Turkeys and Christmas lunch items for 40 people living in Poplar House move-on accommodation to enable them to cook and share a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Hundreds of local children and vulnerable adults received bundles of Christmas Presents and warm blankets or fleece 'oodies' We also continued to support 111 young and teenage mams throughout the year with Christmas presents and warm blankets and oodies/hoodies.
<b><i>Sunderland Young Mammies Home Economics: - Young Parents Project</i></b>
111 young and teenage Mams plus their babies, children and families were supported with advice drop-in's and appointments with advice ranging from Welfare Benefits, Debt Advice, Budgeting, Housing & Homelessness support. The project also provided baby essentials, hygiene essentials and period products. The project provides around 18+ weekly fresh fruit & veg bags and food parcels for those young mams most in need. Some of the young mammies attended Independent Living Skills 'Home Economics' sessions such as cooking and learning to sew at FISCUS.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

<b>3. Creating Community Spaces to Connect</b>
<b><i>Growing our Community Garden &amp; Allotment</i></b>
Over the year, our Community Garden & Allotment has expanded and grown. The garden has been fully volunteer led throughout 2024. We have held co-production focus group meetings with volunteers, staff, service users and tenants of the Co-op Centre. We have grown beautiful flowers as well as fresh fruit and vegetables and have been able to use vegetables and fruit for cooking for our warm welcome spaces as well as distributing them to service users. Our community garden is a lovely space to sit outside and enjoy the fresh air and relax in the lovely surroundings.
<b><i>Community Kitchen &amp; Café</i></b>
We have undertaken further community consultation to generate support and ideas for a new Community Café and Kitchen. Towards this aim, in July 2025, we were successful in raising just under £44,000 capital funding of blended finance grant and social investment loan and £4,000 community fundraising and donations to pay for the new kitchen refurbishment. The new community deli will be called My Sister's Kitchen which FISCUS has taken over once again.
<b><i>Spaces for Health and Well-being</i></b>
Our ground-floor community room at the Co-op Centre continues to be very well utilised as a meeting and training space among staff, volunteers, service users and partners. Our Warm Welcome Space established in October 22 is still on-going and very well attended every week with the addition of a day-time session some weeks which we hope to expand again further in 2025 onwards. Our beautiful community garden space has become a popular space to connect among our volunteers, staff, tenants and wider community. There has been a huge expansion of spaces to connect, meet, train and socialise at the Co-op Centre; a variety of sessions and services are facilitated with our community partners who are co-located here. FODI and Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre have been extremely busy delivering daily classes including ESOL, sewing, ceramics and more!
<b><i>Improved connectivity, ICT and internet capacity and increase digital inclusion</i></b>
During 2024, we invested in updating our high-speed internet for our Co-op Centre community building. This ensured that FISCUS and the other charitable organisations in our building could remain digitally connected which is vital to all of our work. The new high-speed internet also supports the many thousands of service users and ESOL students that attend the Co-op Centre each year – ensuring they are digitally connected. FISCUS also installed a new telecommunications system to ensure our staff, volunteers and service users can ensure access to our advice and crisis services.
<b>4. Sustainable Community Recycle &amp; Reuse</b>
<b><i>Bundles for Babies Baby Bank 0 – 24 months &amp; FISCUS Community Clothes Bank</i></b>
Our Bundles for Babies, Baby Bank and FISCUS Community Clothes Bank continue to receive many tonnes of donations each year. We continue to be extremely busy with referrals into both services from community organisations, mid-wives, health visitors, social workers, social prescribers, foodbanks, homelessness organisations, mother & baby units, supported accommodation, hostels and organisations working with some of the most vulnerable children, young people and adults in our communities. Our Baby Bank and Clothes Bank projects ensures that the most vulnerable people who we support can have appropriate warm clothing, underwear and all other essential items they need.



# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

As well as supporting those most in need, our recycling projects prevented over 14,500 tonnes of waste going to landfill this year. We promote thrift, not waste; 100's of people adopt habits to recycle and donate their unwanted items to FISCUS every year which helps the environment and sustainability.

### **5. Diverse & Inclusive Community Opportunities**

#### ***Equality & Diversity among our people, services and communities***

We continue to evolve and develop all of our services to make them more inclusive and accessible to all. Our continued partnership work with Global Majority BAME specialist organisations is embedded within our everyday work. Friends of the Drop In (FODI) and the Sunderland BME Network are permanently based at the Co-op Centre. Sunderland International Bangladesh Centre and New Horizon's remained at the Co-op Centre throughout 2024. These partner organisations and our joint working has continued to increase the footfall of BAME people accessing our building and our services.

In the summer of 2024, Sunderland was very badly affected by the race riots. Hendon was a key target area and our Co-op Centre was identified as a potential target for the rioters. We were forced to close the centre twice during the riots to ensure everyone could stay safe. In the week following the riots FISCUS and our BAME partners hosted a fantastic Multicultural BBQ outdoor event in our community grounds to demonstrate support, strength and resilience in our multi-cultural City during these frightening times.

We reviewed our Equality & Diversity Policy in 2024.

#### ***Supporting BAME Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Families in Need***

Overall, 22% of our case-loaded Sunderland customers were BAME. This is a result of joint working, pooling resources and referrals from our community partners: SBIC, New Horizons, FODI and ICOS and Sunderland Foodbank and via statutory and other referrals.

Throughout 2024, FISCUS continued to work in partnership with other like-minded charities, charitable community organisations, statutory agencies and specialist partners for the benefit of those most in need in Hendon & East End and wider Sunderland's most disadvantaged communities. We provided 14 weekly Advice & Crisis outreach drop-in sessions at 10 Sunderland Foodbank venues throughout the year. We also worked with Newcastle Foodbank and supported 6 Community Foodbanks with advice & crisis sessions in Newcastle's West End during 2024.

Our continued successful strategy to welcome more community partners into the Co-op Centre - our community building, has brought both financial and community benefits. We continue to work reciprocally and co-productively with our co-located partners for the benefit of our service users and the wider community. The centre was 100% full to capacity throughout the year. During 2024, 12 charities and community organisations were based at the Co-op Centre co-located with FISCUS which has increased and strengthened our co-working and partnership working, allowing us to reduce duplication and make our resources go further which results in strengthened community cohesion and better outcomes for our service users and the communities with whom we work.

Funding for the work of the charity during 2024 has been steady compared to the previous 3 years or the Covid-19 pandemic and the impacts of cost-of-living crisis. We were very fortunate to secure 5-year grant funding from the Improving Lives Through Advice programme via The Access to Justice Foundation with funding by The National Lottery Fund. Such longer-term funding is key to our longer-term sustainability and specialist staff retention. Although we continue to generate rental income for the Co-op Centre, this still does not cover all costs relating to the running of the building and keeping the building safe and compliant. We would benefit greatly from a new Buildings Co-ordinator but it is not possible to create this post without additional grant funding as the Co-op Centre does not generate enough to cover the cost.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

---

We ended the 2024 financial year with total funds available of £443,067 which included designated reserves of £179,459 (for the Co-op Centre Building, fixtures and fittings and motor vehicles) and general unrestricted funds of £70,033. Our restricted funds were £193,575. Our current funds continue to be supported by a Bounce Back Loan of £50,000 which, whilst a long-term liability on our balance sheet, remains fully unspent in our bank account since 2022. This was a measure taken to avoid any emergencies and supported the charity's cash flow during the pandemic. The loan is well-managed and continues to support cash flow and the Charity's bank balance. We have maintained monthly payments reducing the balance and the liability to £39,202 as at the 2024 financial year end.

By the end of 2024 we had secured the majority of the necessary funds for 2025 also securing a 5-year funding project funded until the end of 2028.

### FISCUS ACHIEVEMENTS 2024

- 3549 individuals and families receive advice and support from FISCUS
- 1574 service users received Welfare Benefits Advice, Debt Advice and Crisis Support from FISCUS across 1974 cases
- 2559 service users received a range of crisis support items including: Food Parcels, Baby Bundles, Adult Clothing, Children's Clothing, Furniture, Books, Toys, Essentials from FISCUS across Sunderland
- 22% of all service users were BAME including refugees and asylum seekers in hardship
- 19,030 people visited the Co-op Centre during 2024 (excludes FISCUS staff)
- 29 Volunteers supported FISCUS during 2024, including 4 trustees
- 3772 Volunteer hours donated are valued at **£53,708.46** (ONS £14.24pvh)
- 2 Young People employed and trained as Social Welfare Apprentice Trainees
- **£1,504,107.52** million was identified in unclaimed benefits entitlements that people were missing out on
- **£366,966.18** Total Personal Debt managed among FISCUS Service Users
- 111 young mums aged 13 to 25 years (60 were teenagers aged 19 and under) received varying support from our Baby Bank, our Children's & Adults Clothes Bank, hampers, hygiene and sanitary packs, toys, clothing, food parcels, crisis vouchers and Christmas presents for themselves and their babies/child
- 229 looked after children received Christmas presents and warm fleece hoodies
- 14,500+ tonnes of donated baby clothing, adults & children's clothing, equipment and essentials were saved from landfill by recycling and redistributing to children, individuals and families in need. Around 0.5 tonne of these items was donated to FISCUS to support people and families in poverty in Africa via community partners, New Horizons, Sunderland Samba FC and AFRICAWAD.
- 84 Co-op, social households and their families in Hendon & surrounding area received dedicated advice and support ranging from benefit and debt advice to hygiene and cleaning packs and Christmas gifts for adults, children and young people who are struggling to make ends meet.
- 222 people aged 60 and over accessed advice and crisis support. Many of these service users received warm packs containing Hot Water Bottles, Warm Blankets, Gloves, Hats and other

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

*essentials to help people keep warm and have more awareness of where to go to access Advice & Crisis support.*

- *3 Beneficiary surveys were undertaken among FISCUS service users, local Co-op Social Housing residents and young mams/families and 1 community organisations survey was undertaken among community partners*
- *FISCUS was 'community landlord' to 12 other community and charitable third-sector organisations at the Co-op Centre during 2024*

### **FISCUS VOLUNTEERS 2024**

29 active volunteers supported FISCUS in 2024 including 4 trustees/directors who governed FISCUS, supporting staff and volunteer delivery across all of our services. FISCUS Board of Trustees, CEO and staff team wish to offer our sincerest thanks to all Volunteers who supported FISCUS during 2024.

#### **Trustee/Director Volunteers**

1. Andrew McGill, 2. Linda Robson, 3. Dale Watson, 4. Linda Rutter

#### **Regular Volunteers**

5. Vernon Laing
6. Shirley Miller
7. Anne Ambrose
8. Bobby Ambrose
9. Jamey Storey
10. Chris McCardle
11. Linda Richardson
12. Lauren Lowson
13. Mary Nicol
14. Jim Nicol
15. Emily Allen
16. Craig Hooper
17. Kirsty Hooper
18. Lynne Wilson
19. Lynn Guba-Holtan
20. Wendy

#### **FISCUS staff-family occasional volunteers:**

21. Steve
22. Mark
23. Chris

#### **Young Volunteers**

24. Amelia L.
25. Abigail B.

#### **Volunteers in the Community who support FISCUS Crisis Work**

26. Anne Downie
27. Sister Michael
28. Doreen
29. Shelly Humble

#### **FISCUS Community Partners, Funders & Community Investors**

FISCUS Trustees would like to thank our funders, partners and support organisations including: Access to Justice Foundation, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust, Bump to Baby (B2B), Barbour Foundation, Bethany Church Food Bank, BRAmnesty, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Citizens Advice

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

Sunderland, City Life Community Foodbank, Community Foundation Tyne & Wear, Co-operative Local Community Fund, County Durham Community Foundation, Co-operative Housing In Partnership (CHIP), Crowdfund Sunderland Fund, Crowdfunder, Durham Christian Partnership (DCP), Customer Services Network, Sunderland City Council, East Area Committee, Elim Church Food Bank, Fare Share, Farrington Foodbank, FODI, Free the Way, Gentoo, Good Things Foundation, Greggs Foundation, Greggs Hardship Funds, Greggs Shop Grangetown Unsold Food, ICOS, Integrated Care Board Sunderland, Morrisons Doxford Park, Jane Morrisons Doxford Park Community Champion, Lewis Crescent Mother & Baby Supported Living, My Sisters Kitchen, National Lottery Community Cost of Living Fund, Nationwide Foundation, Newcastle Building Society, New Horizons, Newcastle Foodbank, Northern Gas Networks, Pallion Action Group, Peel Street Co-operative, Peer Support Group, Poplar House, Public Health Fund, ShARP, SESF & SIB, Sherburn House Trust, Sir James Knott Trust, Sisters of Mercy St Anthony's Convent Oaklea, Oaklea Women's Groups, Social Investment Business (SIB), Spacehive, St Martins in the Fields, Sunderland City Council, Sunderland City Council Strategic Advice Services, Sunderland Food Bank, Sunderland Guild of Help, Sunderland International Bangladesh Centre, The Joicey Trust, Veterans Breakfast Club & Lakeside Community Centre, Virgin Money Foundation, and all other organisations, staff, volunteers, the general public and all individuals and small businesses that we have worked with and that have supported FISCUS charitable work during 2024. A HUGE THANK YOU from EVERYONE at the FISCUS team!

#### ***FISCUS Mission is:***

"Supporting people who are most in need in the community to improve their livelihoods and help them build positive futures"

#### **FISCUS AIMS:**

- To engage with individuals, families, older people, children & young people whose lives are affected by poverty, disadvantage, disability and difficult life experiences
- Provide crisis support, welfare benefits advice, money advice, volunteering, training and social & community opportunities
- To enable people to reduce their barriers and improve their livelihoods

#### **FISCUS PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

FISCUS is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee without share capital. FISCUS was established in Hendon, in 2005 in Hendon. FISCUS is based at the Co-op Centre which the Charity has owned outright since April 2019. Whilst many of our crisis initiatives remain in Hendon, Sunderland's most deprived area, we operate City-Wide across Sunderland and we also support community foodbanks in Newcastle with Financial Inclusion outreach services. During 2024, our Charity employed 9 staff. FISCUS outreaches from the Co-op Centre and from Community Foodbanks across the City of Sunderland and Newcastle. During 2024, we have supported 3549 people across our Advice, Crisis & Community services and activities. Of these, 1574 people accessed welfare benefits advice, debt & money advice at FISCUS and Community Foodbanks in Sunderland & Newcastle. Crisis items and essentials were provided to 2559 people and families – a 14% increase from last year.

Whilst FISCUS community activities and services have continued to expand over the year, FISCUS aims and objectives have remained fairly constant. FISCUS continues to deliver Advice Crisis & Community Services from the Co-op Centre and from Community Foodbanks across Sunderland and Newcastle providing outreach advice and crisis support to foodbank customers. Our charity continues to target those most disadvantaged and marginalised in the local community of Hendon & East End and the wider disadvantaged neighbourhoods across Sunderland and Newcastle.

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

### **FISCUS Projects & Activities**

The following core project activities were delivered by our team of staff and volunteers:

#### **Sunderland Foodbank & Newcastle Foodbank & Safe Project**

More Than Food: 20 weekly advice & crisis outreach sessions at Community Foodbanks in Sunderland (14) and Newcastle (6). People accessing Food Parcels at the Community Foodbanks are then able to access other emergency essentials from FISCUS and can be signposted into further specialist support. During 2024, Sunderland Foodbank (run by Durham Christian Partnership) funded our financial inclusion foodbank advice in Sunderland; Newcastle Foodbank funded our financial inclusion work in Newcastle – both foodbanks are supported with funding from Trussell.

**SAFE (Support, Advice, Food & Essentials) Project** was established as a 5-year Help Through Crisis initiative funded by the National Lottery Fund; whilst funding ended during the pandemic, SAFE continues to be embedded across our core work and is supported by all FISCUS staff and volunteers including: Clothing (all ages), underwear, Baby Bank Bundles, bedding, period packs and hygiene packs, small donated household items and crisis grants for food, white goods and household furniture, gas & electric vouchers, sim cards and a number of bicycles were issued

#### **Volunteering Opportunities**

During 2024 we were supported by 29 volunteers including 4 Volunteer Trustees. Volunteering with FISCUS can involve just a couple of hours a week but some of our regular volunteers also volunteer up to 4 days each week. Volunteering supports our small team to create greater community impacts and also provides social opportunities as well as helping FISCUS to deliver fantastic projects such as our beautiful community garden and our recycling initiatives that save many tonnes of unwanted items from going to landfill.

**My Sisters' Garden** our community Garden & Allotment was established during the pandemic for access to outdoor community space and activities, beautiful flowers, home-grown fruit and vegetables. The vegetables and fruit are used to provide low-cost healthy meals at our Warm Welcome Space, Cookery Sessions, and fresh produce to top up our food parcels and support our volunteers with fresh fruit and veg. Another main benefit of our lovely garden is the resulting outdoor community space which is there for everyone to enjoy. Throughout 2024, the garden was completely volunteer led.

**Bundles for Babies Baby Bank** Sunderland's first Baby Bank established in 2016, supporting babies, young parents, carers and families in crisis via referrals from health & social welfare professionals, NHS Family nurses, community foodbanks, social prescribers, TfC and community partners. Our Baby Bank supplies pre-loved and sometimes new items ranging from full 'bundles' from birth, clothing, cot, moses basket, pram or stroller, toiletries, toys as well as essential items for mam and for any siblings to ensure no child goes without. Bundles for Babies also enables families to become aware of and access, our wider advice and crisis support.

**Sunderland Clothes Bank** is a recycling and reuse project established by FISCUS in 2019 catering for all ages from children age 2 to teenagers to adult. Situated within one of our largest community units at the Co-op Centre, our Community Clothes Bank has become very well known amongst community partners who refer for children, young people and families in need. Our Clothes Bank also provides a conduit to access vital support including welfare benefits advice, debt advice homelessness and re-housing support. Single people on Universal Credit, single people seeking asylum, older people and homeless individuals are some of the worst hit financially surviving on the lowest of incomes. The clothes bank has been co-produced with staff, service users and volunteers.

**Help for Homeless** an increased number of homeless people presented or were referred into FISCUS during the year. The rise in homelessness continues to be experienced by vulnerable people in Sunderland of all ages. Many of the homeless people supported are rough sleeping, living in hostels or sofa surfing. Homeless people also experience multiple complex issues in their lives ranging from having no money, food or clothing to addictions, lack of family support structures and struggling with mental health issues. During the year, FISCUS supported 197 people who were experiencing the struggles that come with being homeless.

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

**Sunderland Young Mummies Home Economics** is a FISCUS project that works with teenage and young mams providing welfare benefits advice, housing advice, crisis support, independent living skills, weekly Fare Share Fresh Food & Fresh Fruit & Vegetables and emergency essentials. Established to ensure that no child or young person goes hungry or without, including the young mams who are often children/under 18 years dealing with multiple struggles themselves. The project also introduces recipes and ideas to promote healthy eating and cooking on a budget, group training and batch cooking to save money. This year, 111 young mummies under 25 years were supported with over half of those supported being teenagers.

**FISCUS Community Foodbank** provides foodbank drop-ins every week at the Co-op Centre to support people who have no food or money and are in crisis. During 2024, many of our Food parcels were topped up with Greggs unsold food as well as fresh fruit and vegetables and Fare Share products that are supplied by Sunderland Council Strategic Advice Services. We have experienced Welfare Benefit & Debt Advice workers at every foodbank session to ensure that people going without money and food can access the help and advice that they need to get back on track and to become aware of, and access, their rights and entitlements.

**FISCUS Warm Welcome Space** is open to anyone to attend and provides social opportunities in a friendly community environment at the Co-op Centre; our Monday evening session helps people save on heating and light at home on the cold nights but also throughout the year. We have also held daytime Warm Welcome sessions and hope to re-establish the same again in the coming months. Everyone attending our Warm Welcome Space receives a small food parcel containing fresh fruit and veg and other items from Fare Share, funded by Sunderland Council. A hot meal is provided and extras to take away including hot take-outs for some members of the community who volunteers know are struggling.

**FISCUS Christmas Appeal** – each year we support children and young people, homeless people, older people and vulnerable individuals and families through our Christmas Appeal. We achieve this with a vast amount of community support from members of the public, regular donators to our re-use and recycling projects and with support from staff, tenants, partners and volunteers. Over the Christmas 2024 period, we distributed 650+ presents to children & young people, homeless, vulnerable and elderly people including 229 looked after young people.

**Morrisons Doxford Park** continues to provide weekly donations of baby essentials, food and baby clothing to support our Bundles for Babies Baby Bank. We estimate that the value of these items is approximately £100+ per week meaning the value of the support over the year has been in excess of £5200. Without the support of Morrisons Doxford Park, and their fantastic Community Champion Jayne, we would otherwise struggle to fund such essential items as baby bottles, nappies and wipes.

**BRAmnesty** is a volunteer-led project established by FISCUS staff and volunteers in 2016. BRAmnesty aims to maintain women and girls dignity and support their independence and enterprising activities. Initially established for women and girls in in The Gambia, this initiative has since supported women and girls in developing countries in Africa including Kenya, The Congo and Togo supporting partners who directly deliver donated Bras, knitted baby clothing and blankets and other essentials to these countries. At FISCUS, BRAmnesty also benefits Sunderland women and girls, babies and families and was the catalyst for the establishment of our Bundles for Babies Baby Bank in 2016.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### FISCUS Advice & Crisis Support IMPACT 2024

**£1,504,107.52 Benefits  
& Financial Gains  
Identified**

**£366,966.18  
Personal Debt  
Reduced & Managed**

**£260,639  
Value of Crisis Items  
& Bundles Distributed**

**3549 People Helped  
with Advice & Crisis  
Support**

**£7,000 of Crisis  
Funding and  
Vouchers distributed**

**2146 hours of Welfare  
Benefits & Debt  
Advice Provided**

**2208 staff hours  
of Social Welfare &  
Crisis Support  
provided at the  
Co-op Centre**

**111 Teenage and  
Young Mams and  
their babies, children  
and wider families  
supported**

**20 Weekly Advice &  
Crisis  
Sessions at  
16 Community  
Foodbanks**

**29 Volunteers  
Supported FISCUS  
Activities**

**3772+ Volunteer  
Hours Donated to  
FISCUS**

**£53,708.46  
= Value of Volunteer  
Hours  
(based on £14.24ph  
ONS)**

**197 Homeless People  
supported including  
People living in hostels,  
Refuges &  
temporary or supported  
accommodation**

**14,500 Tonnes of  
Baby Bank & Clothes  
Bank Crisis  
Donations Saved  
from Landfill**

**3165 Emergency  
Ambient and Fresh  
Food Parcels  
Issued**

**4.7 tonnes of surplus  
food saved from landfill  
and 1644 Bags of Fresh  
Fruit and Vegetables  
Distributed**

**12 Sunderland  
Charities & Community  
Organisations  
benefitted from  
FISCUS community  
space**

**600 Hygiene &  
Cleaning Emergency  
Packs Distributed**

**22% of service users  
were BAME,  
Asylum Seekers,  
Refugees and Migrants**

**84 Housing Co-op  
Members and their  
families received  
support**

**3 Community &  
Beneficiary Surveys  
and 1 Community  
Organisations Survey  
Undertaken**

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

---

**Issues & Barriers Faced by the local communities we serve:** Sunderland is ranked the 33rd most deprived Local Authority in England with an average IMD (2019) score of 29.725. According to research commissioned by the Local Trust in 2019, Sunderland has 8 of the 225 'left behind' areas in England including: Hendon (where FISCUS and the Co-op Centre is based), Castle, Hetton, Redhill, Sandhill, Southwick, St Anne's and Washington North. Sheffield Hallam University's research (2022) on the real rate of unemployment, Sunderland's rate was 36th highest of all local authorities with an estimated rate of 9%; this is based on 8,810 unemployment benefit claimants and 6,800 hidden on disability/incapacity benefits. 58.5% of homes in Sunderland are in deprivation (ONS Census 2021). Child poverty in the North East is now the highest in the whole of England and Sunderland has a child poverty rate of 39% with more than 1 in 3 children living in poverty.

Hendon ranks 1% IMD 2019; Hendon & East End has risen to 11,458 residents and 5,413 households. Government statistics identify: \*Hendon is the Super Output Area (SOA) with the highest levels of child poverty in Sunderland (45%); \*48.5% of households in Hendon are deprived households. \*82% of Hendon residents have a personal income less than £15k; \*45% of the population have no qualification; \*25.3% of people have a limiting long-term illness or disability; \*42.8% of older people live alone and 46.7% also live in deprivation; \*Almost half of all residents live in means-tested, benefit-dependent households; \*The number of people and families living in fuel poverty is increasing to record levels with people having to make the choice between heating and eating. The unemployed rate in Hendon is 11.6% compared to Sunderland at 5%. The proportion of young people aged 16-24 is 17.4% for Hendon compared to a city rate of 10.2%. Child poverty in Hendon is rising at 45% - the highest in the City (End Child Poverty Coalition).

The percentage of population whose ethnic group is not 'white' is 11.4% for Hendon compared with Sunderland at 4.1%. The latest unconfirmed statistics for Sunderland's BAME population has increased to approximately 40,000 people. BAME service users currently make up 22% of all FISCUS service users, mainly refugees, asylum seekers and foreign students and their families. A recent review into Black and minority ethnic Inequalities in Healthcare by the NHS Race and Health Observatory, published in February 2022, highlighted ongoing Black and minority ethnic inequalities across several areas of focus including mental health care, maternal and neonatal health care, and the NHS workforce. NHS Digital data for the number of people detained under the Mental Health Act (MHA) in 2020/21 identified that rates of detention for people from the BAME backgrounds were over 4 times people from white backgrounds.

The Community Foodbanks and Sunderland Foodbank are busier than ever with increasing referrals to FISCUS Advice & Crisis Workers who are outreaching at the Food Banks daily. A local study of Hendon Ward ('Local Health' Public Health England, 2020) identified that 42.8% of older people in the area live alone 13.2% of people are living in overcrowded housing. Long-term unemployment in Hendon Ward is more than double the rate for Sunderland (18.1% compared to 8.7%) and almost 6 times higher than England's long-term unemployment rate of 3.2%. Prevalence of children who are overweight in Hendon is reported as 30.3% (Sunderland 24%, England 22.6%), whilst prevalence of obesity amongst children is 29.3% in Hendon. The conception rate for under 18's in Sunderland was 26.4 per 1000 girls aged 15-17 years – more than double England rate of 13.1. The percentage of births to mothers aged under 18 in Sunderland was 1.7% - far higher than 0.6% in England. FISCUS has worked with and supported 111 young teenage and young mothers and their children this year alone. A high majority of the teen mothers and expectant teen mothers are referred to FISCUS from the NHS Family Nurses, Social Workers/PA's and from statutory agencies. Life expectancy at birth for Males born in Hendon is 69.7 years compared to 77.1 years in Sunderland and 79.7 years in England (ONS, 2020). In the area where FISCUS is based, Sunderland Central, 7046 food parcels were distributed and of these, 2297 were for children between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

Nationally, Trussell Trust Food banks in the food charity network issued 2.9 million emergency food parcels between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 – one parcel every 11 seconds. Just over one million of these food parcels were for children. People in poor health are more at risk of needing support and are turning to foodbanks for help. As well as the problems with the benefit system that they experience, people on benefits – especially disabled people, often face extra costs, including higher housing,



# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

heating, utilities and even transport costs, which can put them at increased risk of needing to use a food bank.

Much of the housing stock in Hendon is let privately and is old Victorian and Edwardian property that lacks decent insulation or repair. Left Behind: Understanding Communities on the Edge (OCSI/Local Trust Report 2019) identified 225 'Left Behind' wards in England; Hendon was one of 8 wards identified as being 'left behind' in Sunderland. Such research suggests that places to meet, connectivity – both physical and digital – and an active, engaged community are vital to secure better social and economic outcomes for people living in deprived neighbourhoods. People in places which lack these features have higher rates of unemployment and child poverty, and their health is also worse than those living in other deprived areas. And the evidence is that they are falling further behind. The research argues that this adds up to these areas being some of the most left behind in the country.

Despite such statistics, our local community of Hendon has a determined community spirit and an increasing number of people volunteering in their communities. Such willingness of local people, volunteers and community organisations helping and supporting others continues to be a really positive and outstanding aspect of Hendon & East End and the wider communities of Sunderland.

#### **Financial Review**

Despite spiralling costs and the impacts of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis 2024, FISCUS maintained an upturn in our small charity's financial stability and growth. Our funding strategy developed for 2024-25 enabled FISCUS to continue and expand our advice, crisis support and social inclusion work, supporting over 3500 people. Tudor Trust provided the final payment of a 3-year grant which has been a stabilising anchor along with another unrestricted large grant from a charitable foundation. As community landlord, we continue to successfully encourage other community partners to work alongside FISCUS at the Co-op Centre. Such organisations benefit from low-cost rents and vibrant community space, that in turn helps us to sustain and fund the Co-op Centre – although costs have continued to greatly increase during 2024.

The net movement in funds was £114,726 at the end of 2024. We have continued to maintain a tight rein on spending and we ended the financial year in a good, stable financial position. FISCUS commenced 2025 financial year with total funds available of £443,067 which includes designated reserves of £179,459 (relating to capital/fixed assets of the Co-op Centre premises, fixtures & fittings and our community van) and general unrestricted reserve funds of £70,033. Our restricted funds of £193,575 are further supported by a government backed Covid-19 Bounce Back Loan (originally £50,000) which remains unspent and supports cash flow, the Charity's bank balance and provides ongoing stability for good cash flow.

During 2024 we continued to expand our core work, our advice and crisis provision. In May 2024 we were able to employ an additional Advice & Crisis Worker to outreach across 10 Sunderland Foodbanks. We are currently evaluating and evidencing the breadth and positive impact of our work to support vulnerable people through our participation in and funding by Improving Lives Through Advice (ILTA) programme, via the Access to Justice Foundation. ILTA funding also enabled us to employ an Advice Services Manager for the next 4 years.

Good governance and management, quality staff and volunteers and identification of longer-term funding opportunities aligned to our aims and objectives and to our existing and new ways of working, remain the key to the resilience and financial stability of the charity. Advice & Crisis work remains our priority. During 2024 we undertook surveys, community meetings and listened to our service users, our volunteers, staff and partners to identify needs and priorities.

FISCUS ended 2024 financial year with £249,492 unrestricted reserves of the charity and a further £193,575 is restricted funds to be spent in accordance with our funding agreements. During 2024, the charity received a total income of £470,150 and the charity's revenue expended was £355,424. The balance carried forward as at December 31st 2024, was £443,067 of

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

which £179,459 related to the Co-op Centre building, fixtures & fittings, motor vehicles, and general reserves of £70,033.

The main sources of funding for FISCUS during 2024 included: The Tudor Trust, Sunderland Foodbank (DCP), Newcastle Foodbank, Virgin Money Foundation, The National Lottery Cost of Living Fund, a local foundation and Improving Lives Through Advice. We would also like to mention the continued vital support that we received and Sunderland Council Household Support Fund and the valuable range of smaller charitable grants and personal crisis donations from supporters, staff, volunteers and individual members of the public.

We aim to continue to develop our physical environment and community spaces to connect at the Co-op Centre. Many new and emerging ideas and opportunities present themselves for the years ahead. We will endeavour to raise the necessary grant income as well as exploring social investment and the generating of further trading income to secure our Charity, our premises and our crisis services for the future years to come.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The purpose of the Operating Reserves Policy is to ensure the achievement and stability of the mission, aims, objectives and activities of FISCUS (The Charitable Company). The Operating Reserve is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding, or uninsured losses.

The Trustees aim to hold unrestricted reserves of a minimum £40,000 (reviewed annually) to maintain the financial stability and cash flow of the Charity ensuring financial resilience in case of unforeseen emergencies or in case of the need to cash flow short-term deficits where funding is paid in arrears or delayed; and to ensure the continued running of the charity where core or essential funding is lost.

Restricted balances are held for the purposes of specific projects/activities at the year end and do not form part of the reserves policy other than to spend the funding in accordance with the funders requirements and restrictions.

The Reserve may also be used for one-time, nonrecurring expenses that will build long-term capacity, such as staff development, research and development, or investment in infrastructure. Operating Reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds or eliminate an ongoing budget gap. It is the intention of The Charitable Company that any Operating Reserves to be used are replenished within a reasonably short period of time. The Operating Reserve Policy will be implemented in line with the Memorandums and Articles of Association and Financial Management & Procedures Policy.

FISCUS unrestricted cash reserves (as at 31/12/24) = £70,033.

#### **Plans for 2025 - the year ahead:**

FISCUS has delivered advice and crisis support for almost 20 years since 2005 in Hendon and across the City of Sunderland. For the year ahead we aim to continue to strengthen and widen our advice and crisis services by:

**DIVERSIFYING INCOME OPPORTUNITIES** - by diversifying our scope and securing longer-term core and project revenue streams. By exploring other financial models including social investment and blended finance

**EXPAND OUR PARTNERSHIP WORKING:** we aim to continue our successful partnership work community food banks in Sunderland and Newcastle. We work closely with 16 community foodbanks where we outreach to ensure services are accessible, appropriate and as safe as possible for staff, volunteers and service users. We continue to explore new partnerships and opportunities.

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

FOCUS ON STAFF & VOLUNTEERS HEALTH & WELLBEING - the importance of good physical and mental well-being remains a priority for our staff, for our volunteers and for our service users alike.

**Our strategic goals for the charity have been reviewed by our Board of Trustees:**

- 1. Help individuals & families through hardship and crisis to alleviate poverty*
- 2. Reduce and alleviate child poverty and ensure no child goes without the basics*
- 3. Create and develop further community spaces for well-being and space to connect*
- 4. Develop and increase our sustainable recycle and reuse projects*
- 5. Foster diversity, equality and inclusion across our work and our communities*

We will achieve the above goals by continuing to further develop all areas of our advice and crisis work, our recycle and reuse projects and our support for teen and young parents. We will ensure we promote equality, diversity and inclusion and access to opportunities among our staff, volunteers, service users, partners and the wider community at all times.

#### **Staffing**

- 1. Increase our Advice & Crisis staffing, resources and reach*
- 2. 'Home grow' specialist staff and volunteers to support our development*
- 3. Support staff & volunteers to ensure good well-being and a good work-life balance*

#### **Funding for 2025**

- 1. Update our Funding Strategy*
- 2. Explore blended funding opportunities including social investment*
- 3. Identify funds to develop our social inclusion, welfare & community support*
- 4. Secure longer-term funds supporting stability of our charity and staff resources*

#### **Expand FISCUS Scope & Services**

- 1. Develop additional support, volunteer, advocacy, advice, employability support and services for vulnerable women and girls affected by domestic abuse, domestic violence, financial abuse and trafficking*
- 2. Develop targeted services for older people to ensure that they are aware of their rights and entitlements, ensure they can maximise their income, feel supported and reduce loneliness and isolation*
- 3. Develop Fuel Poverty Advice & Support; deliver Energy Saving Advice; ensure adults and children experiencing fuel poverty are supported to have access to the essentials*

#### **FISCUS Co-op Centre**

- 1. Increase and expand our community and communal spaces for FISCUS and our community partners to support those most vulnerable and the wider community*
- 2. Improve the connectivity and ICT and internet capacity and increase digital inclusion*
- 3. Identify funding to undertake repairs internally and externally*
- 4. Complete community consultation and develop a new community café and kitchen*

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **THE TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

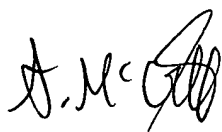
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the incoming and outgoing resources 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;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue its activities.

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

Signed by order of the board:



Mr. A. McGill  
Chair and Trustee

Date: 15/09/2025

# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

---

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Fiscus North Limited (by guarantee) ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024.

## **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 the 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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.



A. Henshaw FCCA  
Torgersens  
Chartered Accountants  
East Suite, Ground Floor  
Avalon House  
St Catherine's Court  
Sunderland  
SR5 3XJ

Date: 16/09/25

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income Resources</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	2,502	18,005	20,507	16,808
Charitable activities	5	47,992	327,097	375,089	202,634
Other trading activities	6	-	-	-	125
Investment Income	7	74,554	-	74,554	53,934
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>125,048</b>	<b>345,102</b>	<b>470,150</b>	<b>273,501</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable activities	8	76,221	275,645	351,866	280,893
Other expenditure	9	3,558	-	3,558	3,468
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>79,779</b>	<b>275,645</b>	<b>355,424</b>	<b>284,361</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources</b>		<b>45,269</b>	<b>69,457</b>	<b>114,726</b>	<b>(10,860)</b>
<b>Transfer between Funds</b>		<b>(5,738)</b>	<b>5,738</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>39,531</b>	<b>75,195</b>	<b>114,726</b>	<b>(10,860)</b>
<b>Total Funds Brought Forward</b>		<b>209,961</b>	<b>118,380</b>	<b>328,341</b>	<b>339,201</b>
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>		<b>249,492</b>	<b>193,575</b>	<b>443,067</b>	<b>328,341</b>

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

The notes on pages 23 to 36 form part of these financial statements.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets	12		64,373	63,639
Investments	13		115,086	115,086
			<u>179,459</u>	<u>178,725</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	14	4,068		55,833
Cash at bank and in hand		307,706		152,935
		<u>311,774</u>		<u>208,768</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(14,682)		(19,967)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			<u>297,092</u>	<u>188,801</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>476,551</u>	<u>367,526</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	16		(33,484)	(39,185)
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>443,067</u>	<u>328,341</u>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>	19			
Restricted funds			193,575	118,380
Unrestricted funds			249,492	209,961
<b>Total Funds</b>			<u>443,067</u>	<u>328,341</u>

For the year ending 31 December 2024 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.


Trustees responsibilities:

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS102).

These unaudited financial statements were approved by the trustees on 15/9/25 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
Mr. A McGill  
Trustee

Company number 05653946

The notes on pages 23 to 36 form part of these financial statements.

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

### **1. General information**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Co-op Centre, Whitehouse Road, Hendon, Sunderland, SR2 8AH.

### **2. Statement of compliance**

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

### **3. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006 as applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Fiscus North Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at the historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

#### **Going concern**

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

#### **Fund accounting**

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

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

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



# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

### **3. Accounting Policies (continued)**

#### **Incoming resources**

Income is recognised when the charitable company is entitled to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Grant income from government and other entities is recognised when the charitable company is entitled to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount is not deferred under the accruals basis.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured with reliability by the charity, this is normally upon notification of interest paid or payable by the bank.

#### **Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual's basis. Grants are charged in the year the trustees authorised payment.

Grants payable are in line with charitable company's objects and activities. Grants and donations are made only to other organisations with similar objects or directly to beneficiaries.

#### **Operating leases**

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduced expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

Lease income is recognised in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The aggregate cost of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to income over the lease term on a straight-line basis. Costs, including depreciation, incurred in earning the lease income are recognised as an expense. Any initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the lease and recognised as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as the lease income.

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

All assets are capitalised and valued at historic cost.

Depreciation has not been charged on property as the anticipated residual value of the land is anticipated to be at least equal to the cost of the mixed use element.

Depreciation is charged on fixtures and fittings over their expected useful lives of 10 years.

Depreciation is charged on motor vehicles over their expected useful lives of 5 years.

#### **Investments**

Investments are the purchase of an investment property.

The property has been initially measured at cost and subsequently at fair value at the balance sheet date.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 3. Accounting Policies (continued)

#### Financial instruments

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

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

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

#### Defined contribution plans

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme covering its employees. The scheme funds are administered by trustees and the assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. The pension costs charged against profits represents the amount of the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

### 4. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Other	2,502	18,005	20,507	16,808
	<u>2,502</u>	<u>18,005</u>	<u>20,507</u>	<u>16,808</u>

In the previous year, donations and legacies of £39 were unrestricted and £16,769 were restricted.

### 5. Charitable Activities & Services

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Grants / Fees:</b>				
TNL COL Fund	2,992	29,946	32,938	18,681
Sunderland CC Household Support Fund	-	8,500	8,500	5,000
The Joicey Trust	-	-	-	1,200
COL Household Support Sunderland CC	-	-	-	4,000
CDCF Grant – received	-	-	-	1,947
Advice in Warm Spaces	-	-	-	7,500
Sunderland Guild of Help	-	390	390	-
Virgin Money Foundation	-	-	-	14,935
Sunderland CC Food and Care package	-	3,750	3,750	-
Co-op Local Community Fund	-	1,524	1,524	-
Tudor Trust	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
The Barbour Foundation	5,000	-	5,000	-
Sir James Knott Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-
Reach Fund SIB	-	13,000	13,000	-
The 29 <sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust	-	3,000	3,000	-
Newcastle Foodbank	-	16,462	16,462	39,721
DCP – Sunderland Foodbank - Fees	-	67,085	67,085	40,000
Access to Justice ILTA	-	123,440	123,440	-
Undisclosed donor	40,000	-	40,000	16,650

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Newcastle Building Society	-	-	-	3,000
	<u>47,992</u>	<u>327,097</u>	<u>375,089</u>	<u>202,634</u>

In the previous year, income of £44,778 was unrestricted and £157,856 was restricted.

#### 6. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Other income	-	-	-	125

In the previous year, income of £nil was unrestricted and £125 was restricted.

#### 7. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Rental Income	<u>74,554</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,554</u>	<u>53,934</u>

All income in the previous year was unrestricted.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 8. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Project costs	4,581	26,455	31,036	13,442
Wages and Salaries	15,335	221,537	236,872	183,593
Rates	3,103	96	3,199	3,095
Insurance	4,030	-	4,030	3,518
Repairs and Maintenance	16,406	4,652	21,058	32,245
Light and Heat	9,740	4,250	13,990	10,472
Motor expenses, travel and subsistence	1,481	2,070	3,551	2,927
Telephone, postage and stationery	8,627	1,847	10,474	10,745
Equipment and computer costs	1,550	1,511	3,061	2,051
Staff training	-	1,330	1,330	1,075
Sundry and cleaning expenses	279	618	897	1,216
Subscriptions	1,741	3,279	5,020	3,377
Bank charges	485	-	485	521
Loan Interest	1,058	-	1,058	1,193
Legal and professional	1,015	8,000	9,015	5,386
Depreciation charges	6,790	-	6,790	6,037
	<u>76,221</u>	<u>275,645</u>	<u>351,866</u>	<u>280,893</u>

In the previous year, expenditure of £97,920 was unrestricted and £182,973 was restricted.

### 9. Other Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Accountancy and Independent exam fees	<u>3,558</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,558</u>	<u>3,468</u>

All expenditure in the previous year was unrestricted.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 10. Wages & Salaries

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross wages and salaries	219,281	171,867
Employers national insurance cost	13,537	9,866
Pension costs	4,054	1,860
	<u>236,872</u>	<u>183,593</u>

The trustees received no remuneration in the current or preceding year – unrestricted expenditure in the current year amounted to £15,335 (2023: £20,892) and restricted expenditure to £221,537 (2023: £162,701).

The average number of full time equivalent employees in the year

	2024	2023
	9	6
Charitable activities	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>

### 11. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from taxation under Section 466 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 2010.

### 12. Tangible Assets

	Property	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 January 2024	37,501	22,127	19,156	78,784
Additions	-	7,524	-	7,524
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<u>37,501</u>	<u>29,651</u>	<u>19,156</u>	<u>86,308</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2024	-	7,483	7,662	15,145
Charge for the year	-	2,959	3,831	6,790
Disposals	-	-	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,442</u>	<u>11,493</u>	<u>21,935</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<u>37,501</u>	<u>19,209</u>	<u>7,663</u>	<u>64,373</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>37,501</u>	<u>14,644</u>	<u>11,494</u>	<u>63,639</u>

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 13. Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 January 2024	115,086	115,086
Additions to investments at cost	-	-
Gain/(loss) on revaluation	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>115,086</u>	<u>115,086</u>

#### Investments at cost comprised

	2024	2023
	£	£
Investment Properties	<u>115,086</u>	<u>115,086</u>

### 14. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued income	545	53,216
Prepayments	<u>3,523</u>	<u>2,617</u>
	<u>4,068</u>	<u>55,833</u>

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loan	5,718	5,577
Other creditors	818	367
Deferred income	1,715	8,780
Accruals	<u>6,431</u>	<u>5,243</u>
	<u>14,682</u>	<u>19,967</u>

### 16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loan	33,484	39,185
	<u>33,484</u>	<u>39,185</u>

### 17. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the current and preceding years.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 18. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted Reserves	General Reserves	Designated Reserves	2024 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	-	-	64,373	64,373
Investments	-	-	115,086	115,086
Current assets	194,394	117,381	-	311,774
Current liabilities	(819)	(13,864)	-	(14,682)
Long term liabilities	-	(33,484)	-	(33,484)
	<u>193,575</u>	<u>70,033</u>	<u>179,459</u>	<u>443,067</u>

	Restricted Reserves	General Reserves	Designated Reserves	2023 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	-	-	63,639	63,639
Investments	-	-	115,086	115,086
Current assets	118,747	90,021	-	208,768
Current liabilities	(367)	(19,600)	-	(19,967)
Long term liabilities	-	(39,185)	-	(39,185)
	<u>118,380</u>	<u>31,236</u>	<u>178,725</u>	<u>328,341</u>

## FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 19. Funds of the Charity

	Balance 01.01.24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gain/ (Loss)	Balance 31.12.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General funds						
Accumulated surplus	31,236	125,048	(72,989)	(13,262)	-	70,033
Designated funds						
Tangible asset reserve	63,639	-	(6,790)	7,524	-	64,373
Investment property reserve	115,086	-	-	-	-	115,086
Total unrestricted funds	209,961	125,048	(79,779)	(5,738)	-	249,492
	Balance 01.01.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gain/ (Loss)	Balance 31.12.23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General funds						
Accumulated surplus	29,390	98,751	(95,351)	(1,554)	-	31,236
Designated funds						
Tangible asset reserve	68,126	-	(6,037)	1,550	-	63,639
Investment property reserve	115,086	-	-	-	-	115,086
Total unrestricted funds	212,602	98,751	(101,388)	(4)	-	209,961

The accumulated surplus is available for the charitable company to use for the purposes of the charitable company without restriction.



# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 19. Funds of the Charity (continued)

	Balance 01.01.24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31.12.24 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fundraiser (Food van)	475	-	(475)	-	-
DIDYMUS	28	-	(28)	-	-
DCP - Sunderland Foodbank	10,665	67,085	(48,407)	-	29,343
Crisis Donations	1,584	1,507	(1,006)	-	2,085
Tudor Trust	30,845	50,000	(50,814)	-	30,031
Co-op Local Community Fund	-	1,524	(1,523)	(1)	-
Newcastle Food bank	245	16,462	(16,707)	-	-
Xmas Appeal	1,538	1,430	(2,113)	-	855
Virgin Money Foundation	11,190	-	(14,176)	2,986	-
Nationwide Community Grants	39,197	-	(28,182)	-	11,015
The Joicey Trust	675	-	(675)	-	-
COL Household Support					
Sunderland CC	3,681	-	(3,147)	-	534
Newcastle Building Society	1,626	-	(1,626)	-	-
Fundraiser #2	11,631	-	(8,437)	-	3,194
Sunderland CC Household Support Fund	5,000	3,500	(8,500)	-	-
Sir James Knott	-	10,000	(2,237)	-	7,763
TNL COL Fund	-	29,946	(32,594)	2,648	-
Sunderland CC Food & Care package	-	3,750	(3,750)	-	-
SIB Reach Fund Grant	-	13,000	(13,105)	105	-
Access to Justice ILTA	-	123,440	(32,753)	-	90,687
HSF5 Household Support Fund	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Crowdfunder #1 Our Children's Kitchen	-	15,068	-	-	15,068
The 29 <sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Sunderland Guild of Help	-	390	(390)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>118,380</b>	<b>345,102</b>	<b>(275,645)</b>	<b>5,738</b>	<b>193,575</b>

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 19. Funds of the Charity (continued)

	Balance 01.01.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31.12.23 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Bundles for babies	134	-	(141)	7	-
Fundraiser (Food van)	1,437	-	(962)	-	475
Tolent	619	-	(619)	-	-
DIDYMUS	1,697	-	(1,669)	-	28
Greggs Foundation	8,392	-	(8,392)	-	-
DCP - Sunderland Foodbank	-	40,000	(29,335)	-	10,665
Crisis Donations	702	2,349	(1,467)	-	1,584
Postcode Local Trust	3	-	-	(3)	-
Tudor Trust	28,749	50,000	(47,904)	-	30,845
SESF Community Fund	14,932	-	(14,932)	-	-
Co-op Local Community Fund	358	-	(358)	-	-
Enhanced Winter Offer	2,587	-	(2,587)	-	-
Newcastle Food bank	749	39,064	(39,568)	-	245
Xmas Appeal	1,347	3,068	(2,877)	-	1,538
Virgin Money Foundation	14,935	14,935	(18,680)	-	11,190
Nationwide Community Grants	49,958	-	(10,761)	-	39,197
The Joicey Trust	-	1,200	(525)	-	675
COL Household Support	-	-	-	-	-
Sunderland CC	-	4,000	(319)	-	3,681
Newcastle Building Society	-	3,000	(1,374)	-	1,626
Fundraiser #2	-	12,134	(503)	-	11,631
Sunderland CC Household Support Fund	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>126,599</b>	<b>174,750</b>	<b>(182,973)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>118,380</b>

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

---

### 19. Funds of the Charity (continued)

**Bundles for Babies** is Sunderland's first Baby Bank, established by FISCUS in 2016, providing clothing, equipment and essentials for babies and children in poverty to ensure no child goes without.

**Fundraiser #1 Spacehive** was a Crowd Fundraiser which successfully raised funds to purchase an electric van and support our crisis and advice work at FISCUS.

**Tolent** is a construction company who chose FISCUS as a beneficiary of their social value causes which enables grants to be made to charitable causes and we were generously donated £1500 towards our clothes bank and crisis work from this local company.

**Didymus** provided funds to support 'My Sister's Garden' Project, our new, safe outdoor social gardening allotment and vibrant social outdoor community space where people can grow their skills, make new friends and grow and cook food together.

**Greggs Foundation** provided grant core funding to support our Finance Officers' post for one year in addition to providing additional much needed funds towards our increasing electricity costs at the Co-op Centre.

**Durham Christian Partnership (DCP)** run Sunderland Foodbank and have partnered with FISCUS to deliver 'More Than Food' support to people who use and rely on foodbanks in Sunderland. DCP provides grant funding from the Trussell Trust to which it is affiliated. The funding enables FISCUS to employ experienced Welfare Benefit & Crisis Advice staff who work across Community Foodbanks in Sunderland to ensure people can resolve their financial hardship and access their rightful benefits entitlements, reduce their debt and have access to food and other crisis items.

**Crisis Donations** are generously provided by the general public and occasionally, by organisations and small businesses. The Sister's of Mercy, Oaklea Convent and the women's groups that they facilitate have been very generous donators to our crisis funds once again, throughout the year. This makes a huge difference to our customers facing hardship and poverty as we are able to fund items that are not usually donated such as shopping vouchers, new clothing & underwear, safety equipment, warm blankets, hot water bottles and presents for children and older people who would otherwise go without throughout the year and at Christmas.

**Postcode Local Trust** funded a co-produced, accessible, community garden space and various outdoor well-being activities for women survivors of domestic abuse struggling with mental health issues. It also enabled us to employ a qualified Social Welfare Community Worker, fund garden tools and plants.

# FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

---

### 19. Funds of the Charity (continued)

**Tudor Trust** provided a grant over three years to support the salary of FISCUS CEO to enable FISCUS to have more financial stability and enable the CEO to focus on developing and delivering the core advice and crisis work and develop new initiatives.

**SESF** was a social investment grant award made by Social Investment Business and supported by Big Issue Invest to support the sustainability and development of our charity.

**Co-op Local Community Fund** supported our community garden providing a safe space for our service users, staff, volunteers and wider community to meet and enjoy the outdoor space.

**Enhanced Winter Offer** funds were provided by Sunderland City Council to support our crisis work and to enable us to purchase essentials such as clothing, toiletries and cleaning items to provide to people experiencing hardship in Sunderland.

**Newcastle Foodbank** provide grant funding to FISCUS from Trussell Trust to enable FISCUS to employ a full-time experienced Advice & Crisis Worker who provides outreach advice and crisis support across Community foodbanks in Newcastle.

**Xmas Appeal** is money provided by individuals, organisations and businesses to support the purchase of Christmas presents for children, young people and those who would otherwise go without during the festive period.

**Virgin Money Foundation** provided a two-year grant to fund an experienced Social Welfare Worker to enable FISCUS to maintain, improve and expand our current crisis services, especially our expanding Sunderland Clothes Bank.

**Nationwide Community Grants** provided a one-year grant to enable us to develop Sunderland Young Mummies Home Economics Project by employing a new dedicated Advice & Advocacy Worker to support teenage expectant and new mothers in Sunderland to gain independent living skills and access to advice and support.

**The Joicey Trust** provided funding towards the employment of a Social Welfare Trainee/Apprentice.

**COL Household Support Funds** were provided by Sunderland City Council to support our crisis work and to enable us to purchase essentials such as clothing, toiletries and cleaning items to provide to people experiencing hardship in Sunderland

**Newcastle Building Society** provided funding via the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear towards our advice and crisis work which part-funded one of our Social Welfare Trainees/Apprentices.

**The National Lottery Fund Community Cost of Living Fund** provided an emergency fund to support FISCUS and other community and voluntary, not-for-profit organisations who were affected by the cost-of-living crisis. The funding enabled FISCUS to continue and expand our crisis work until March 2024.

**Fundraiser #2 Spacehive S.A.F.E** was a Crowd Fundraiser which successfully raised funds to support our Warm Welcome Space and our crisis, advice and community work delivered at the Co-op Centre. The funds also enabled us to purchase a new shipping container for our recycling projects.

**Sunderland City Council Household Support Fund 4** was provided by Sunderland City Council to support people in crisis with insufficient money to buy essentials that they need.

# **FISCUS NORTH LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

---

**Sir James Knott** – provides a charitable grant to enable FISCUS to employ a part-time Social Welfare Coordinator to deliver our crisis activities for vulnerable children, adults and families. This grant also supports our volunteers to run our Bundles for Babies Baby Bank and our Community Clothes Bank.

**Sunderland CC Food & Care Package** – this grant supports the purchase of food, hygiene and essential items for people experiencing hardship in Sunderland.

**SIB Reach Fund Grant** – Funded external consultancy support, community consultation and feasibility to explore new community trading ideas to be developed by FISCUS at the Co-op Centre.

**Access to Justice ILTA** – This 5-year grant enables FISCUS to increase the quality of our Advice & Crisis services, develop Evaluation, Monitoring & Learning (MEL) and explore new ways of working. The grant also funds a full-time Advice Services Manager and a Welfare Benefits & Crisis Worker.

**HSF5 Household Support Fund** – Supports vulnerable individuals and families with essential and emergency items that they otherwise could not afford.

**Crowdfunder #1 Our Children's Kitchen** – is a community Crowdfunder to raise funding to develop a Children's Kitchen constructed from a recycled shipping container. Our Children's Kitchen will also provide wider community services, including supporting our Warm Welcome Spaces, our Community Foodbank and trading part-time as a community deli to cover the costs of food for children during the school holidays.

**The 29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust** – provided a grant towards the cost of developing Our Children's Kitchen project to alleviate child hunger and child poverty in Sunderland.

### **20. Company Limited by Guarantee**

The charitable company is limited by guarantee in that every member undertakes to contribute such amounts as may be required in the event of the charitable company being wound-up, for the payments of the debts, liabilities, and the cost of winding up not exceeding £1 per member.