

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

England & Wales · Charity number 1156211

Details

Other names	WYCOMBE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-03-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Oakley Hall 8 Castle Street High Wycombe
Phone	01494563663
Email	treasurer@wyhoc.org.uk
Website	www.wyhoc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF POVERTY BY THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY AND OTHER ACCOMMODATION, ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS IN NEED WHO ARE DEEMED HOMELESS AND REQUIRE SUCH ACCOMMODATION, ADVICE, OR ASSISTANCE.

Activities: Wycombe Homeless Connection serves people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in south Bucks, working with volunteers, partner organisations and local authorities. Motivated by our Christian faith, we provide free advice and support to prevent homelessness and to reduce the harm it causes. We help people find a home and defend the rights of people who are homeless or facing homelessness.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Buckinghamshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£650,554	£605,268	£534,886	14
2024-04-30	£567,519	£574,333	£489,600	14
2023-04-30	£542,040	£580,419	£496,414	11
2022-04-30	£587,189	£476,384	£534,794	10
2021-04-30	£638,361	£518,907	£423,999	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kathryn Elizabeth Rogers	Chair	2022-01-13
DAVID SPARKS		2014-03-03
DAVID WINDER		2014-03-03
Dawn Segroe		2017-01-12
Edward Atwell		2025-12-18
Jane Spoerry		2023-09-14
Mark Dykes		2014-03-03
Nia Sherrington		2023-09-14
Richard Alexander		2020-05-14

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1156211

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1156211

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 30th April 2025



Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Contents Page

	Page
Legal and Administrative Information	1
Trustees' Annual Report	2
Independent Examination Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Statement of Financial Position	9
Statement of Cash Flows	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Legal and Administrative Information

Reference

The Wycombe Homeless Connection is a registered Charity in England and Wales as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 17 March 2014. Prior to conversion to a CIO the organisation formed as a registered charity in 2009. The primary priority of the organisation is to provide a caring, hope-filled response to those whose lives were at risk because of homelessness.

Registered Charity Numbers	1156211	
Registered Office	Oakley Hall 8 Castle Street High Wycombe Buckinghamshire HP13 6RF	
Website	www.wyhoc.org.uk	
Trustees	Kathryn Rogers Richard Alexander Dawn Segrue Muriel Reynolds David Winder Mark Dykes David Sparks Jane Spoerry Nia Sherrington	<i>Appointed 13/01/2022</i> <i>Appointed 14/05/2020</i> <i>Appointed 12/01/2017</i> <i>Resigned 16/01/2025</i> <i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i> <i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i> <i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i> <i>Appointed 14/09/2023</i> <i>Appointed 14/09/2023</i>
Chief Executive Officer	James Boulton	
Primary Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill Kent ME19 4JQ	
Independent Examiner	Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA Wyatt & Co Chartered Accountants 125 Main Street Garforth Leeds LS25 1AF	

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation CIO, with Trustees appointed by trustees, and its governance is set out in its constitution.

Appointment to the board of trustees is normally for a three-year period, made by trustees.

The trustees meet monthly (except in August) for formal meetings. Where necessary, decisions may be taken between meetings following verbal or email discussions.

Trustee training begins from the initial application, where the candidate is provided with a document detailing the duties and responsibilities of a trustee of the charity and the Chair of Trustees checks their suitability as a trustee. This is followed by a visit to a Trustee Meeting as an Observer, and a discussion between the candidate and one or more existing trustees to clarify issues and answer questions. Following appointment, the trustees are updated with changes to charity law or other legislation which specifically influences the charity. In this, guidance is taken from the Charity Commission, HMRC, etc.

The pay and remuneration of the charity's paid staff is set according to the organisation's pay policy. Pay rises are not automatic but at the discretion of trustees. Normally pay rates will be reviewed annually in January and increased by the percentage given in the annual earnings index for regular pay in the public sector published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and based on the index for November. Other pay rises are based on development in the role and are normally awarded in May. These are called developmental pay rises. This mechanism will move employees through their pay band as they gain experience.

Public Benefit Disclosure

Details of activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit are given in 'Objectives and Activities' and 'Achievements and Performance' below.

The Trustees have read and continue to consider Charity Commission guidance relating to Public Benefit. Having regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, the trustees led the charity to pursue these objects principally by continuing to provide housing advice and support and emergency accommodation, but also by evolving services, developing new services and increasing effectiveness to provide further public benefit.

Objectives and Activities Objectives

The charitable objects of Wycombe Homeless Connection (WHC) are:

The relief of poverty by the provision of emergency and other accommodation, advice and assistance for persons in need who are deemed homeless and require such accommodation, advice, or assistance.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

Main Activities

The main activities of the Trustees are to give overall oversight to the work of the charity. This includes the services which the charity provides to prevent homelessness, to reduce harm for people who are homeless, helping to house people who are homeless and defending the rights of people who are homeless or facing homelessness. The trustees also have oversight of the work to fundraise for the charity and to market the charity in order to raise support for its work and the financial management and regulatory compliance of the charity.

Strategies to Achieve the Above Objectives

The main strategies to achieve current objectives are:

- Preventing homelessness before it starts
- Reducing harm for people who are homeless
- Helping house people who are homeless
- Defending the rights of people who are homeless or facing homelessness

Success in the above strategies is indicated by monitoring data which confirms the main outputs and outcomes within each of these strategies. These are reported to the trustees by the Leadership Team of the charity along with reports which show the context for this data.

Grant-making

The charity does not make grants to other Charities.

Volunteers

The charity benefits greatly from the voluntary contributions of time from a number of committed volunteers. This includes administration volunteers, fundraising volunteers, Support Centre volunteers as well as others. To all of them, the Trustees express their thanks.

Social Investment

The charity does not make financial social investments.

Achievements and Performance

The charity's principal aim is to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring in the south of Buckinghamshire and to mitigate against the harm that it causes.

Making homelessness rare – The charity seeks to assist those people who are at risk of becoming homeless. It offers free access to legal advice on rights, responsibilities and options, assistance with budgeting, a service of negotiating with accommodation providers, income maximisation, support in securing financial assistance in the form of small grants and some direct financial assistance. All of this is aimed at preventing evictions into homelessness either through allowing a household to remain in their home or assisting them to move to an alternative home before they become homeless. In 2024-25 the charity prevented 38 households who were actively threatened with homelessness from losing their homes.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

Making homelessness brief – The charity seeks to assist those people who are homeless to help them to access suitable housing. This can include access to the private rented sector, access to social housing or access to supported accommodation. Support can include advice on options, making referrals for supported accommodation, making referrals to other organisations who can assist, direct financial assistance, IT support and negotiating with accommodation providers. In 2024-25 the charity helped people who were homeless to find accommodation on 65 occasions. In addition to this the charity re-started its winter Night Shelter service which has stopped running since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. A total of 30 people stayed at the night shelter and 23 were re-housed during the period it was open. This was a successful project and the charity intends to run it again next year while considering options for a year-round night shelter service in the future.

Ensuring homelessness is non-recurring – The charity seeks to ensure that those people who have experienced homelessness or the threat of homelessness do not find themselves in the same position again. Work towards this includes income maximisation, referrals to other organisations providing assistance with money management, substance misuse and mental health.

Mitigating against the harm that homelessness causes – The charity seeks to ensure that the many harms associated with homelessness are mitigated as far as possible. This includes the provision of emergency food, clothing and bedding, the provision of emergency shelter where appropriate, health care navigation and direct financial assistance.

Fundraising

The organisation raises funds to cover the cost of activities related to providing its services and running the charity. This is done through raising funds directly from individuals within the community, from businesses, from community groups, from fundraising events and activities organised by supporters, from fundraising events organised by the organisation itself and by applying for grants.

Financial Review Position at Year-end

A Statement of Financial Position is attached to this report. The CIO ended the year with tangible fixed assets of £5,789 and current assets of £541,447. Creditors falling due within one year totalled £12,350, leaving net assets of £534,886 at 30 April 2025 (2024: £489,600). Of this total, £86,064 represents restricted funds, and £448,822 represents unrestricted funds, including £150,000 designated as a reserve fund.

Principal Use of Funds

Most of the expenditure is Staff costs.

Principal Sources of Funding

The charity's income is primarily donations from individuals, churches, corporations, and from grants.

Investments

The charity does not hold investments but does hold an interest-bearing Shawbrook Bank and CAF Bank accounts for the keeping of reserves and designated funds.

Key Risks and Uncertainties Disclosure

Charitable activities

While charities continue to face an uncertain future, with giving expected to decline, the charity benefits from having income spread across different types of sources, including grants and donations from the public or corporates. This allows the charity to spread risk and support its sustainability while continuing to review and re-model its streams of income and balancing this with reduction in discretionary spending.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

Plans for Future Periods

The major plans for the year 2025 to 2026 include:

- Continuing our winter Night Shelter running from 7 local churches.
- Implement a new 5 year strategy.
- Making a quantifiable impact on homelessness in Buckinghamshire.

Pension

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is administered by an external Independent pension provider. Contributions are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as they fall due.

Reserves

The reserves policy is to maintain a balance of between 3 and 6 months operating expenditure plus sufficient funds to meet redundancy and other legal liabilities in the event of a forced closure.

Reserve Fund

A separate reserve fund has been maintained at £150,000 to cover any redundancy or legal commitments, and we aim to maintain a minimum balance of at least £330,000 in total, including the reserve fund. The reserve fund is reviewed annually as part of the budgeting process although the adequacy of the reserve fund is monitored more frequently.

The total funds held at the year end were £534,886, of which £150,000 was held as the designated reserve fund, £298,822 as unrestricted general funds, and £86,064 as restricted funds.

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which could influence the ability of the Wycombe Homeless Connection 1156211 to continue as a going concern.

Events after the end of the reporting period

There are no events after the reporting date to report.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

Statement of Trustee' Responsibilities

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP,
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' annual report was approved and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Kate Rogers (Chair)
Trustee

Date: 16/01/2026



David Sparks (Treasurer)
Trustee

Date: 16/01/2026

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Wycombe Homeless Connection ('the charity') for the year ended 30 April 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA
Independent Examiner
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Date: 16/01/2026

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted Funds	2025 Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		324,610	282,246	606,856	497,444
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Other trading activities		5,302	-	5,302	34,473
Other income		38,396	-	38,396	35,602
Total Income	2	<u>368,308</u>	<u>282,246</u>	<u>650,554</u>	<u>567,519</u>
Expenditure					
Raising funds	3	123,250	6,372	129,622	95,468
Charitable activities	4	<u>257,000</u>	<u>218,646</u>	<u>475,646</u>	<u>478,865</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>380,250</u>	<u>225,018</u>	<u>605,268</u>	<u>574,333</u>
Net Income / (Expenditure)		<u>(11,942)</u>	<u>57,228</u>	<u>45,286</u>	<u>(6,814)</u>
Net Income and Net Movement In Funds					
Total funds brought forward	11	460,764	28,836	489,600	496,414
Transfers	11	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	<u>448,822</u>	<u>86,064</u>	<u>534,886</u>	<u>489,600</u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Statement of Financial Position

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	8	5,789	6,153
		<u>5,789</u>	<u>6,153</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	93,590	10,617
Short term investments		150,000	150,000
Cash at bank and in hand		297,857	328,711
		<u>541,447</u>	<u>489,328</u>
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	10	12,350	5,881
Net Current Assets		<u>529,097</u>	<u>483,447</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>534,886</u>	<u>489,600</u>
Net Assets	12	<u>534,886</u>	<u>489,600</u>
Funds of The Charity			
Restricted funds	11	86,064	28,836
Unrestricted funds	11		
Unrestricted general		298,822	310,764
Designated funds		150,000	150,000
		<u>448,822</u>	<u>460,764</u>
Total Charity Funds		<u>534,886</u>	<u>489,600</u>

Trustees Responsibilities

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue :

Name of Trustee:	David Sparks	Kathryn Rogers
Signed on behalf of the Trustees:		
Date of approval:	16/01/2026	16/01/2026

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(39,848)	(13,891)
	<u>(39,848)</u>	<u>(13,891)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Dividends and interest	11,103	7,219
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,109)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>8,994</u>	<u>7,219</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(30,854)	(6,672)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	478,711	485,383
Cash and Cash Equivalents At The End of The Reporting Period	<u>447,857</u>	<u>478,711</u>

Reconciliation of Net Movement in Funds to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	45,286	(6,814)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,473	2,051
Dividends and interest from investments	(11,103)	(7,219)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(82,973)	(868)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	6,469	(1,041)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(39,848)</u>	<u>(13,891)</u>

Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank	297,857	328,711
Short term investments	150,000	150,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>447,857</u>	<u>478,711</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with 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) (effective from 1 January 2019) and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities.

The financial accounts are prepared in Sterling (£) which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

Wycombe Homeless Connection meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102

1.2 Assessment of Going Concern

The Trustees of the charitable company are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern at least for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the term of specific appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 11 of the financial statements.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.4 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is probable that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

- All voluntary income is recognised as donations which are included in full, with associated Gift Aid receivable in the Statement of Financial Activities.
- Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Income from charitable activities is accounted for when invoices are drawn up and the service has been provided (as the point of entitlement).
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified.
- Gifts in Kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.
- Time is expended on the charity's activities and governance which is donated free of charge. It is impractical to quantify the value of the time given, and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the financial statements.
- Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable.

1.5 Resources Expended

Charitable activities - The costs of charitable activities represent the expenses incurred in fulfilling the charity's objectives, including direct costs for providing services and support costs. All expenses are recorded on an accrual basis. Liabilities are recognized as expenses when there is a legal or constructive obligation for the charity to incur them, it is likely that economic benefits will be transferred for settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Value added tax is not recoverable by the charitable organization and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Costs of raising funds include expenditure on promotion and advertising plus any fundraising trading costs.

1.6 Governance Costs

These Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

1.7 Liabilities Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.8 Tangible Fixed Assets

All assets costing more than £700 are capitalised and at historic cost. Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is charged on fixed assets which is written off on a straight-line basis over time estimated useful life of the asset.

Equipment, fixtures and fittings 20% Straight line

Equipment, fixtures and fittings are reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of such assets may not be recoverable. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset is estimated and compared against its carrying amount. Where the estimated recoverable amount is lower, an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.9 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.10 Operating Leases

Rental charges payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the terms of the lease.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively for charitable purposes. The charity is not exempt from Value Added Tax.

1.12 Volunteer Assistance

Time is expended on the charity's activities and governance which is donated free of charge. It is impractical to quantify the value of the time given, and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the financial statements.

1.13 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

There are no critical judgements, significant assumptions concerning the future and key sources of estimation of uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations and Legacies			
Individual donations	195,235	-	195,235
Corporate donations	19,343	-	19,343
Church collections & donations	31,050	-	31,050
Gift aid	10,302	-	10,302
Grants	47,668	282,246	329,914
Community fundraising	21,012	-	21,012
	<u>324,610</u>	<u>282,246</u>	<u>606,856</u>
Charitable Activities			
Homeless health fund	-	-	-
Housing benefit	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Trading Activities			
Fundraising events	5,302	-	5,302
	<u>5,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,302</u>
Other Income			
Other income	-	-	-
Secondment income	27,293	-	27,293
Bank Interest	11,103	-	11,103
	<u>38,396</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,396</u>
Total Income	<u>368,308</u>	<u>282,246</u>	<u>650,554</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Income (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations and Legacies			
Individual donations	180,180	-	180,180
Corporate donations	25,759	-	25,759
Church collections & donations	34,890	-	34,890
Gift aid	10,945	-	10,945
Grants	40,593	170,747	211,340
Community fundraising	34,330	-	34,330
	<u>326,697</u>	<u>170,747</u>	<u>497,444</u>
Charitable Activities			
Homeless health fund	-	-	-
Housing benefit	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Trading Activities			
Fundraising events	34,473	-	34,473
	<u>34,473</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,473</u>
Other Income			
Other income	4,507	-	4,507
Secondment income	23,876	-	23,876
Bank Interest	7,219	-	7,219
	<u>35,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,602</u>
Total Income	<u>396,772</u>	<u>170,747</u>	<u>567,519</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

3 Cost of fundraising

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Expenditure on raising funds	-	6,372	6,372
Salary costs on raising funds	123,250	-	123,250
	<u>123,250</u>	<u>6,372</u>	<u>129,622</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Expenditure on raising funds	4,264	-	4,264
Salary costs on raising funds	91,204	-	91,204
	<u>95,468</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,468</u>

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Accommodation	13,646	-	13,646
Bank Charges	203	-	203
Communications & marketing	1,211	2,946	4,157
Depreciation	2,473	-	2,473
Homeless health fund	-	-	-
Housing benefit	-	-	-
Insurance	3,251	-	3,251
IT systems	14,376	7,873	22,249
Legal Fees	3,339	3,000	6,339
Office expenses	19,727	11,841	31,568
Personalisation	2,877	-	2,877
Recruitment	1,604	-	1,604
Service support	2,539	21,954	24,493
Staff costs	126,778	167,393	294,171
Employers pension & NI & payroll	48,741	-	48,741
Telephones	7,286	-	7,286
Training	7,876	3,619	11,495
Travel	1,073	20	1,093
	<u>257,000</u>	<u>218,646</u>	<u>475,646</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Expenditure on charitable activities (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Accommodation	3,267	1,200	4,467
Bank Charges	255	-	255
Communications & marketing	3,073	-	3,073
Depreciation	2,051	-	2,051
Homeless health fund	-	-	-
Housing benefit	1,869	-	1,869
Insurance	2,679	-	2,679
IT systems	13,337	-	13,337
Legal Fees	9,600	-	9,600
Office expenses	28,847	1,817	30,664
Personalisation	220	2,250	2,470
Recruitment	2,253	-	2,253
Service support	3,058	-	3,058
Staff costs	200,884	136,644	337,528
Employers pension & NI & payroll	51,042	-	51,042
Telephones	6,879	-	6,879
Training	6,597	-	6,597
Travel	1,043	-	1,043
	<u>336,954</u>	<u>141,911</u>	<u>478,865</u>

5 Independent Examiner Fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination and accounts preparation	3,100	3,000

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

6 Staff Costs

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	418,400	428,732
Social security costs	37,808	41,450
Employer contributions to pension plans	9,954	9,592
	<u>466,162</u>	<u>479,774</u>

The average headcount of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Average headcount		
Direct charitable activities	11	11
Management and administration	3	3
	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>

The number of employees who received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
More than £60,000	-	-

Key Management Personnel

The trustees, CEO, services manager, business and finance manager and fundraising and marketing manager are considered to be key management personnel for the purposes of the Charities SORP FRS102. The remuneration of the key management personnel for the year including employers national insurance and employers pension contributions was £222,381 (2024: £207,127).

7 Trustee Remuneration, Expenses and Donations

The trustees received no remuneration in the year (2024: £Nil).

During the year the total aggregated donations made to the charity by the trustees £540 (2024: £480).

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equipment, fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1st May 2024	10,255	10,255
Additions	2,109	2,109
At 30th April 2025	12,364	12,364
Depreciation		
At 1st May 2024	4,102	4,102
Depreciation Charge	2,473	2,473
At 30th April 2025	6,575	6,575
Net Book Value		
At 30th April 2025	5,789	5,789
At 30th April 2024	6,153	6,153

9 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	2,495	300
Prepayments and accrued income	91,095	10,317
	93,590	10,617

10 Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	1,838	2,535
Accruals	7,845	3,000
Other creditors	2,667	346
	12,350	5,881

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

11 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	1 May 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	30 Apr 2025 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Unrestricted					
General funds	310,764	368,308	(380,250)	-	298,822
	310,764	368,308	(380,250)	-	298,822
Designated					
Reserve fund	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Total Unrestricted	460,764	368,308	(380,250)	-	448,822
Restricted Funds					
Night Shelter Transformation	-	158,382	(79,191)	-	79,191
King Cullimore Trust	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-
Red Kite Springboard Fund	9,167	-	(9,167)	-	-
T and S Williams Foundation	6,875	-	(6,875)	-	-
Clare Foundation	10,461	6,000	(16,461)	-	-
Albert Hunt Trust	2,333	7,000	(9,333)	-	-
Heart of Buckinghamshire	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-
The Shanley Foundation	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Tara Getty Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Kop Hill Climb	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
Buckinghamshire Council - Outreach Support Worker	-	30,117	(23,244)	-	6,873
Buckinghamshire Council Contribution - Wycombe Nightshelter	-	27,747	(27,747)	-	-
Total Restricted	28,836	282,246	(225,018)	-	86,064
Total Funds	489,600	650,554	(605,268)	-	534,886

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

	1 May 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	30 Apr 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Unrestricted					
General funds	346,414	396,772	(432,422)	-	310,764
	346,414	396,772	(432,422)	-	310,764
Designated					
Reserve fund	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Total Unrestricted	496,414	396,772	(432,422)	-	460,764
Restricted Funds					
Housing benefit	-	-	-	-	-
Community Cost of Living Fund	-	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
Night Shelter Transformation	-	30,815	(30,815)	-	-
King Cullimore Trust	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-
Rothschild Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Red Kite Springboard Fund	-	10,000	(833)	-	9,167
T and S Williams Foundation	-	7,500	(625)	-	6,875
Clare Foundation	-	17,932	(7,471)	-	10,461
Albert Hunt Trust	-	7,000	(4,667)	-	2,333
Total Restricted	-	170,747	(141,911)	-	28,836
Total Funds	496,414	567,519	(574,333)	-	489,600

Fund Descriptions

Designated Funds

Reserve fund Funds designated for the ongoing reserves of the organisation held inline with the reserves policy.

Restricted Funds

Housing benefit Funds received from the local council for housing benefit relating to service users utilizing the organization's accommodation

Heart of Bucks Community Foundation Funds in support of the outreach project to help people 'stuck' in rough sleeping who are vulnerable and/or can be involved in anti-social behaviour.

Night Shelter Transformation Fund Grant towards support worker project costs including support worker and senior support workers salaries, management costs, accommodation fund and personalisation costs.

Red Kite Springboard Fund Grant towards our homelessness prevention project.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

Fund Descriptions (*Continued*)

Community Cost of Living Fund	Funding towards retrospective and ongoing costs of support work including, management, administrative and support staff; premises and utilities.
King Cullimore Trust	Contribution towards our homelessness support work including salaries, legal support payments, rent in advance payments, personalisation costs, health costs, emergency accommodation.
Rothschild Foundation	Grant towards our homelessness prevention project (also called advocacy).
T and S Williams Foundation	£7,500 towards our homelessness prevention project including volunteering coordinator costs, training for volunteers, venue hire for Chesham, marketing costs. This was a joint WHC/AHAG grant.
Clare Foundation	Grant towards homelessness prevention worker salary costs.
Albert Hunt Trust	Grant towards services manager salary costs.
Heart of Buckinghamshire	Grant be used towards the Volunteer Co-ordinator salary and other Volunteer costs such as training etc
The Shanley Foundation	Grant awarded for use towards the Night Shelter.
Tara Getty Foundation	The grant was awarded to us to be put towards one of our projects - Homeless Prevention, Night Shelter or use for Support and Health to our clients.
Kop Hill Climb	This fund was awarded to us for the Operational costs at night shelter.
Buckinghamshire Council - Outreach Support Worker	Grant to fund post of Outreach Support Worker for 1 year.
Buckinghamshire Council Contribution - Wycombe Nightshelter	Grant contributed toward the Night Shelter costs.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

12 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Fixed assets	5,789	-	5,789
Current assets	455,383	86,064	541,447
Creditors less than 1 year	(12,350)	-	(12,350)
	<u>448,822</u>	<u>86,064</u>	<u>534,886</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed assets	6,153	-	6,153
Current assets	460,492	28,836	489,328
Creditors less than 1 year	(5,881)	-	(5,881)
	<u>460,764</u>	<u>28,836</u>	<u>489,600</u>

13 Related Party Transactions

During the year, the charity received total donations of £3,333.32 (2024: £6,000) from Union Baptist Church High Wycombe, who are a related party organization through mutual trusteeship with Mark Dykes and Sheena Dykes being trustees for both organizations.

During the year, the charity received total donations of £4,475 (2024: £2,522) from High Wycombe Methodist Circuit, who are a related party organization through mutual trusteeship with David Sparks being a trustee for both organizations.

During the year, the charity paid £18,978 (2024: £18,543) of rent to the Parish of High Wycombe All Saints Church, who are a related party organization through mutual trusteeship with Dawn Segre being a trustee for both organizations.

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1156211

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1156211

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 30th April 2024



Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Contents Page

	Page
Legal and Administrative Information	1
Trustees' Annual Report	2
Independent Examination Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Statement of Financial Position	9
Statement of Cash Flows	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Legal and Administrative Information

Reference

The Wycombe Homeless Connection is a registered Charity in England and Wales as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 17 March 2014. Prior to conversion to a CIO the organisation formed as a registered charity in 2009. The primary priority of the organisation is to provide a caring, hope-filled response to those whose lives were at risk because of homelessness.

Registered Charity Numbers 1156211

Registered Office Oakley Hall
8 Castle Street
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP13 6RF

Website www.wyhoc.org.uk

Trustees	Sheena Dykes	<i>Resigned 14/09/2023</i>
	Kathryn Rogers	<i>Appointed 13/01/2022</i>
	Richard Alexander	<i>Appointed 14/05/2020</i>
	Dawn Segrue	<i>Appointed 12/01/2017</i>
	Muriel Reynolds	<i>Resigned 16/01/2025</i>
	David Winder	<i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i>
	Mark Dykes	<i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i>
	David Sparks	<i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i>
	Jane Spoerry	<i>Appointed 14/09/2023</i>
	Nia Sherrington	<i>Appointed 14/09/2023</i>

Chief Executive Officer James Boulton

Primary Bankers CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA
Wyatt & Co Chartered Accountants
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation CIO, with Trustees appointed by trustees, and its governance is set out in its constitution.

Appointment to the board of trustees is normally for a three-year period, made by trustees.

The trustees meet monthly (except in August) for formal meetings. Where necessary, decisions may be taken between meetings following verbal or email discussions.

Trustee training begins from the initial application, where the candidate is provided with a document detailing the duties and responsibilities of a trustee of the charity and the Chair of Trustees checks their suitability as a trustee. This is followed by a visit to a Trustee Meeting as an Observer, and a discussion between the candidate and one or more existing trustees to clarify issues and answer questions. Following appointment, the trustees are updated with changes to charity law or other legislation which specifically influences the charity. In this, guidance is taken from the Charity Commission, HMRC, etc.

The pay and remuneration of the charity's paid staff is set according to the organisation's pay policy. Pay rises are not automatic but at the discretion of trustees. Normally pay rates will be reviewed annually in January and increased by the percentage given in the annual earnings index for regular pay in the public sector published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and based on the index for November. Other pay rises are based on development in the role and are normally awarded in May. These are called developmental pay rises. This mechanism will move employees through their pay band as they gain experience.

Public Benefit Disclosure

Details of activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit are given in 'Objectives and Activities' and 'Achievements and Performance' below.

The Trustees have read and continue to consider Charity Commission guidance relating to Public Benefit. Having regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, the trustees led the charity to pursue these objects principally by continuing to provide housing advice and support and emergency accommodation, but also by evolving services, developing new services and increasing effectiveness to provide further public benefit.

Objectives and Activities Objectives

The charitable objects of Wycombe Homeless Connection (WHC) are:

The relief of poverty by the provision of emergency and other accommodation, advice and assistance for persons in need who are deemed homeless and require such accommodation, advice, or assistance.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

Main Activities

The main activities of the Trustees are to give overall oversight to the work of the charity. This includes the services which the charity provides to prevent homelessness, to reduce harm for people who are homeless, helping to house people who are homeless and defending the rights of people who are homeless or facing homelessness. The trustees also have oversight of the work to fundraise for the charity and to market the charity in order to raise support for its work and the financial management and regulatory compliance of the charity.

Strategies to Achieve the Above Objectives

The main strategies to achieve current objectives are:

- Preventing homelessness before it starts
- Reducing harm for people who are homeless
- Helping house people who are homeless
- Defending the rights of people who are homeless or facing homelessness

Success in the above strategies is indicated by monitoring data which confirms the main outputs and outcomes within each of these strategies. These are reported to the trustees by the CEO of the charity along with reports which show the context for this data.

Grant-making

The charity does not make grants to other Charities.

Volunteers

The charity benefits greatly from the voluntary contributions of time from a number of committed volunteers. This includes administration volunteers, fundraising volunteers, Support Centre volunteers as well as others. To all of them, the Trustees express their thanks.

Social Investment

The charity does not make financial social investments.

Achievements and Performance

The charity's principal aim is to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring in the south of Buckinghamshire and to mitigate against the harm that it causes.

Making homelessness rare – The charity seeks to assist those people who are at risk of becoming homeless. It offers free access to legal advice on rights, responsibilities and options, assistance with budgeting, a service of negotiating with accommodation providers, income maximisation, support in securing financial assistance in the form of small grants and some direct financial assistance. All of this is aimed at preventing evictions into homelessness either through allowing a household to remain in their home or assisting them to move to an alternative home before they become homeless. In 2023-24 the charity prevented 40 households who were actively threatened with homelessness from losing their homes.

Making homelessness brief – The charity seeks to assist those people who are homeless to help them to access suitable housing. This can include access to the private rented sector, access to social housing or access to supported accommodation. Support can include advice on options, making referrals for supported accommodation, making referrals to other organisations who can assist, direct financial assistance, IT support and negotiating with accommodation providers. In 2023-24 the charity helped 54 homeless people move into accommodation.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

Ensuring homelessness is non-recurring – The charity seeks to ensure that those people who have experienced homelessness or the threat of homelessness do not find themselves in the same position again. Work towards this includes income maximisation, referrals to other organisations providing assistance with money management, substance misuse and mental health.

Mitigating against the harm that homelessness causes – The charity seeks to ensure that the many harms associated with homelessness are mitigated against as far as possible. This includes the provision of emergency food, clothing and bedding, the provision of emergency shelter where appropriate, health care navigation and direct financial assistance.

Fundraising

The organisation raises funds to cover the cost of activities related to providing its services and running the charity. This is done through raising funds directly from individuals within the community, from businesses, from community groups, from fundraising events and activities organised by supporters, from fundraising events organised by the organisation itself and by applying for grants.

Financial Review Position at Year-end

A Statement of Financial Position is attached to this report. The CIO ended the year with tangible fixed assets of £6,153 and current assets of £489,328. Creditors falling due within one year are £5,881. The net assets are £489,600.

Principal Use of Funds

Most of the expenditure is Staff costs.

Principal Sources of Funding

The charity's income is primarily donations from individuals, churches, corporations, and grants.

Investments

The charity does not hold investments but does hold an interest-bearing Shawbrook Bank and CAF Bank accounts for the keeping of reserves and designated funds.

Key Risks and Uncertainties Disclosure

Charitable activities

While charities continue to face an uncertain future, with giving expected to decline, the charity benefits from having income spread across different sources, including grants and donations from the public or corporates. This allows the charity to spread risk and support its sustainability while continuing to review and re-model its streams of income and balancing this with reduction in discretionary spending.

Plans for Future Periods

The major plans for the year 2024 to 2025 include:

- Bringing back our winter Night Shelter running in 7 local churches.
- Develop a new 5 year strategy.
- Continue making a quantifiable impact on homelessness in Buckinghamshire.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

Pension

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is administered by an external Independent pension provider. Contributions are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as they fall due.

Reserves

The reserves policy is to maintain a balance of between 3 and 6 months operating expenditure plus sufficient funds to meet redundancy and other legal liabilities in the event of a forced closure.

Reserve Fund

A separate reserve fund has been maintained at £150,000 to cover any redundancy or legal commitments, and we aim to maintain a minimum balance of at least £300,000 in total, including the reserve fund. The reserve fund is reviewed annually as part of the budgeting process although the adequacy of the reserve fund is monitored more frequently. The total funds held at the yearend were £489,600 of which £150,000 was held as the designated reserve fund and £339,600 as unrestricted funds.

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which could influence the ability of the Wycombe Homeless Connection to continue as a going concern.

Events after the end of the reporting period

There are no events after the reporting date to report.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

12 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Statement of Trustee' responsibilities

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP,
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

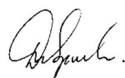
The trustees' annual report was approved on
by:



Kate Rogers (Chair)
Trustee

Date: 27/02/2025

and signed on behalf of the board of trustees



David Sparks (Treasurer)
Trustee

Date: 27/02/2025

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Wycombe Homeless Connection ('the charity') for the year ended 30 April 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA
Independent Examiner
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Date: 27/02/2025

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		326,697	170,747	497,444	475,995
Charitable activities		-	-	-	14,952
Other trading activities		34,473	-	34,473	25,426
Other income		35,602	-	35,602	25,667
Total Income	2	<u>396,772</u>	<u>170,747</u>	<u>567,519</u>	<u>542,040</u>
Expenditure					
Raising funds	3	4,264	-	4,264	2,499
Charitable activities	4	<u>428,158</u>	<u>141,911</u>	<u>570,069</u>	<u>577,920</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>432,422</u>	<u>141,911</u>	<u>574,333</u>	<u>580,419</u>
Net Income / (Expenditure)		<u>(35,650)</u>	<u>28,836</u>	<u>(6,814)</u>	<u>(38,379)</u>
Net Income and Net Movement In Funds					
Total funds brought forward	11	496,414	-	496,414	534,793
Transfers	11	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	<u>460,764</u>	<u>28,836</u>	<u>489,600</u>	<u>496,414</u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Statement of Financial Position

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	8	6,153	8,204
		<u>6,153</u>	<u>8,204</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	10,617	9,749
Short term investments		150,000	150,000
Cash at bank and in hand		328,711	335,383
		<u>489,328</u>	<u>495,132</u>
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	10	<u>5,881</u>	<u>6,922</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>483,447</u>	<u>488,210</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>489,600</u>	<u>496,414</u>
Net Assets	12	<u>489,600</u>	<u>496,414</u>
Funds of The Charity			
Restricted funds	11	28,836	-
Unrestricted funds	11		
Unrestricted general		310,764	346,414
Designated funds		150,000	150,000
		<u>460,764</u>	<u>496,414</u>
Total Charity Funds		<u>489,600</u>	<u>496,414</u>

Trustees Responsibilities

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue :

Name of Trustee:

K Rogers

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Date of approval:

27/02/2025

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Statement of Cash Flows

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(13,891)	(110,780)
	<u>(13,891)</u>	<u>(110,780)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Dividends and interest	7,219	2,983
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(10,255)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>7,219</u>	<u>(7,272)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(6,672)	(118,052)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	485,383	603,435
Cash and Cash Equivalents At The End of The Reporting Period	<u>478,711</u>	<u>485,383</u>

Reconciliation of Net Movement in Funds to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(6,814)	(30,245)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,051	2,051
Dividends and interest from investments	(7,219)	(2,983)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(868)	(17,883)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	<u>(1,041)</u>	<u>(61,720)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(13,891)</u>	<u>(110,780)</u>

Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	328,711	335,383
Short term investments	150,000	150,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>478,711</u>	<u>485,383</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with 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) (effective from 1 January 2019) and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities.

The financial accounts are prepared in Sterling (£) which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

Wycombe Homeless Connection meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Assessment of Going Concern

The Trustees of the charitable company are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern at least for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the term of specific appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 11 of the financial statements.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.4 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is probable that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

- All voluntary income is recognised as donations which are included in full, with associated Gift Aid receivable in the Statement of Financial Activities.
- Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Income from charitable activities is accounted for when invoices are drawn up and the service has been provided (as the point of entitlement).
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified.
- Gifts in Kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.
- Time is expended on the charity's activities and governance which is donated free of charge. It is impractical to quantify the value of the time given, and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the financial statements.
- Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable.

1.5 Resources Expended

Charitable activities - The costs of charitable activities represent the expenses incurred in fulfilling the charity's objectives, including direct costs for providing services and support costs. All expenses are recorded on an accrual basis. Liabilities are recognized as expenses when there is a legal or constructive obligation for the charity to incur them, it is likely that economic benefits will be transferred for settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Value added tax is not recoverable by the charitable organization and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Costs of raising funds include expenditure on promotion and advertising plus any fundraising trading costs.

1.6 Governance Costs

These Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

1.7 Liabilities Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.8 Tangible Fixed Assets

All assets costing more than £700 are capitalised and at historic cost. Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is charged on fixed assets which is written off on a straight-line basis over time estimated useful live of the asset.

Equipment, fixtures and fittings 20% Straight line

Equipment, fixtures and fittings are reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of such assets may not be recoverable. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset is estimated and compared against its carrying amount. Where the estimated recoverable amount is lower, an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.9 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.10 Operating Leases

Rental charges payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the terms of the lease.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively for charitable purposes. The charity is not exempt from Value Added Tax.

1.12 Volunteer Assistance

Time is expended on the charity's activities and governance which is donated free of charge. It is impractical to quantify the value of the time given, and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the financial statements.

1.13 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

There are no critical judgements, significant assumptions concerning the future and key sources of estimation of uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations and Legacies			
Individual donations	180,180	-	180,180
Corporate donations	25,759	-	25,759
Church collections & donations	34,890	-	34,890
Gift aid	10,945	-	10,945
Grants	40,593	170,747	211,340
Community fundraising	34,330	-	34,330
	<u>326,697</u>	<u>170,747</u>	<u>497,444</u>
Charitable Activities			
Homeless health fund	-	-	-
Housing benefit	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Trading Activities			
Fundraising events	34,473	-	34,473
	<u>34,473</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,473</u>
Other Income			
Other income	4,507	-	4,507
Secondment income	23,876	-	23,876
Bank Interest	7,219	-	7,219
	<u>35,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,602</u>
Total Income	<u>396,772</u>	<u>170,747</u>	<u>567,519</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Income (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations and Legacies			
Individual donations	158,461	-	158,461
Corporate donations	29,667	-	29,667
Church collections & donations	29,530	-	29,530
Gift aid	36,763	-	36,763
Grants	162,570	15,000	177,570
Community fundraising	44,004	-	44,004
	<u>460,995</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>475,995</u>
Charitable Activities			
Homeless health fund	1,150	-	1,150
Housing benefit	13,802	-	13,802
	<u>14,952</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,952</u>
Other Trading Activities			
Fundraising events	25,426	-	25,426
	<u>25,426</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,426</u>
Other Income			
Other income	2,767	-	2,767
Secondment income	19,917	-	19,917
Bank Interest	2,983	-	2,983
	<u>25,667</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,667</u>
Total Income	<u>527,040</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>542,040</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

3 Cost of fundraising

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Expenditure on raising funds	4,264	-	4,264
	<u>4,264</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,264</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Expenditure on raising funds	2,499	-	2,499
	<u>2,499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,499</u>

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Accommodation	3,267	1,200	4,467
Bank Charges	255	-	255
Communications & marketing	3,073	-	3,073
Depreciation	2,051	-	2,051
Homeless health fund	-	-	-
Housing benefit	1,869	-	1,869
Insurance	2,679	-	2,679
IT systems	13,337	-	13,337
Legal Fees	9,600	-	9,600
Office expenses	28,847	1,817	30,664
Personalisation	220	2,250	2,470
Recruitment	2,253	-	2,253
Service support	3,058	-	3,058
Staff costs	292,088	136,644	428,732
Employers pension & NI & payroll	51,042	-	51,042
Telephones	6,879	-	6,879
Training	6,597	-	6,597
Travel	1,043	-	1,043
	<u>428,158</u>	<u>141,911</u>	<u>570,069</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Expenditure on charitable activities (*Continued*)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Accommodation	68,564	-	68,564
Bank Charges	298	-	298
Communications & marketing	9,509	-	9,509
Depreciation	2,051	-	2,051
Homeless health fund	2,562	-	2,562
Housing benefit	1,570	-	1,570
Insurance	2,093	-	2,093
IT systems	15,263	-	15,263
Legal Fees	10,572	-	10,572
Office expenses	29,127	-	29,127
Personalisation	4,889	-	4,889
Recruitment	12,128	-	12,128
Service support	5,278	-	5,278
Staff costs	338,870	15,000	353,870
Employers pension & NI & payroll	39,298	-	39,298
Telephones	5,905	-	5,905
Training	13,252	-	13,252
Travel	1,691	-	1,691
	<u>562,920</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>577,920</u>

5 Independent Examiner Fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examination and accounts preparation	3,000	3,000

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

6 Staff Costs

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	428,732	353,870
Social security costs	41,450	31,097
Employer contributions to pension plans	9,592	7,757
	<u>479,774</u>	<u>393,168</u>

The average headcount of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Average headcount		
Direct charitable activities	11	8
Management and administration	3	3
	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>

The number of employees who received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
More than £60,000	-	-

Key Management Personnel

The trustees, CEO, services manager, business and finance manager and fundraising and marketing manager are considered to be key management personnel for the purposes of the Charities SORP FRS102. The remuneration of the key management personnel for the year including employers national insurance and employers pension contributions was £207,127 (2023: £153,148).

7 Trustee Remuneration, Expenses and Donations

The trustees received no remuneration in the year (2023: £Nil).

During the year the total aggregated donations made to the charity by the trustees £480 (2023: £540).

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equipment, fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1st May 2023	10,255	10,255
Additions	-	-
At 30th April 2024	10,255	10,255
Depreciation		
At 1st May 2023	2,051	2,051
Depreciation Charge	2,051	2,051
At 30th April 2024	4,102	4,102
Net Book Value		
At 30th April 2024	6,153	6,153
At 30th April 2023	8,204	8,204

9 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	300	-
Prepayments and accrued income	10,317	9,749
	10,617	9,749

10 Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	2,535	3,922
Accruals	3,000	3,000
Other creditors	346	-
	5,881	6,922

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

11 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	1 May 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	30 Apr 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Unrestricted					
General funds	346,414	396,772	(432,422)	-	310,764
	346,414	396,772	(432,422)	-	310,764
Designated					
Reserve fund	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Total Unrestricted	496,414	396,772	(432,422)	-	460,764
Restricted Funds					
Housing benefit	-	-	-	-	-
Community Cost of Living Fund	-	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
Night Shelter Transformation Fund	-	30,815	(30,815)	-	-
King Cullimore Trust	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-
Rothschild Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Red Kite Springboard Fund	-	10,000	(833)	-	9,167
T and S Williams Foundation	-	7,500	(625)	-	6,875
Clare Foundation	-	17,932	(7,471)	-	10,461
Albert Hunt Trust	-	7,000	(4,667)	-	2,333
Total Restricted	-	170,747	(141,911)	-	28,836
Total Funds	496,414	567,519	(574,333)	-	489,600

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

	1 Apr 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 Mar 2023 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Unrestricted					
General funds	377,951	527,040	(565,419)	6,842	346,414
	377,951	527,040	(565,419)	6,842	346,414
Designated					
Reserve fund	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Total Unrestricted	527,951	527,040	(565,419)	6,842	496,414
Restricted Funds					
Housing benefit	6,842	-	-	(6,842)	-
Heart of Bucks Community Foundation	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Total Restricted	6,842	15,000	(15,000)	(6,842)	-
Total Funds	534,793	542,040	(580,419)	-	496,414

Fund Descriptions

Designated Funds

Reserve fund

Funds designated for the ongoing reserves of the organisation held inline with the reserves policy.

Restricted Funds

Housing benefit

Funds received from the local council for housing benefit relating to service users utilizing the organisation accommodation services.

Heart of Bucks Community Foundation

Outreach project to help people 'stuck' in rough sleeping who are vulnerable and/or can be involved in anti-social behaviour.

Community Cost of Living Fund

This was paid to cover both retrospective and ongoing costs and contributed to our support work. We reported on spend in the following areas:

- Management staff costs
- Admin staff costs
- Support staff costs
- Premises
- Utilities
- Existing delivery staff costs

Night Shelter Transformation Fund

Grant towards support worker project costs including support worker and senior support workers salaries, management costs, accommodation fund and personalisation costs.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

Fund Descriptions (*Continued*)

King Cullimore Trust	Contribution towards our homelessness support work including salaries, legal support payments, rent in advance payments, personalisation costs, health costs, emergency accommodation of over £125,000 per annum.
Rothschild Foundation	We had two grants from them £500 was sponsorship of a staff member who did the Big Sleepout 2023 and as such is unrestricted £10,000 was towards our homelessness prevention project (called advocacy in the paperwork) and was the third payment of 10k over three years so should be accounted for as per the previous two payments.
Red Kite Springboard Fund	Grant towards our homelessness prevention project, specifically £10,000 towards homelessness prevention worker salary.
T and S Williams Foundation	£7,500 towards our homelessness prevention project including volunteering coordinator costs, training for volunteers, venue hire for Chesham, marketing costs. This was a joint WHC/AHAG grant.
Clare Foundation	Grant towards homelessness prevention worker salary costs.
Albert Hunt Trust	Grant towards services manager salary costs.

12 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed assets	6,153	-	6,153
Current assets	460,492	28,836	489,328
Creditors less than 1 year	(5,881)	-	(5,881)
	<u>460,764</u>	<u>28,836</u>	<u>489,600</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed assets	8,204	-	8,204
Current assets	495,132	-	495,132
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,922)	-	(6,922)
	<u>496,414</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>496,414</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

13 Related Party Transactions

During the year, the charity received total donations of £4,250 (2023: £2,000) from Union Baptist Church High Wycombe, who are a related party organization through mutual trusteeship with Mark Dykes and Sheena Dykes being trustees for both organizations.

During the year, the charity received total donations of £0 (2023: £2,000) from High Wycombe Methodist Circuit, who are a related party organization through mutual trusteeship with David Sparks being a trustee for both organizations.

During the year, the charity paid £18,543 (2023: £18,129) of rent to the Parish of High Wycombe All Saints Church, who are a related party organization through mutual trusteeship with Dawn Segre being a trustee for both organizations.

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1156211

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1156211

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 30th April 2023



Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Contents Page

	Page
Legal and Administrative Information	1
Trustees' Annual Report	2
Independent Auditors Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Statement of Financial Position	9
Statement of Cash Flows	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Legal and Administrative Information

Reference

The Wycombe Homeless Connection is a registered Charity in England and Wales as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 17 March 2014. Prior to conversion to a CIO the organisation formed as a registered charity in 2009. The primary priority of the organisation is to provide a caring, hope-filled response to those whose lives were at risk because of homelessness.

Registered Charity Numbers 1156211

Registered Office Oakley Hall
8 Castle Street
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP13 6RF

Website www.wyhoc.org.uk

Trustees	Sheena Dykes	<i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i>
	Kathryn Rogers	<i>Appointed 13/01/2022</i>
	Richard Alexander	<i>Appointed 14/05/2020</i>
	Dawn Segrue	<i>Appointed 12/01/2017</i>
	Muriel Reynolds	<i>Appointed 14/05/2015</i>
	David Winder	<i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i>
	Mark Dykes	<i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i>
	David Sparks	<i>Appointed 03/03/2014</i>
	Brian Morely	<i>Resigned 15/04/2023</i>
	Peter Joy	<i>Resigned 13/02/2023</i>
	Roberto Mariano	<i>Resigned 09/03/2023</i>

Chief Executive Officer James Boulton

Primary Bankers CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA
Wyatt & Co Chartered Accountants
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Trustees' Annual Report

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation CIO, with Trustees appointed by trustees, and its governance is set out in its constitution.

Appointment to the board of trustees is normally for a three-year period, made by trustees.

The trustees meet monthly (except in August) for formal meetings. Where necessary, decisions may be taken between meetings following verbal or email discussions.

Trustee training begins from the initial application, where the candidate is provided with a document detailing the duties and responsibilities of a trustee of the charity and the Chair of Trustees checks their suitability as a trustee. This is followed by a visit to a Trustee Meeting as an Observer, and a discussion between the candidate and one or more existing trustees to clarify issues and answer questions. Following appointment, the trustees are updated with changes to charity law or other legislation which specifically influences the charity. In this, guidance is taken from the Charity Commission, HMRC, etc.

The pay and remuneration of the charity's paid staff is set according to the organisation's pay policy. Pay rises are not automatic but at the discretion of trustees. Normally pay rates will be reviewed annually in January and increased by the percentage given in the annual earnings index for regular pay in the public sector published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and based on the index for November. Other pay rises are based on development in the role and are normally awarded in May. These are called developmental pay rises. This mechanism will move employees through their pay band as they gain experience.

Public Benefit Disclosure

Details of activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit are given in 'Objectives and Activities' and 'Achievements and Performance' below.

The Trustees have read and continue to consider Charity Commission guidance relating to Public Benefit. Having regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, the trustees led the charity to pursue these objects principally by continuing to provide housing advice and support and emergency accommodation, but also by evolving services, developing new services and increasing effectiveness to provide further public benefit.

Objectives and Activities Objectives

The charitable objects of Wycombe Homeless Connection (WHC) are:

The relief of poverty by the provision of emergency and other accommodation, advice and assistance for persons in need who are deemed homeless and require such accommodation, advice, or assistance.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Trustees' Annual Report

Main Activities

The main activities of the Trustees are to give overall oversight to the work of the charity. This includes the services which the charity provides to prevent homelessness, to reduce harm for people who are homeless, helping to house people who are homeless and defending the rights of people who are homeless or facing homelessness. The trustees also have oversight of the work to fundraise for the charity and to market the charity in order to raise support for its work and the financial management and regulatory compliance of the charity.

Strategies to Achieve the Above Objectives

The main strategies to achieve current objectives are:

- Preventing homelessness before it starts
- Reducing harm for people who are homeless
- Helping house people who are homeless
- Defending the rights of people who are homeless or facing homelessness

Success in the above strategies is indicated by monitoring data which confirms the main outputs and outcomes within each of these strategies. These are reported to the trustees by the CEO of the charity along with reports which show the context for this data.

Grant-making

The charity does not make grants to other Charities.

Volunteers

The charity benefits greatly from the voluntary contributions of time from a number of committed volunteers. This includes administration volunteers, fundraising volunteers, Support Centre volunteers as well as others. To all of them, the Trustees express their thanks.

Social Investment

The charity does not make financial social investments.

Achievements and Performance

The charity's principal aim is to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring in the south of Buckinghamshire and to mitigate against the harm that it causes.

Making homelessness rare – The charity seeks to assist those people who are at risk of becoming homeless. It offers free access to legal advice on rights, responsibilities and options, assistance with budgeting, a service of negotiating with accommodation providers, income maximisation, support in securing financial assistance in the form of small grants and some direct financial assistance. All of this is aimed at preventing evictions into homelessness either through allowing a household to remain in their home or assisting them to move to an alternative home before they become homeless. In 2022-23 the charity prevented 38 households who were actively threatened with homelessness from losing their homes.

Making homelessness brief – The charity seeks to assist those people who are homeless to help them to access suitable housing. This can include access to the private rented sector, access to social housing or access to supported accommodation. Support can include advice on options, making referrals for supported accommodation, making referrals to other organisations who can assist, direct financial assistance, IT support and negotiating with accommodation providers. In 2022-23 the charity helped 83 homeless people move into accommodation.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Trustees' Annual Report

Ensuring homelessness is non-recurring – The charity seeks to ensure that those people who have experienced homelessness or the threat of homelessness do not find themselves in the same position again. Work towards this includes income maximisation, referrals to other organisations providing assistance with money management, substance misuse and mental health.

Mitigating against the harm that homelessness causes – The charity seeks to ensure that the many harms associated with homelessness are mitigated against as far as possible. This includes the provision of emergency food, clothing and bedding, the provision of emergency shelter where appropriate, health care navigation and direct financial assistance.

Fundraising

The organisation raises funds to cover the cost of activities related to providing its services and running the charity. This is done through raising funds directly from individuals within the community, from businesses, from community groups, from fundraising events and activities organised by supporters, from fundraising events organised by the organisation itself and by applying for grants.

Financial Review Position at Year-end

A Statement of Financial Position is attached to this report. The CIO ended the year with tangible fixed assets of £8,204 and current assets of £495,132. Creditors falling due within one year are £6,922. The net assets are £496,414.

Principal Use of Funds

Most of the expenditure is Staff costs.

Principal Sources of Funding

The charity's income is primarily donations from individuals, churches, corporations, and from grants. – £50,000 grant income was accrued from the previous year. This was to pay for Winter Accommodation which had not been invoiced in time. Ultimately £40.5k was invoiced and the balance of £9.5k was absorbed into general funds.

Investments

The charity does not hold investments but does hold an interest-bearing Shawbrook Bank and CAF Bank accounts for the keeping of reserves and designated funds.

Key Risks and Uncertainties Disclosure

Charitable activities

While charities continue to face an uncertain future, with giving expected to decline, the charity benefits from having income spread across different types of sources, including grants and donations from the public or corporates. This allows the charity to spread risk and support its sustainability while continuing to review and re-model its streams of income and balancing this with reduction in discretionary spending.

Plans for Future Periods

The major plans for the year 2023 to 2024 include:

- Expansion of our geographical reach to cover southern Buckinghamshire and through our close working with Aylesbury Homeless Action Group see a wider reach of services to the whole county.
- To be an outstanding independent provider of advocacy services for people facing homelessness in Buckinghamshire.
- Making a quantifiable impact on homelessness in Buckinghamshire.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Trustees' Annual Report

Pension

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is administered by an external Independent pension provider. Contributions are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as they fall due.

Reserves

The reserves policy is to maintain a balance of between 3 and 6 months operating expenditure plus sufficient funds to meet redundancy and other legal liabilities in the event of a forced closure.

Reserve Fund

A separate reserve fund has been maintained at £150,000 to cover any redundancy or legal commitments, and we aim to maintain a minimum balance of at least £300,000 in total, including the reserve fund. The reserve fund is reviewed annually as part of the budgeting process although the adequacy of the reserve fund is monitored more frequently. The total funds held at the yearend were £596,414 of which £150,000 was held as the designated reserve fund and £346,414 as unrestricted funds.

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which could influence the ability of the Wycombe Homeless Connection 1181773 to continue as a going concern.

Events after the end of the reporting period

There are no events after the reporting date to report.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Trustees' Annual Report

Statement of Trustee' responsibilities

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP,
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' annual report was approved on
by:



Kate Rogers (Chair)
Trustee

Date: 19/02/2024

and signed on behalf of the board of trustees



David Sparks (Treasurer)
Trustee

Date: 19/02/2024

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Wycombe Homeless Connection ('the charity') for the year ended 30 April 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA
Independent Examiner
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Date:

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		460,995	15,000	475,995	520,023
Charitable activities		14,952	-	14,952	28,481
Other trading activities		25,426	-	25,426	25,811
Other income		25,667	-	25,667	12,864
Total Income	2	<u>527,040</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>542,040</u>	<u>587,179</u>
Expenditure					
Raising funds	3	2,499	-	2,499	2,282
Charitable activities	4	<u>562,920</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>577,920</u>	<u>471,163</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>565,419</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>580,419</u>	<u>473,445</u>
Net Income / (Expenditure)		<u>(38,379)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(38,379)</u>	<u>113,734</u>
Net Income and Net Movement In Funds					
Total funds brought forward	11	527,951	6,842	534,793	421,059
Transfers	11	<u>6,842</u>	<u>(6,842)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	<u>496,414</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>496,414</u>	<u>534,793</u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement is a combined Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the purposes of meeting both companies act and charity SORP reporting requirements.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Statement of Financial Position

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	8	8,204	-
		<u>8,204</u>	<u>-</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	9,749	-
Short term investments		150,000	150,000
Cash at bank and in hand		335,383	453,435
		<u>495,132</u>	<u>603,435</u>
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	10	<u>6,922</u>	<u>68,642</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>488,210</u>	<u>534,793</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>496,414</u>	<u>534,793</u>
Net Assets	12	<u>496,414</u>	<u>534,793</u>
Funds of The Charity			
Restricted funds	11	-	6,842
Unrestricted funds	11		
Unrestricted general		346,414	377,951
Designated funds		150,000	150,000
		<u>496,414</u>	<u>527,951</u>
Total Charity Funds		<u>496,414</u>	<u>534,793</u>

Trustees Responsibilities

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue :

Name of Trustee:	D Sparks	K Rogers
Signed on behalf of the Trustees:		
Date of approval:	19/02/2024	19/02/2024

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Statement of Cash Flows

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(110,780)	17,192
	<u>(110,780)</u>	<u>17,192</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Dividends and interest	2,983	634
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(10,255)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(7,272)</u>	<u>634</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(118,052)	17,826
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	603,435	585,609
Cash and Cash Equivalents At The End of The Reporting Period	<u>485,383</u>	<u>603,435</u>

Reconciliation of Net Movement in Funds to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(30,245)	113,734
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,051	-
Dividends and interest from investments	(2,983)	(634)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(17,883)	-
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(61,720)	(95,908)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(110,780)</u>	<u>17,192</u>

Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank	335,383	453,435
Short term investments	150,000	150,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>485,383</u>	<u>603,435</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with 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) (effective from 1 January 2019) and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities.

The financial accounts are prepared in Sterling (£) which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

Wycombe Homeless Connection meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Assessment of Going Concern

The Trustees of the charitable company are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern at least for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the term of specific appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 11 of the financial statements.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.4 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is probable that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

- All voluntary income is recognised as donations which are included in full, with associated Gift Aid receivable in the Statement of Financial Activities.
- Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Income from charitable activities is accounted for when invoices are drawn up and the service has been provided (as the point of entitlement).
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified.
- Gifts in Kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.
- Time is expended on the charity's activities and governance which is donated free of charge. It is impractical to quantify the value of the time given, and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the financial statements.
- Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable.

1.5 Resources Expended

Charitable activities - The costs of charitable activities represent the expenses incurred in fulfilling the charity's objectives, including direct costs for providing services and support costs. All expenses are recorded on an accrual basis. Liabilities are recognized as expenses when there is a legal or constructive obligation for the charity to incur them, it is likely that economic benefits will be transferred for settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Value added tax is not recoverable by the charitable organization and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Costs of raising funds include expenditure on promotion and advertising plus any fundraising trading costs.

1.6 Governance Costs

These Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

1.7 Liabilities Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.8 Tangible Fixed Assets

All assets costing more than £700 are capitalised and at historic cost. Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is charged on fixed assets which is written off on a straight-line basis over time estimated useful live of the asset.

Equipment, fixtures and fittings 20% Straight line

Equipment, fixtures and fittings are reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of such assets may not be recoverable. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset is estimated and compared against its carrying amount. Where the estimated recoverable amount is lower, an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.9 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.10 Operating Leases

Rental charges payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the terms of the lease.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively for charitable purposes. The charity is not exempt from Value Added Tax.

1.12 Volunteer Assistance

Time is expended on the charity's activities and governance which is donated free of charge. It is impractical to quantify the value of the time given, and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the financial statements.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations and Legacies			
Individual donations	158,461	-	158,461
Corporate donations	29,667	-	29,667
Church collections & donations	29,530	-	29,530
Gift aid	36,763	-	36,763
Grants	162,570	15,000	177,570
Community fundraising	44,004	-	44,004
	<u>460,995</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>475,995</u>
Charitable Activities			
Homeless health fund	1,150	-	1,150
Housing benefit	13,802	-	13,802
	<u>14,952</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,952</u>
Other Trading Activities			
Fundraising events	25,426	-	25,426
	<u>25,426</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,426</u>
Other Income			
Other income	2,767	-	2,767
Secondment income	19,917	-	19,917
Bank Interest	2,983	-	2,983
	<u>25,667</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,667</u>
Total Income	<u>527,040</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>542,040</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Income (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations and Legacies			
Individual donations	110,276	-	110,276
Corporate donations	48,185	-	48,185
Church collections & donations	26,857	-	26,857
Gift aid	30,521	-	30,521
Grants	246,052	-	246,052
Community fundraising	58,131	-	58,131
	<u>520,023</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>520,023</u>
Charitable Activities			
Homeless health fund	24,167	-	24,167
Housing benefit	4,314	-	4,314
	<u>28,481</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,481</u>
Other Trading Activities			
Fundraising events	25,811	-	25,811
	<u>25,811</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,811</u>
Other Income			
Other income	12,230	-	12,230
Secondment income	-	-	-
Bank Interest	634	-	634
	<u>12,864</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,864</u>
Total Income	<u>587,179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>587,179</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

3 Cost of fundraising

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Expenditure on raising funds	2,499	-	2,499
	<u>2,499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,499</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Expenditure on raising funds	2,282	-	2,282
	<u>2,282</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,282</u>

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Accommodation	68,564	-	68,564
Bank Charges	298	-	298
Communications & marketing	9,509	-	9,509
Depreciation	2,051	-	2,051
Homeless health fund	2,562	-	2,562
Housing benefit	1,570	-	1,570
Insurance	2,093	-	2,093
IT systems	15,263	-	15,263
Legal Fees	10,572	-	10,572
Office expenses	29,127	-	29,127
Personalisation	4,889	-	4,889
Recruitment	12,128	-	12,128
Service support	5,278	-	5,278
Staff costs	338,870	15,000	353,870
Employers pension & NI & payroll	39,298	-	39,298
Telephones	5,905	-	5,905
Training	13,252	-	13,252
Travel	1,691	-	1,691
	<u>562,920</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>577,920</u>

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Expenditure on charitable activities (*Continued*)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Accommodation	9,012	-	9,012
Bank Charges	193	-	193
Communications & marketing	14,346	-	14,346
Depreciation	-	-	-
Homeless health fund	4,035	-	4,035
Housing benefit	4,314	-	4,314
Insurance	2,002	-	2,002
IT systems	15,865	-	15,865
Legal Fees	2,706	-	2,706
Office expenses	47,972	-	47,972
Personalisation	2,651	-	2,651
Recruitment	1,328	-	1,328
Service support	26,021	-	26,021
Staff costs	297,630	-	297,630
Employers pension & NI & payroll	31,782	-	31,782
Telephones	4,812	-	4,812
Training	5,849	-	5,849
Travel	645	-	645
	<u>471,163</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>471,163</u>

5 Independent Examiner Fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

	2023
	£
Independent examination and accounts preparation	3,000

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

6 Staff Costs

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	353,870	297,630
Social security costs	31,097	23,998
Employer contributions to pension plans	7,757	5,982
	<u>392,724</u>	<u>329,412</u>

The average headcount of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Average headcount		
Direct charitable activities	8	9
Management and administration	3	3
	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>

The number of employees who received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
More than £60,000	-	-

Key Management Personnel

The trustees, CEO, services manager, business and finance manager and fundraising and marketing manager are considered to be key management personnel for the purposes of the Charities SORP FRS102. The remuneration of the key management personnel for the year including employers national insurance and employers pension contributions was £153,148.

7 Trustee Remuneration, Expenses and Donations

The trustees received no remuneration in the year (2022: £Nil).

During the year the total aggregated donations made to the charity by the trustees £540.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equipment, fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1st May 2022	-	-
Additions	10,255	10,255
At 30th April 2023	10,255	10,255
Depreciation		
At 1st May 2022	-	-
Depreciation Charge	2,051	2,051
At 30th April 2023	2,051	2,051
Net Book Value		
At 30th April 2023	8,204	8,204
At 30th April 2022	-	-

9 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	9,749	-
	9,749	-

10 Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	3,922	10,600
Accruals	3,000	1,200
Other creditors	-	56,842
	6,922	68,642

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

11 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	1 Apr 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 Mar 2023 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Unrestricted					
General funds	377,951	527,040	(565,419)	6,842	346,414
	377,951	527,040	(565,419)	6,842	346,414
Designated					
Reserve fund	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Total Unrestricted	527,951	527,040	(565,419)	6,842	496,414
Restricted Funds					
Housing benefit	6,842	-	-	(6,842)	-
Heart of Bucks Community Foundation	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Total Restricted	6,842	15,000	(15,000)	(6,842)	-
Total Funds	534,793	542,040	(580,419)	-	496,414

Fund Descriptions

Designated Funds

Reserve fund

Funds designated for the ongoing reserves of the organisation held inline with the reserves policy.

Restricted Funds

Housing benefit

Funds received from the local council for housing benefit relating to service users utilizing the organisation accommodation services.

Heart of Bucks Community Foundation

Outreach project to help people 'stuck' in rough sleeping who are vulnerable and/or can be involved in anti-social behaviour.

Wycombe Homeless Connection

Year Ended 30th April 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

12 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed assets	8,204	-	8,204
Current assets	495,132	-	495,132
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,922)	-	(6,922)
	<u>496,414</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>496,414</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	596,593	6,842	603,435
Creditors less than 1 year	(68,642)	-	(68,642)
	<u>527,951</u>	<u>6,842</u>	<u>534,793</u>

13 Related Party Transactions

During the year, the charity received total donations of £2,000 from Union Baptist Church High Wycombe, who are a related party organization through mutual trusteeship with Mark Dykes and Sheena Dykes being trustees for both organizations.

During the year, the charity received total donations of £2,000 from High Wycombe Methodist Circuit, who are a related party organization through mutual trusteeship with David Sparks being a trustee for both organizations.

During the year, the charity paid £18,129 of rent to the Parish of High Wycombe All Saints Church, who are a related party organization through mutual trusteeship with Dawn Segre being a trustee for both organizations.

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1156211

Accounts

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021-22



Registered charity no. 1156211



OUR VISION

WE HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR FACING HOMELESSNESS BY:

- ▶ Preventing homelessness before it starts
- ▶ Reducing harm for people who are homeless
- ▶ Helping house people who are homeless
- ▶ Defending the rights of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY PERSON WHO IS HOMELESS IN OUR COMMUNITY HAS WORTH AND SHOULD HAVE A FRESH START, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR SITUATION.

PLEASE DISPLAY OUR POSTER (SEE PAGES 8-9)



CONTENTS

Our vision	2	Governance	10
Welcome	3	Our impact	11
Helping people who are homeless	4	Volunteering	12
Homeless health	5	Partnerships	12
Preventing homelessness before it starts	6	Fundraising update	13
Defending the rights of people who are homeless	7	Financial summary	14
Pull-out poster	8-9	What's next?	15

Wycombe Homeless Connection is a charitable incorporated organisation with a governing document dated February 2014 based on the Charity Commission's 'Foundation' model constitution.

This review reports our activities between 1 May 2021 and 30 April 2022, unless otherwise stated, and was approved in September 2022.

Due to the nature of our work, we often change the names of people whose stories we have included. Pictures are often for illustrative purposes and may be a stock image to ensure the privacy of our clients and volunteers. All content is the copyright of Wycombe Homeless Connection and our partners and may only be reproduced with permission.

WELCOME

FROM OUR CHAIR

In spite of the challenges of the pandemic and the economy, we were once again blessed to be able to provide help.



We built a strong collaboration with a charity in Aylesbury; we had support from a number of strategic funders to help us expand our reach; and a major recruitment effort saw us within sight of completing our staff team.

We had been collaborating with Aylesbury Homeless Action Group (AHAG) in order to present a county-wide independent charitable front to Buckinghamshire's unitary council. During the year, AHAG had difficulty replacing their long-time operations manager, so approached us to see if we could help. After discussion, we agreed to second our CEO to AHAG part-time. This opportunity cemented our ability to work constructively with the council for the benefit of those coming to our two charities for help.

Our funding base continued to be broad and during the year we received funding specifically aimed at helping us serve the county more widely. One outcome was an away day for trustees and staff of AHAG and WHC, which confirmed the congruence of our visions and gave us confidence in our collaboration.

For some years we have been working to professionalise the management of the charity. In addition, the economic outlook prompted us to expand our frontline team to cope with extra demand. A significant recruitment effort achieved both of these aims, with six fantastic new members of staff due to start within a few months of the end of the year.

We saw God provide abundantly and the charity continues to be in a position to serve people effectively into the future.

Sheena Dykes BEM, DL
Chair of Trustees

Sheena Dykes

FROM OUR CEO

Despite the enormous challenges the pandemic and economic environment posed, we took great strides in tackling homelessness in our community.



At the highest point, we looked after 50 people in emergency accommodation who otherwise would have been sleeping rough. Our homelessness prevention team helped record numbers of people to avoid losing their homes and secured almost £65,000 in direct grants to help people avoid homelessness.

The emergency accommodation that we and the government provided during the first two years of the pandemic ended. The difficult reality is that despite everyone's best efforts some people returned to the streets and more continued to join them. We have added to our frontline team in order to make sure we are there for as many people as possible.

Our specialist support worker has grown our health projects working with more GPs and social prescribers to make sure no one misses out on healthcare. It was great to see our targeted work to reach new communities make a difference; almost a quarter of people we helped were from the Chesham area.

We've taken time to invest in our staff and processes to make sure we are always working towards being an equal, diverse and inclusive charity. This included reviewing our Faith Foundation which affirms our Christian mission which in turn drives all our work and enables us to listen to and serve people across our community fairly and with a view to collaboration. A highlight for me was joining local Islamic Charity Seerah Today for their 'Ramadan Experience' where we talked about how Christians and Muslims can work together on social issues.

We welcomed back more volunteers to their roles and financial and practical support met every need we had.

Thank you for all your support.

James Boulton
Chief Executive Officer

James Boulton

HELPING PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS

Our priority was to provide a caring, hope-filled response to those whose lives were at risk because of homelessness. More people came to our **frontline emergency homelessness services** for help.

We provided emergency accommodation for the most vulnerable people.

At the start of the year there were more than 50 people in council-funded emergency accommodation. We worked hard to help them move on as quickly as possible – a challenging task with little affordable housing locally – but we helped 45 people move into new homes.

We provided 28 people with a safe place to stay during our **winter accommodation project**.

Over the year we paid for **hundreds more bed-nights** making sure people who fell through the cracks of statutory support were safe and well.

Despite continuing restrictions, we were able to keep our **Support Centre** running and we piloted a re-opening of our **volunteer-led Plug In** evening drop-in sessions where anyone sleeping rough could get food, clothing, conversation, access to laundry and a shower and most importantly help and hope. Our staff and volunteers did a life-saving job. They made hundreds of **welfare calls**, delivered **food parcels** and distributed **emergency care packs**.

We piloted a **community outreach project in Chesham**, an area we are targeting for increased support as we know there is great need in the area. In fact, **one in six of our clients came from Chesham**.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT:



Kate
Trustee and fundraiser

Kate joined our board of trustees this year bringing her expertise and passion, and ran her third London marathon for us!

“I volunteer as a trustee to use my business management experience developed over my career to help the charity run as efficiently as possible.

“Volunteering enables me to meet new people and continue to challenge myself by helping how I can with the management of the charity.”

CLIVE’S STORY:

Not long before Christmas, Clive knocked on our door for the first time in a few years. Things hadn’t been going well; after a period sleeping rough in London, he had recently returned to Wycombe because he had some support locally. He also thought we might be able to help as we had a few years previously.

After checking his options, we gave Clive a place in our winter emergency accommodation. He had a room to himself and a safe, warm place to stay from the cold, wet, long winter. For Clive, being in his late 50s with the health conditions he had, this was life-saving!

By March, Clive hadn’t managed to find a more permanent home. He was still vulnerable, so we worked with one of our partners who placed him in temporary accommodation.

We then brought together help from other organisations, providing Clive with food through the foodbank, health support via our homeless health worker and help to find a home with Connection Support. It was months of work for Clive, us and our partners, but as we write, he has just been able to take up a place in a private rented home.



After months of partnership working, Clive has a home of his own

HOMELESS HEALTH

Did you know, people who are homeless are more likely to die younger than they should, with an average age of death of 47 for men and even lower for women at 43? This is 30 years younger than the general population.

Our Homeless Healthcare Navigator, Bee, focused on directly helping people to access care, assisting them to register with a GP, get to appointments, pick up prescriptions, set up dentist and physiotherapy appointments and more.

We partnered with Tower House and the Priory surgeries among others who **registered our clients** to their service and provided **extended appointments**, much needed as the people we serve often have complex medical needs.

We worked with local GPs to arrange **flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinics**, inviting our clients and helping them get there.

Bee also worked with **social prescribers** and **primary care networks** to make sure our clients were offered quick and effective care they were entitled to, and to make sure healthcare providers knew we were there to advocate for our clients.

Bee also made sure no one was discharged from hospital without somewhere safe to go, and with the right care in place for their recovery.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT:



Bee Lötter
Senior Support Worker

“Developing a trust-filled relationship with our clients is vital to the work I do. I love making connections and being able to provide help, support and love to people who are homeless and as a result, often locked out of the healthcare they need.

“Working alongside NHS staff and GP surgeries is wonderful. They are empathic and passionate about serving our clients. Getting medical assistance arranged for people who otherwise don’t always get the health support they need is fulfilling and moreover, life-saving.”

DANIELLE’S STORY:

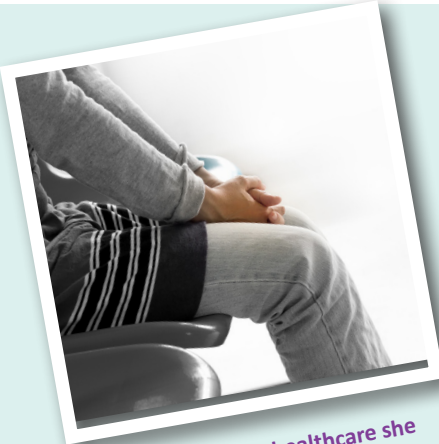
Danielle got in touch on a Monday. She was in her forties and had multiple physical and mental health problems, and for a lot of complex and sad reasons was sleeping rough.

She was incredibly vulnerable so our homeless health worker got straight to work.

Alongside helping Danielle find a home, we asked our friends at Tower House Surgery if they would register Danielle and see her as soon as possible. We work closely with the team at Tower House and together we make sure our homeless clients can register with a GP.

In less than a day the team at Tower House had registered Danielle, and a phone call appointment was arranged and she was taken on as a high priority patient.

So we’re very grateful to the team at Tower House and Priory surgeries and other healthcare staff across Bucks whom we work with to make sure the people we serve are given help, hope and good health.



Danielle got the healthcare she needed and was entitled to

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS BEFORE IT STARTS

Homelessness will only be solved if we can prevent people from losing their homes in the first place.

The complex economic crisis deepened, COVID-related emergency accommodation came to an end, and hundreds of households in Buckinghamshire were facing homelessness.

Having proved vital and popular since its launch, we kept our homelessness prevention helpline running.

Our homelessness prevention workers gave free, independent advice and support on a broad range of topics including housing benefit-related advice.

They helped clients apply for grants from various sources that would prevent them losing their homes; they secured over £64,970 to help people pay off rent arrears and other debts so they could stay in their homes.

Our weekly housing legal advice clinics began to get busier after the eviction ban ended, with people asking for help to fight illegal and unfair evictions.

We continued to partner with Hillingdon Law Centre, Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme and in particular Aylesbury Homeless Action Group who promoted our services to their clients in the north of the county, making sure there was a consistent level of help across Buckinghamshire.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT:



Bronwen
Frontline volunteer

“When I retired from nursing eight years ago I started volunteering at WHC’s Night Shelter, then joined the Support Centre team.

“One of the most important things I think I do is to greet new clients and I try to be as warm and friendly as possible. The clients are often anxious and stressed. I try to help them tell their story and feel at ease.

“I love that even the small things that we do have a big effect on people’s lives.”

CASE STUDY:

Stephen’s benefits were in a mess and it wasn’t his fault.

His family broke down and not long after, he suffered a bereavement. Stephen was signed off sick from work with anxiety and depression and his income eventually went right down. His child maintenance payments weren’t adjusted and so a spiral began that many people are familiar with. Stephen’s Universal Credit payments went wrong next, he fell behind on his rent and he couldn’t pay his other bills or buy food.

Before he knew it, he was thousands of pounds in rental debt. His housing association were reluctant to help at first, issuing him with an eviction notice. He was desperate and asked us for help.

Our homelessness prevention team swung into action. They helped Stephen talk to child maintenance services to charge him the right amount based on his actual income. This worked and he even received a refund making his rent affordable again. We helped him apply for a grant from the Council which was successful and cleared all his arrears. The eviction notice was lifted and Stephen didn’t lose his home, which was incredible for him, and for us!



Despite huge challenges, Stephen worked with us and paid off thousands in rental debt and kept his home

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS

We contributed to Buckinghamshire Council’s homelessness and rough sleeping strategy (2022-25), the first homelessness strategy following the unitary authority’s creation in 2020.

We represented the views of people we work with. We were pleased to see homelessness prioritised, but called for increased involvement of people who had experienced, or were experiencing, actual homelessness or the risk of homelessness, so that they could shape the services.

We continued to campaign to revoke proposed government rules that would make sleeping rough grounds for deportation in certain circumstances.

As an organisation dedicated to fighting homelessness, we stood against the new rough sleeping immigration rules and pledged to do everything in our power to support those who need it, regardless of their immigration status.

To that end, we either gave or connected 28 people to advice about their immigration status. Some people living in the UK do not have a permanent immigration status; they are referred to as having an ‘NRPF condition’, which stands for No Recourse to Public Funds. This means they are not able to apply for most benefits and are ineligible for most help available to those who are homeless.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT:



Paul
All-round volunteer

“Why do I volunteer?
So many reasons.

“Our adopted son has been, and still is at times, in exactly the same position as a lot of our guests. So how could I not help!

“Matthew, chapter 25, says: ‘When you helped the homeless or cared for the sick, or visited someone in prison, you did it for me.’ Volunteering gives me a great sense of purpose and meeting people I would not normally meet, both clients and other volunteers, is great.”

“When people retire, they can lose the connection and camaraderie. When you volunteer with like-minded people you can recapture that connection.”

LIAM’S STORY:

Tabatha, one of our homelessness prevention workers said: “I love to see the transformation in the lives of people like Liam because of work that we have done with and for them.”

For over seven years, Liam has been sleeping rough or on friends’ sofas. He had been a guest in our winter night shelter. Like so many, Liam was caught in homelessness in no small part because of his immigration status. Despite living and working in the UK for a long time, his lack of a formal immigration status made him ineligible for the help he needed to find a home for good.

Our homelessness prevention team, together with local partner organisations, worked with Liam to help him navigate the complex and confusing system and get the help he was entitled to.

Liam came to our specialist immigration advice clinic with a team member from Connection Support. He met our advocacy workers and our partner from the Hillingdon Law Centre and together we worked with him on a plan and paperwork.

After months of hard work we were thrilled when he was granted leave to stay in the UK. Now Liam is in the position to get the help he is entitled to which should mean he can find a suitable and stable home.

Tabatha said: “My favourite part about my job is how rewarding it is, knowing that we are helping people understand their rights so they can get the help they are entitled to.”



Helping Liam understand his rights meant he was able to stay in the UK and find a home

THE DIFFERENCE

YOU'VE MADE



POSTER PULL OUT

ANNE'S STORY

Anne, 66, was living with her daughter, helping take care of her grandchildren.

Sadly, Anne was struggling with an addiction to alcohol and there was a catastrophic family breakdown. It became too much; Anne's daughter told her she had to leave.

Anne contacted the council hoping they would find her a place to live, as she had no savings and no other options. But Anne wasn't classed as being in priority need, so initially wasn't offered a place to stay.

The housing system, hard to navigate at the best of times, was defeating her and she faced living on the street, which is when she came to us.

We helped Anne talk to the council, proved they had a duty to give her a place to stay and she started to gather the paperwork she needed to get a home.

But Anne had a bad fall and went into hospital where she couldn't work on her housing application, and she faced being street homeless when she was discharged.

So we paid for a safe place for Anne to stay, helped to her work out her options and collect together the paperwork she needed.

We even bought her a mobile phone so she could keep in touch with us and then paid her deposit when she was offered a home.

Anne has planted flowers on her small patio, but remains frail. We are walking with her, and she is making progress



We helped Anne avoid homelessness and now she is happy with her own home and garden.

75%
OF OUR CLIENTS
WERE NEW

159
CLIENTS AT RISK OF
HOMELESSNESS

312
INSTANCES OF
BENEFIT ADVICE GIVEN

83
PEOPLE REFERRED TO
OUR HOUSING LEGAL
ADVICE CLINIC

25
HOUSEHOLDS HELPED
TO AVOID EVICTION

45
HOUSEHOLDS HELPED
TO FIND A HOME

28
PEOPLE GIVEN EMERGENCY
WINTER ACCOMMODATION

1570
INSTANCES OF MATERIAL
ASSISTANCE INCLUDING
FOOD PARCELS AND
CLOTHING

27
PEOPLE REGISTERED
WITH A GP

THANK YOU!

WYCOMBE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER
registered charity no. 1156211

WWW.WYHOC.ORG.UK

Info is related to April 2021 - March 2022.

GOVERNANCE

STAFF TEAM

James Boulton
Chief Executive Officer

Helen Sheppard
Office Manager
Until July '21

Heather Stanley
Fundraising and Marketing Manager

Helen Biggerstaff
Services Manager

Kevin Boughen
Senior Support Worker

Bee Lötter
Support Worker (NHS Care Navigator)

Rosemary Chilton
Advocacy Lead
Until July '21

Leticia González-Muñoz
Advocacy Worker

Tabatha Eckford
Advocacy Worker

Liz Lewis
Fundraising and Marketing
Coordinator
Until October '21

Linda Turpie
Office Administrator
From October '21

Kate Vale
Volunteering Coordinator
(temporary)
October '21 – March '22

TRUSTEES

Sheena Dykes
Chair of Trustees

David Sparks
Treasurer

Mark Dykes
Kate Yates
Muriel Reynolds
David Winder
Dawn Segrue
Richard Alexander

Kate Rogers
from January '22
Robert Mariano
From November '21
Peter Joy
Until February '22

PATRON

Countess Elizabeth Howe

OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTS

Wycombe Homeless Connection’s charitable objects are ‘the relief of poverty by the provision of emergency and other accommodation advice and assistance for persons in need who are deemed homeless and require such accommodation advice or assistance.’

Having regard to the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance, the trustees led the charity to pursue these objects principally by continuing to provide housing advice and support and emergency accommodation, but also by evolving services, developing new services and increasing effectiveness to provide further public benefit. Further details can be found throughout this review.

SPECIAL THANKS TO



EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO

Business Connexions for their financial support and advice and Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme for their ongoing partnership.

OUR IMPACT

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT, WE WERE ABLE TO OFFER HELP, HOPE, SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO PEOPLE WHO WERE HOMELESS OR FACING LOSING THEIR HOMES.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE WAYS TOGETHER WE MADE AN IMPACT.

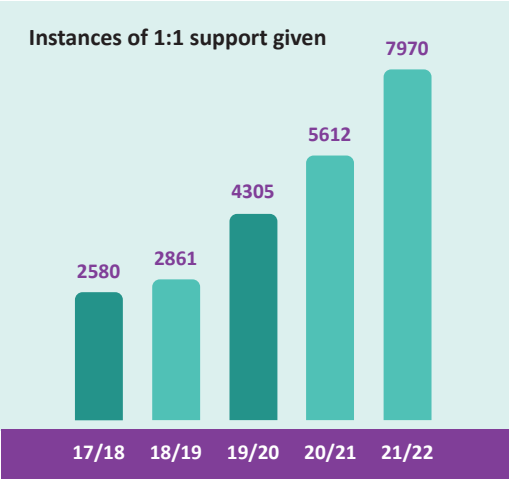
WHOM WE HELPED...

We served a broad range of people:

- 1 in 3 clients were women
- Over 75% of our clients came to us for the first time
- 1 in 4 people were over 50 years old
- Over 45% were white British with a spread over other backgrounds and nations

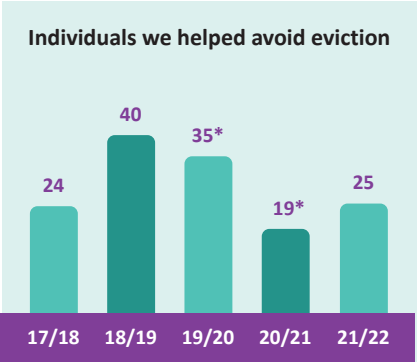
People contacted us because...

- 215 were already homeless
- 159 were at risk of losing their home
- 233 needed material or other support

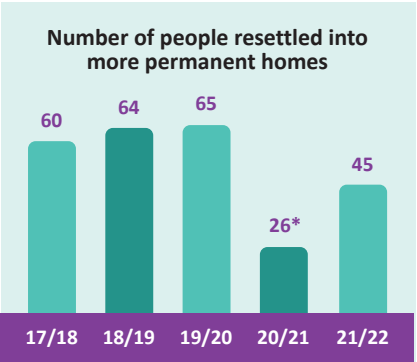


HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION...

- 312 times we helped people get the benefits they were entitled to
- 32 people were given advice about their immigration status
- 83 people were referred to our clinic for housing legal advice
- 25 households helped to avoid eviction
- 27 decisions by statutory bodies overturned preventing homelessness
- 16 people helped to apply for grants that prevented homelessness



*A pandemic-related eviction ban was in place for part of the year but people were still facing losing their homes due to a mix of causes, including unfair and illegal evictions.



*COVID-related emergency accommodation was available for part of the year but once it ended resettlements became more urgent.

HELP WHEN YOU HAVE NO HOME

- 45 households helped to find a home
- 28 people given a place in winter emergency accommodation
- 1570 instances of material assistance including provision of food parcels and clothing.
- 27 people helped to register with a GP
- 1053 instances of homelessness and housing advice and help filling out forms

Unless otherwise indicated, all service information in this report is related to April 2021 - March 2022. Service statistics refer to people whom we consider that we have been able to actively engage with during the year.

VOLUNTEERING

Opportunities to volunteer grew as we adapted to how the pandemic affected our services, and as we changed the way our services worked to make them as accessible as possible to people who needed us.

In November we piloted re-opening volunteer-led **Plug In**, our drop-in sessions for people sleeping rough. We also trialled our **volunteer-led community outreach walks** in Chesham, designed to build relationships with people in the community who could help spread the word about our services, as well as directly connecting with people who needed our help. It worked: one in six of our clients came from Chesham.

We ran our first **in-person Support Centre volunteer training** in two years, readying ourselves to more fully open Support Centre as a drop-in again.

We also completed a significant **behind-the-scenes project** reviewing and refreshing all our volunteers' details and handbooks, training programmes and roles, as well as asking volunteers how they might like to work with us as we continued to serve more people.



What our volunteers did:

- Answered the homelessness prevention helpline, taking calls from people in crisis and making sure they were welcome, listened to and connected to support.
- Organised and delivered food parcels, clothing and toiletries to people living in emergency accommodation and on the street.
- Re-opened and ran **Plug In**, our evening drop-in for people sleeping rough.
- Kept the organisation running by offering IT support, administrative skills, accounting help, by building databases, governing the charity and much more.
- Raised awareness of our work by speaking at schools, churches, and community groups.
- Collected donations of food from supermarkets and schools and helped us run fundraising events like the Big Sleepout, the Beaconsfield Country Fayre and more.
- Helped people settle into their homes, building furniture, painting and decorating.

THANK YOU!

PARTNERSHIPS

We simply couldn't do what we do without all the other hardworking, dedicated specialist organisations in our town, pulling together to improve the lives of people who are homeless or facing homelessness.

An exciting development this year was our exploration of ways we could work better with Aylesbury Homeless Action Group (AHAG). Following the departure of their operations manager in late 2021, our CEO James was seconded part time to AHAG to provide expertise and resource, ensuring the continuation of provision of homelessness services in the north of the county, especially as we entered an increasing time of pressure for people without a home or in a housing crisis.

Our huge thanks go to Connection Support, HWBIDCO, Street Wardens, One Can Trust, Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme, One Recovery Bucks, Mind, NHS especially Tower House and Priory surgeries, social prescribers, Hillingdon Law Centre, Chiltern Rangers, Buckinghamshire Council, Love in a Bag – Thame, The Hub at Union Baptist, Thames Valley Police, Old Tea Warehouse, Emmaus, One YMCA, Citizens Advice, Christians Against Poverty, Wycombe Women's Aid and more!



WHC and AHAG staff and trustees gathered to explore ways to work together to improve the lives of everyone facing homelessness in Buckinghamshire

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

ENDING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

While charities faced an uncertain future, with giving expected to tumble, our supporters continued to give and we were able to do everything we wanted to do.

Community events started to return and we took our famous cake stall to the Beaconsfield Country Fayre raising over £1000! Marathons, the Red Kite Ride, the Marlow Santa Run and more all returned with people taking part in challenge events. Fayres, fetes, Christmas tree festivals and carol services could take place again and so many chose to generously support us.

Philanthropists and grant-givers continued their support and we were grateful for their understanding and flexible support when plans kept changing!

We are so grateful for all your generosity and passion for ending homelessness in our community. You make us a stronger organisation so we can be here for as long as our help is needed.

BIG SLEEPOUT 2021: AT HOME

Over 100 people 'slept out' taking to gardens, sheds, greenhouses, churchyards and even bathtubs raising an incredible £30,000! The Big Quiz returned too with teams taking part from across the country! Our great friends Papa Truck supplied the entertainment again.

And best of all, our Sleepouters helped us make sure people know that we are here for them when they are facing a housing crisis.



Jemima slept out 'at home' and raised £875

THE WONDERFUL WAYS YOU GIVE



PETE COMPLETED THE BRIGHTON MARATHON



DOM'S 'DRUM AND BASS' CHRISTMAS DAY RIDE RAISED £2850



STUDENTS AT EDEN GIRLS' SCHOOL DONATED EID BOXES FULL OF GOODIES



HIGH WYCOMBE CROQUET CLUB HAD A 24-HOUR 'KNOCK'



MICHAEL, MATT AND SIMON COMPLETED THE VIRTUAL LONDON MARATHON



THE CUSTOMERS AT CLUBHOUSE CAFÉ, BLEDLOW RIDGE GAVE GENEROUSLY



FORMER MAYOR MAZ HUSSAIN RAISED £6000+



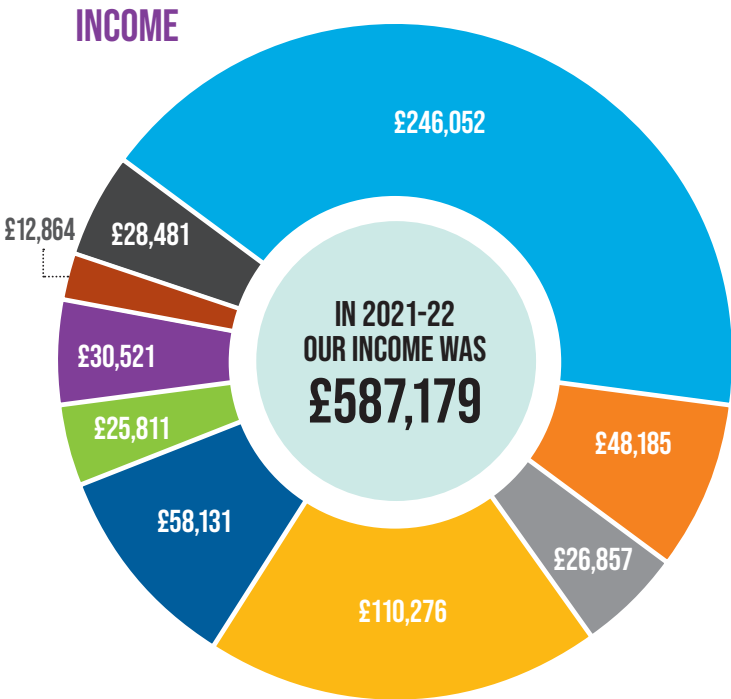
BAKERS GAVE TO OUR STALL AT THE BEACONSFIELD COUNTRY FAYRE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

HOW YOU SUPPORTED US

In 2021-22 our income was £587,179. We were hugely grateful to everyone in our community who continued to provide the vast majority of our income, especially as financial pressure has increased for so many.

We continued to see significant support from grant givers; some of the year's grant income was accrued from the previous year. Community events started to return after a period when the pandemic prevented many from happening. Tough times were predicted for the charity sector as a whole but we continued to work hard to encourage giving to make sure we could plan for the future and remain sustainable.

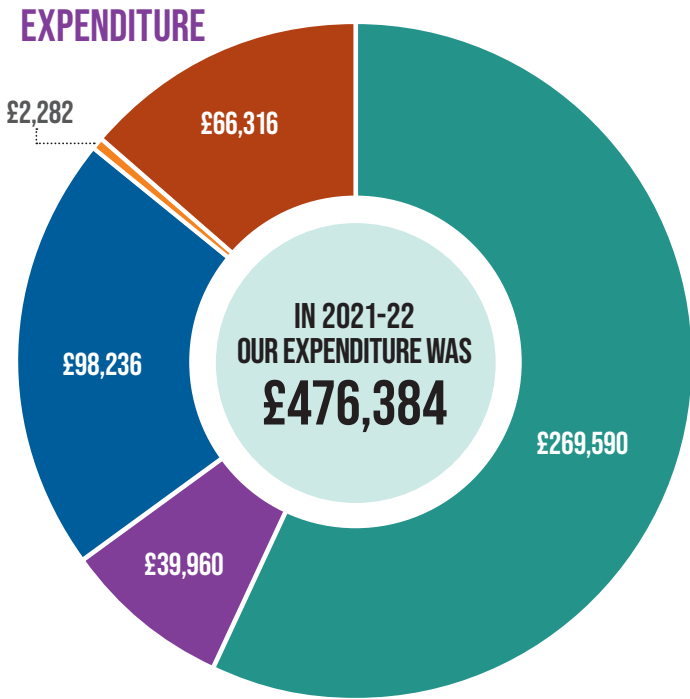


- GRANTS
- CORPORATE SUPPORT
- CHURCHES AND FAITH GROUPS
- INDIVIDUALS
- COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING
- WHC FUNDRAISING EVENTS
- GIFT AID
- OTHER INCOME
- RESTRICTED TARGETED FUNDS

HOW WE USED YOUR GIFTS

Our expenditure decreased to £476,384 as we responded to changes in staffing and service needs. We continued to support the people we serve in a variety of practical ways, often paying for a safe place to stay for the most vulnerable who faced sleeping on the street but did not qualify for any other support.

While the government stepped in to help with some emergency COVID-related accommodation, we invested in staff and kept all our services running as the pandemic continued to cause hardship and the cost of living began to rise.



- PROVIDING SERVICES: STAFF
- PROVIDING SERVICES: CLIENT SUPPORT
- PROVIDING SERVICES: OFFICE
- FUNDRAISING: EXPENSES
- FUNDRAISING: STAFF

GIVE NOW: SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2022-23:

No one gets 'stuck' on the street

As we left the crisis phase of the COVID-19 pandemic behind, the government ended its 'everyone in' scheme, where everyone found to be sleeping rough locally was offered emergency accommodation. This resulted in a rise in the number of people sleeping rough on our streets.

We will work hard to make sure that their experience of sleeping rough is a brief as possible and as few people end up on the street as possible. There is still a lack of suitable affordable homes in our area which means that we will be looking for creative solutions to the housing crisis. It won't be easy but we will dedicate extra resources to ensure that we don't see dozens of people sleeping outside in our community, concentrating on people who find themselves stuck and with complex needs and few options.

A county-wide approach

We will work with Aylesbury Homeless Action Group to offer a homelessness prevention service across the whole of Buckinghamshire.

This service will be accessible both in-person and remotely for households who are at risk of losing their homes; it will be run by our team of highly trained homelessness prevention workers, and we will fund access to a housing legal-aid solicitor so it is free to both charities' clients.

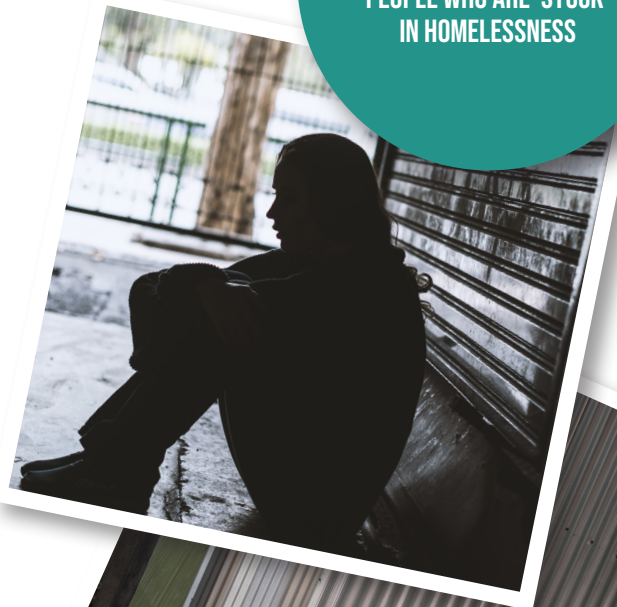
We will boost the capacity of this service by sourcing extra help with the complex legal issues which this team often deal with.

Improving accessibility

We still have more to do to ensure that all of our services are easily accessible for people across the south of Bucks.

Almost a quarter of the people we help come from Chesham, and we would like to make it easier for people there and in other areas to get the help they need from us. We want to improve our links with organisations already working there. We expect to focus on reaching people in Amersham, Burnham and Princes Risborough as a start.

WE WILL FOCUS ON HELPING EXTREMELY VULNERABLE PEOPLE WHO ARE 'STUCK' IN HOMELESSNESS



**WE ARE COMMITTED
TO THERE BEING ZERO
TOLERANCE TO LEAVING
PEOPLE TO LIVE ON THE
STREET...**

**WE BELIEVE THAT THERE
SHOULD BE ENOUGH HOMES
FOR EVERYONE...**

**AND THAT EVERYTHING
THAT CAN BE DONE
SHOULD BE DONE TO
PREVENT ANYONE EVER
LOSING THEIR HOME...**

**WITH YOUR HELP,
WE CAN MAKE THESE
AIMS A REALITY.**

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

Oakley Hall
8 Castle Street
High Wycombe
HP13 6RF

01494 447699
contact@wyhoc.org.uk
www.wyhoc.org.uk

**GIVE NOW: SCAN THE QR CODE
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE.**



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



Wycombe Homeless Connection

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year ended 30th April 2022

	Unrestricted Funds 2021-2022 £	Designated Funds 2021-2022 £	Total Funds 2021-2022 £	Total Funds 2020-2021 £
Notes				
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grants	246,052		246,052	197,190
Corporate Donations	48,185		48,185	29,047
Church Collections & Donations	26,857		26,857	46,918
Individual Donations	110,276		110,276	149,798
Community Fundraising	58,131		58,131	46,378
WHC Fund Raising Events	25,811		25,811	54,207
Gift Aid	30,521		30,521	39,319
Bank Interest	634		634	885
Other Income	12,230		12,230	2,187
Homeless Health Fund	24,167		24,167	1,033
Housing Benefit	4,314		4,314	71,400
Total incoming resources	587,179	0	587,179	638,361
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Staff costs	297,630		297,630	277,733
Employers Pension & NI & Payroll	31,782		31,782	28,693
Travel	645		645	405
Training	5,849		5,849	3,713
Office Expenses	47,972		47,972	44,949
Telephones	4,812		4,812	5,659
Communications & Marketing	14,346		14,346	6,270
Legal Fees	2,706		2,706	0
Insurance	2,002		2,002	1,675
IT systems	15,865		15,865	17,473
Service Support incl Night Shelter	26,021		26,021	55,889
Fund Raising Events & Costs	2,282		2,282	160
Recruitment	1,328		1,328	350
Accommodation	9,012		9,012	0
Bank Charges	193		193	84
Personalisation	2,651		2,651	3,317
Homeless Health Fund	4,035		4,035	801
Rent In Advance	2,939		2,939	£2,232
Housing Benefit	4,314		4,314	£69,502
Total resources expended	476,384	0	476,384	518,907
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	110,795	0	110,795	119,453

Balance Sheet at 30th April 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Current Assets:			
Bank		603,117	585,451
Cash		320	158
Debtors		0	0
Prepayments		0	0
		<u>603,436</u>	<u>585,609</u>
Less Current Liabilities:			
Creditors	6	18,642	9,984
Accruals	6	50,000	151,625
		<u>68,642</u>	<u>161,610</u>
		<u><u>534,794</u></u>	<u><u>423,999</u></u>
FINANCED BY:			
General Fund	2	377,951	£261,268
Designated Reserve Fund		150,000	150,000
Homeless Health Fund	4	0	£232
Rent In Advance Fund	4	0	£2,643
Housing Benefit	3	6,842	£8,384
Personalisation Fund	4	0	£1,471
		<u>534,794</u>	<u>423,999</u>

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2022

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities applicable in the UK (effective from 1 January 2015) – the Charities SORP (FRSSE) – in replacement for the SORP's 2005 version specified in its related 2008 Regulations and in accordance with the 'true and fair override' provision contained therein."

The Accounts have been prepared under the Historic Cost Convention on an accruals basis to show a true and fair view of WHC's financial position and activities. This is in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2016).

2. General Fund (Unrestricted)

The general fund is the working capital of the organisation. Fund raising peaks around the Winter Night Shelter so that the free cash in the General Fund is at its highest at the end of the winter months. At that point it has to be sufficient to carry the organisation through a 'funding drought' in the summer months. This year the Coronavirus pandemic has generated a significant increase in income from individuals and grants, some of which has been accrued to 2020-2021 since it relates to employment costs in that year, or is grant income attributable to that year.

3. Housing Benefit Fund (Restricted)

We continue to hold money paid by the Council as a result of Housing Benefit claims. This will ultimately be paid back to the council and so is held in a separate fund.

4. Rent In Advance, Health, and Personalisation (Unrestricted)

Money for personalisation payments, for healthcare, and for rent in advance payments was previously accounted for separately from the General Fund. As the organisation has grown and income has increased this has become increasingly irrelevant to the current operations of the charity so these funds have been consolidated into the General Fund.

5. Reserve Fund (Unrestricted Designated)

The reserves policy is to maintain a balance of between 3 and 6 months operating expenditure plus sufficient funds to meet redundancy and other legal liabilities in the event of a forced closure. The reserve fund has been maintained at £150,000 in line with current turnover and commitments.

6. Accruals

£50,000 of grant income has been carried forward to 2022-2023 as it relates to payments for winter accommodation for which invoices have not yet been received. £6,842 of housing benefit money, and payments for an awayday, office rent and the housing legal clinic totalling £11,800 were outstanding at the end of the financial year and are shown as creditors.

Independent Examiner's Unqualified Report to the Trustees

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

P. W. Green

Date:

29 June 2022

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1156211

Accounts

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020-21



INCORPORATING WYCOMBE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Registered charity no. 1156211



OUR VISION

WE HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR FACING HOMELESSNESS BY:

- ▶ Preventing homelessness before it starts
- ▶ Reducing harm for people who are homeless
- ▶ Helping house people who are homeless
- ▶ Defending the rights of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY PERSON WHO IS HOMELESS IN OUR COMMUNITY HAS WORTH AND SHOULD HAVE A FRESH START, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR SITUATION.



PLEASE DISPLAY OUR POSTER (ON PAGES 8-9) SO PEOPLE IN A HOUSING CRISIS KNOW WE ARE HERE FOR THEM.

CONTENTS

Our vision	2
Welcome	3
Reducing the harm of homelessness	4
Homeless health	5
Homelessness prevention	6
Defending the rights	7
Pull-out poster	8-9

Governance	10
Our impact	11
Volunteering news	12
Fundraising	13
Financial report	14-15
Our priorities for 2021-22	16

Wycombe Homeless Connection is a charitable incorporated organisation with a governing document dated February 2014 based on the Charity Commission's 'Foundation' model constitution.

This review reports our activities between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2021, unless otherwise stated, and was approved in August 2021.

Due to the nature of our work, we often change the names of people whose stories we have included. Pictures are for illustrative purposes unless otherwise stated and may be a stock image to ensure the privacy of our clients and volunteers. All content is the copyright of Wycombe Homeless Connection and our partners and may only be reproduced with permission.

WELCOME

FROM OUR CHAIR

I am privileged to introduce our annual report for 2020-21, which tells stories of how you have helped us give people a future and a hope.

It was a year like no other. Despite that, we were blessed with the resources to grow our services in difficult times through the ongoing generous support of our whole community.

We adapted our services to deliver our work online and by phone, offering legal advice and support across the county. We increased our support for people in temporary and emergency accommodation and worked with the NHS to expand our homeless health service.

Our volunteers inspired us by finding creative ways to support us, whether through virtual marathons or joining our virtual Big Sleepout. As restrictions eased, we were encouraged by the volunteers who joined us in walking through town keeping an eye out for anyone who had fallen through the net and might still be sleeping rough.

Underpinning all our work is Wycombe Homeless Connection's Christian ethos: our belief that every individual has worth motivates us to empower people to seek a better future.

We are enormously grateful to our staff who went above and beyond to respond to the rising demand for our services, and to our trustees who brought their wisdom and expertise to ensure good governance and a strong financial base to underpin the charity's services.

We are deeply grateful for all your generosity, support and prayers. I hope that you will be inspired by reading how together we were able to make a difference in people's lives – giving them a future and hope.



Sheena Dykes BEM, DL
Chair of Trustees



FROM OUR CEO

In this tough year, our team and volunteers found it hard to work from home, missing our friends and colleagues, and dealing with anxiety.

But no matter how tough it was for us, it was even tougher for the people Wycombe Homeless Connection supports. While most of the country was told to stay at home, many people we serve didn't have a place of safety and others were at risk of losing their homes.

As a result, much of the work we did over the year resembled an emergency humanitarian operation. If anyone was found to be sleeping rough, we got them into emergency accommodation, followed up with food, clothing, welfare phone calls, and connected people to the healthcare they needed, including, importantly, co-running COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

Although we've had to concentrate on people's immediate safety more than ever before, I've been pleased that we've been able to create and run new projects, responding to new challenges facing the people we serve.

We ran a special project to help people who were trapped in homelessness because of their immigration status. We've been helping people register with a GP and we provided training for local NHS workers so that together we could tackle the health inequalities that people who are homeless face.

I'm grateful that even when we weren't able to see you very much over the year, your amazing support continued; volunteering may have changed but a huge number of people were still keen to find things they could do to help!

Thank you for that and I hope to see more of you soon!



James Boulton
Chief Executive Officer



REDUCING HARM FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS

WORKING HARDER THAN EVER TO END HOMELESSNESS

The coronavirus continued to take its toll on the people we serve and we worked quickly to ensure everyone who needed help could get it.

We were again unable to run our mobile, dormitory style winter night shelter but thankfully, **emergency COVID-19 accommodation** remained open all year. The government picked up the majority of the cost, but we paid for 273 bed-nights to make sure people who fell through the cracks, for many complex reasons, didn't have to sleep on the street.

Our team were on the **front line**, working with our partners at Buckinghamshire Council, Connection Support and others, making sure anyone who needed a room in the **emergency accommodation** was identified and moved in as soon as possible.

Despite the restrictions and risk to themselves, our team and volunteers did an inspirational and life-saving job. They delivered **food parcels** made by our friends at One Can Trust and fresh meals from Meals from Marlow and created and distributed **emergency care packs**. Volunteers worked from their homes during the lockdowns, making hundreds of welfare calls.

In February, we hit an ominous milestone: we were looking after more than 50 people in emergency accommodation, the most we have ever looked after at one time.

Outreach walks continued, making sure everyone who might have been sleeping rough was found and helped to access the emergency accommodation.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT:

60

PEOPLE WERE PLACED
INTO EMERGENCY
ACCOMMODATION

3180

FOOD PARCELS
WERE DELIVERED

103

PEOPLE WERE HELPED TO
MAKE HOMELESSNESS
APPLICATIONS



Susan and Tony
Frontline volunteers

Susan and Tony are used to doing whatever needs doing and were invaluable throughout the pandemic. Tony coordinated fresh food deliveries and Susan made calls to people in emergency accommodation.

Tony said: "Every time I volunteer with WHC I feel like I am going on an adventure; you never know what you will be doing to help people."

Susan: "I call people who had sought help at our housing legal clinics. I update them on their cases and let them know we are here for them. Keeping in touch like this gives them confidence to tackle their problems."

D'S STORY

We met D a few years ago when she was not long out of care. She was struggling with many of the challenges young care-leavers face, including repeated periods of homelessness. Not long after we met, she managed to connect with her wider family; they welcomed her and we hoped for the best for her future.

So we were sad when D contacted us again to say there had been a breakdown in the familial relationship and she was back to sofa-surfing, sometimes sleeping rough. Her mental and physical health had deteriorated and she was suffering alcoholism.

There was no doubting D's extreme vulnerability but she didn't qualify as being in 'priority need' and the local council couldn't act straight away. So we did. We paid for a place to stay, connected her to local addiction support services and registered her with mental healthcare services. D inspired us with her dedication to putting her life back together, had the offer of a job and in no time at all was named employee of the month!

Her next goal was finding a more permanent home and we helped her find a private tenancy she could afford on a monthly basis. But collecting enough for a deposit and rent-in-advance is tough so we paid these costs. She didn't have anyone who could act as a guarantor so we paid for guarantor insurance.

D moved in and settled quickly. She still faces huge challenges especially in relation to her mental health and addictions, but she is trying her best and we will be with her along the way.



A FOCUS ON HOMELESS HEALTH

NEVER MORE NEEDED...

People who sleep rough are often clinically vulnerable and face significant health inequalities.

Alongside the danger of the coronavirus, two shocking facts are that the average age of death for people sleeping rough in the UK is around their mid-40s, and that the deaths of people sleeping rough in the UK rose 37% just in the year to 2019-20*.

Bee, our homeless health worker and **NHS care navigator** spent the year helping people get the healthcare they needed and building relationships with local healthcare providers. She worked closely with Tower House Surgery, registering our clients with them.

She helped people get **doctor and dental appointments**, order and pick up **prescriptions**, and made sure anyone who had been hospitalised was discharged to a safe and suitable home. Together with the Cygnet Primary Care Network she helped develop a project to **improve health outcomes** for local people who were homeless.

From the start of the pandemic, we worked more closely than ever with Buckinghamshire Council and a number of local agencies. Together we were able to make sure **no one had to sleep rough in Wycombe**. This kept people safe both from COVID and the numerous other dangers of life on the streets.

And when the **vaccination programme** started, we worked hard to make sure our clients were able to get their jabs.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT:

20+
PEOPLE RECEIVED THEIR
COVID-19 VACCINATION

14
PEOPLE REGISTERED
WITH A GP

474
INSTANCES OF HEALTH CARE
SUPPORT GIVEN



Celia
Hotline volunteer

Celia had been concerned about homelessness for a very long time and jumped at the chance to help in our Support Centre. After a long break because of the pandemic, she was back in the office answering the hotline, triaging calls and helping clients.

She said: "When I think of Wycombe Homeless Connection, and all the people involved, I'm very conscious of their caring approach. It's like a warm hug."

VITAL VACCINES: NO ONE MISSED OUT

Because of the inequalities in healthcare homeless people face, there was a real risk that our clients would be missed when their turn came to be offered the COVID-19 vaccine. Making sure no one was left out was a life-saving priority.

Together with our partners at the Cygnet Primary Care Network, we arranged drop-in COVID vaccination clinics at a local church and a supported-living facility, bringing clinics to people rather than expecting them to book and travel to centres.

People who had been rough sleeping and staying in emergency accommodation were given the chance to ask questions about the vaccine and over 20 people took the opportunity to be vaccinated.

This vital work was only possible because of our unique and effective partnership that brings hope and health to so many. Our extra special thanks go to local GP, Dr Amanda Bartlett, of Priory Surgery who led the effort and worked closely with us.

James, our CEO, said: "I'm hugely proud of the hard work of our team, Cygnet PCN, and the way everyone pulled together to make this happen. I'd also like to thank the team at King's Church, High Wycombe, who offered their building to host a special clinic for clients who wanted to take up the offer of the vaccine."



The COVID-19 vaccination team was led by GP Dr Amanda Bartlett, left, of Priory Surgery, and volunteer, nurse Averil Bird

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS BEFORE IT STARTS

HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Despite an eviction ban being in place for most of the year, our homelessness prevention services were as vital as ever.

The economic impact of the pandemic was on an upward curve.

Nationally, there was an 81% increase in claims for Universal Credit (UC) between March and August 2020 while the furlough scheme was in place.

Locally, the situation was significantly worse with a disproportionately high increase in UC claims of 129%. That was well above the national rate and made us the fourth hardest hit area in the country. **Hundreds of households in Buckinghamshire were at risk of homelessness.**

Our **homelessness prevention hotline** continued to be busy as people from across the county got in touch for help.

We offered a wide range of **free, independent, legal help and support** including housing-related advice, connecting people to statutory support, and helping people access grants to pay off rent arrears.

We doubled our **housing legal advice clinics** which were staffed by members of our advocacy team, a housing solicitor from the Hillingdon Law Centre and a team member from Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme. We helped people **fight illegal and unfair evictions**, started a 'keep your home' project and launched a special partnership with Aylesbury Homeless Action Group who promoted our clinics to their clients in the north of the county.

We added an **extra advocacy worker**, Tabatha Eckford to the team and were grateful to Ewa who provided translation and interpretation support across all our services.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT:

24

EVICIONS WERE
AVOIDED

131

PEOPLE WERE GIVEN
BENEFITS ADVICE

538

INSTANCES OF HOUSING
ADVICE WERE GIVEN



Jo
'Keep your home' volunteer

Jo keeps in touch with clients in emergency and temporary accommodation. She listens, offers support and connects them to our support workers. She can often be the only person they talk to on any given day.

Jo says: "I hear people's stories and realise how important it is not to stereotype anyone who is in a housing crisis. We respond as one human to another. It is a joy and a privilege to be part of the WHC team."

LENA'S STORY: FIGHTING ILLEGAL EVICTION

Lena was working full time, albeit for a minimum wage and on a zero hour contract. When the pandemic took hold, Lena was sent home but she didn't qualify for furlough payments and quickly fell behind on her rent.

Instead of trying to find a way to help, her landlord acted illegally, entered her room, forcefully removed Lena from the property and changed the locks.

Illegal evictions happen far too often. Harassment and violence like that Lena experienced is thankfully rare, but it does happen. Lena began sofa surfing, relying on friends, paying what she could towards their bills but staying with them was made even more difficult by lockdown. A friend told her to contact us and we quickly established that Lena couldn't return to her home and didn't qualify for statutory support so she faced continuing homelessness.

We encouraged her to apply for a place at a local supported-living facility, but places are like gold-dust and usually go to people who need additional help. This turned out to be the case; she didn't get a room.

Next we helped her to look for an affordable private tenancy, a very tricky job in our part of Bucks. Lena did find a place, but couldn't quite stretch to cover the rent-in-advance and the deposit. So we helped with both payments and Lena quickly moved into her more affordable, and most importantly, safe new home.

And, we helped her apply for compensation from her landlord for what she'd been through, and together we were successful. The money doesn't remove the trauma, but it helped her start to rebuild her life.



Lena was illegally removed from her home

HELPING HOUSE/DEFEND THE RIGHTS

HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Did you know many people face homelessness in part because of their immigration status? People without a 'settled' immigration status can be ineligible for help to end their homelessness, despite the fact they are as likely to find themselves in housing crises as people from the UK.

We launched a new project to help people trapped in, or facing homelessness, because of their immigration status.

We ran an immigration clinic focused on helping people gather evidence and apply to the Home Office for the right to stay in the UK. Once that was sorted, we helped them navigate the complex social support system and claim the benefits they had become entitled to.

We **campaign**ed to revoke proposed government rules that would make **sleeping rough grounds for deportation in certain circumstances**. We launched our first **manifesto** calling on all candidates in the first Buckinghamshire Council elections to commit to tackling homelessness in our community.

And we worked with our partner organisations to make sure as many people as possible could leave emergency accommodation and **find a more permanent home**, helping find affordable properties, helping people talk to landlords and housing associations, assisting with deposit payments and even helping paint walls and build beds.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT:

13

PEOPLE WERE HELPED
TO SETTLE THEIR
IMMIGRATION STATUS

28

PEOPLE WERE HELPED
TO FIND A MORE
PERMANENT HOME

28

PEOPLE WERE GIVEN
IMMIGRATION ADVICE



Mike

All round volunteer!

Mike has been a volunteer since our first night shelter in 2008. Over the year, he focused on helping people get settled in a new home, recently helping one of our clients build his bed.

Mike says: "I was delighted and so pleased he didn't have to sleep on the floor that night. I volunteer to serve; I do it for God and I feel I am helping people."

KRZYS' STORY:

Krzys was a regular guest at our night shelter. Despite having lived and worked in the UK for many years, Krzys' right to remain in the UK was under threat.

Because of his lack of settled status, Krzys couldn't make a homelessness application with the council. At one point, we were extremely concerned it meant that he might have lost his right even to stay in the COVID-19 emergency accommodation.

But following months of hard work by our senior support worker Kevin, our advocacy team and our partners, Krzys was granted leave to stay!

Kevin said: "To say Krzys was delighted was an understatement. He was thrilled and could not believe it when we told him he had been granted leave to stay, meaning he no longer had to fear being deported. He can now apply for full benefits, have full access to the NHS, and other life-changing support.

"We are extremely hopeful Krzys will be able to secure the suitable and stable accommodation he needs to move on and rebuild his life, including returning to work when restrictions allow."

Krzys was determined to make this decision happen and worked with the team doing everything he could to achieve settled status. We think his smile says it all!



Krzys was delighted to be granted leave to stay in the UK!

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

**HOMELESS...
FACING EVICTION...
SOFA SURFING...
UNSAFE AT HOME...**

**WE CAN
HELP YOU**



**CONTACT
US**

01494 447699
www.wyhoc.org.uk
contact@wyhoc.org.uk



GOVERNANCE

STAFF TEAM

James Boulton
Chief Executive Officer

Helen Sheppard
Office Manager

Steph Clay
Volunteering Manager
Until December 2020

Heather Stanley
Fundraising and Marketing Manager

Helen Biggerstaff
Services Manager

Kevin Boughen
Senior Support Worker

Bee Lötter
Support Worker (NHS Care Navigator)

Rosemary Chilton
Advocacy Lead

Leticia González-Muñoz
Advocacy Worker

Tabatha Eckford
Advocacy Worker
From September 2020

Liz Lewis
Fundraising and Marketing
Coordinator
From February 2021

TRUSTEES

Sheena Dykes
Chair of Trustees

David Sparks
Treasurer

Mark Dykes
Muriel Reynolds
David Winder
Dawn Segrue
Kate Yates
Peter Joy
Richard Alexander

PATRON

Countess Elizabeth Howe

OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTS

Wycombe Homeless Connection's charitable objects are 'the relief of poverty by the provision of emergency and other accommodation advice and assistance for persons in need who are deemed homeless and require such accommodation advice or assistance.'

Having regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, the trustees led the charity to pursue these objects principally by continuing to provide housing advice and support and emergency accommodation, but also by evolving services, developing new services and increasing effectiveness to provide further public benefit. Further details can be found throughout this review.

SPECIAL THANKS TO



EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO

Business Connexions for their ongoing financial support and advice. King Cullimore Trust for their dedication to our homeless health project. The Wycombe-based winter night shelter churches who continued to support us despite not hosting the shelter: All Saints, King's Church, Oakridge Baptist, Trinity URC, Union Baptist, Wesley Methodist and Wycombe Community SDA.

OUR IMPACT

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT, WE WERE ABLE TO KEEP OFFERING SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO PEOPLE WHO WERE HOMELESS OR FACING LOSING THEIR HOMES. THANK YOU!

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS TOGETHER WE MADE AN IMPACT.

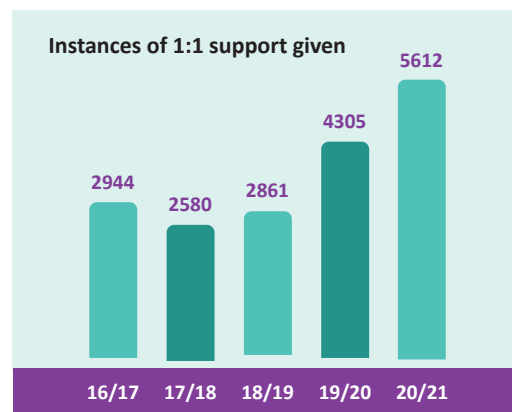
WHO WE HELPED...

We served a broad range of people:

- ▶ **1 in 3** clients were women
- ▶ **1 in 4** people were over 60 years old
- ▶ **Over 60%** were white British with a spread from other backgrounds and nations
- ▶ **75%** of our clients came to us for the first time

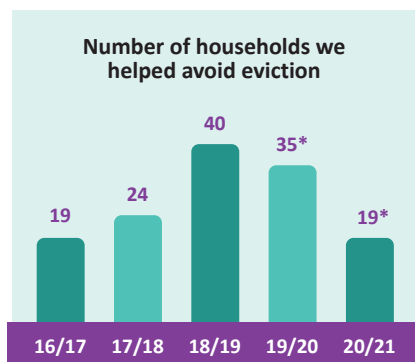
People contacted us because...

- ▶ **256** were already homeless
- ▶ **109** were at risk of losing their home
- ▶ **189** needed material or other support

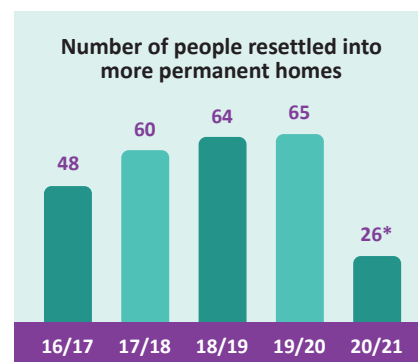


HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION...

- ▶ We made **103** applications for homelessness to the council
- ▶ **131** people were given advice on the social support they were entitled to
- ▶ **24** people were given advice about their immigration status
- ▶ **69** people were referred to our clinic for housing legal advice



*A pandemic-related eviction ban was in place for the year but people were still facing losing their homes due to a mix of causes, including being faced with unfair and illegal evictions.



*Resettlements were lower as COVID-related accommodation was available all year round.

HELP WHEN YOU HAVE NO HOME

- ▶ **246** people who were homeless came to us for help
- ▶ **60** people were given a place in emergency accommodation
- ▶ We made **680** welfare calls to people in emergency and temporary accommodation
- ▶ On **3180** occasions we gave material assistance including food parcels and clothing
- ▶ **14** people were helped to register with a GP
- ▶ More than **20** people attended our pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinics

Unless otherwise indicated, all service information in this report is related to April 2020 - March 2021. Service statistics refer to people who we consider to have actively engaged with us during the year.

VOLUNTEERING REVIEW



WELCOMING BACK VITAL VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are passionate people who are vital to the people we serve and the work we do.

After sending almost everyone home in March 2020, opportunities to volunteer finally began to increase as the year went on. As we adapted to new ways of working, fresh opportunities to serve arose and more volunteers were able to return to their roles, or take up new ones. We can't say thank you enough!

What our volunteers did:

- Organised and delivered food parcels and fresh meals, clothing and toiletries to people living in emergency accommodation or in our 'keeping your home' project.
- Made welfare support calls to people in emergency accommodation, checking they had what they needed.

- Answered the homelessness prevention hotline, taking calls from people in crisis and making sure they were welcome, listened to and connected to support as soon as possible.
- Kept the organisation running by offering IT support, administrative skills, accounting help, building databases, governing the charity and much more.
- Raised awareness of our work by distributing leaflets and posters about our free services in their local community, speaking (online mostly) at schools, churches, and to community groups.
- Collected donations of food from supermarkets and schools.
- Helped people settle into their homes, building furniture, painting and decorating.

THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEERING HELPS YOU SEE THE GOOD AROUND YOU

Francis moves a lot with his job in the RAF but has been settled locally for a while. He noticed people sleeping on the street and was moved to find out how he could do something that would make a difference.

Francis came to us offering help and we were thrilled to accept. He started with shifts in our Support Centre helping clients with important tasks like setting up email accounts and helping with paperwork so they could join waiting lists for housing.

"It's not just that people lack a computer, it's also some people haven't had the opportunities to learn how to use computers, a skill many of us take for granted." Francis said.

"I love giving practical help, buying a train ticket for instance, and offering emotional support, giving people a listening ear, some company and a cup of tea."

Throughout the pandemic, Francis helped deliver food parcels to clients in emergency accommodation. It was hard work, lifting heavy bags and transporting them to a range of places across the town.

And when we'd manage to move someone on from emergency or temporary homes, Francis helped them settle in. By his own admission, his DIY skills are not the best, but he gave it a go!

He said "It's so rewarding when you help someone out. They can be so down on their luck, just the simplest things can mean the world to them. I helped a young woman recently move into a new place, and managed to rope in some fellow airmen. She was delighted that we were there to help."

"It doesn't seem like so much, but for people who have lost everything, the help is a big deal. It takes a weight off their mind when you do something when they couldn't see a way of getting it done."

"Volunteering restores my faith in humanity. It's easy to think the world has gone to pot. But when you volunteer, work alongside others and see people's generosity, you see the good around you."



Francis says volunteering restores his faith in humanity



Volunteers like Francis help people make a house a home

FUNDRAISING UPDATE



THE WONDERFUL WAYS YOU GIVE

Our incredible supporters found inspiring and creative ways to raise money despite the challenges of spending most of the year in various levels of lockdown. Individuals and families, faith groups, companies, sports clubs, schools and community groups all found ways to support people in housing crisis.

We are so grateful for your enthusiasm, dedication and generosity. Thank you!

We were especially moved by the compassion of school students and staff who did so much for the people we serve while facing huge challenges themselves. Among too many to mention are the students at Bourne End Academy who donated Christmas boxes, Wycombe Abbey School who held a virtual Met Gala, the children at Godstowe School who took part in the Big Sleepout and Highcrest Academy who chose us as their charity of the year.

BIG SLEEPOUT 2020: AT HOME

Over 350 people 'slept out' taking to gardens, sheds, greenhouses, churchyards and even bathtubs raising an incredible £53,000!

Our first live-streamed Big Quiz raised over £5,000; Caroline and Michael Bird hosted the quiz and celebrities recorded questions including Mary Berry, Tom Kerridge and Wycombe Wanderers stars. Local bluegrass band Papa Truck provided musical entertainment and the whole event was sponsored by Dreams.



THE WONDERFUL WAYS YOU GAVE



HELEN CYCLED
'UP EVEREST' AND
RAISED £3000+



IVY AND RUPERT
SOLD THEIR TOYS AND
RAISED £37



ISABELLA RAN 5KM
RAISING £1400+



KATE RAN HER
SECOND VIRTUAL
LONDON MARATHON

NICOLA KNITTED AND
SOLD A BEAUTIFUL
BLANKET



CLINIMED DONATED
MASKS FOR CLIENTS
AND STAFF



SOFTCAT DONATED
FOOD AND TOILETRIES
FOR OUR EMERGENCY
CARE PACKS



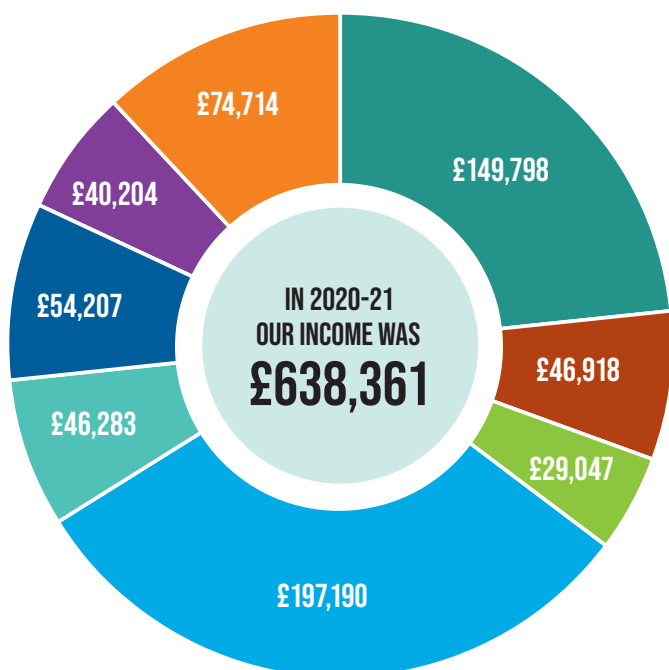
TESCO LOUDWATER
DONATED BAGS FOR
OUR EMERGENCY
CARE PACKS

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

HOW YOU SUPPORT US

In 2020-21 our income was £638,361. We have been overwhelmed by generous support from our community who continued to provide most of our income, especially in such a difficult year.

There was a significant contribution from grant-givers as they focused on supporting frontline charities during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, much of this grant income won't be repeated and so we will need to focus on encouraging regular gifts that help us plan for the future.

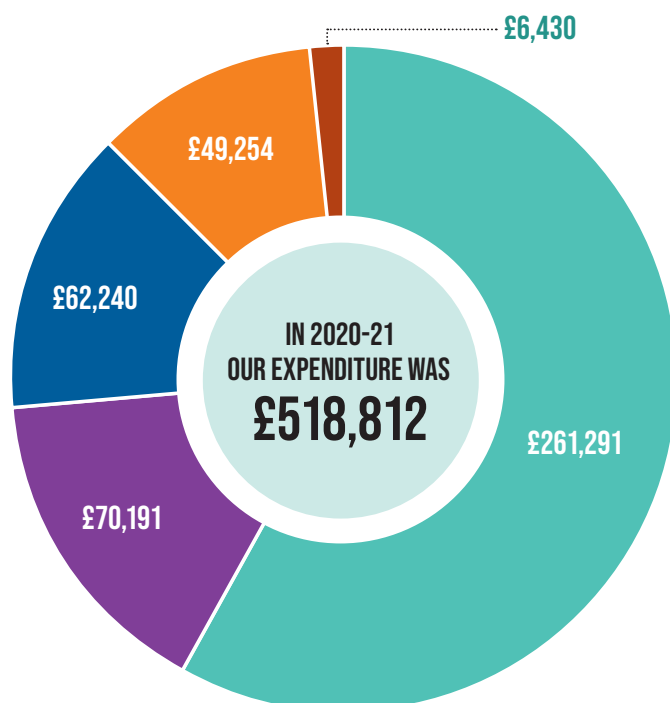


- INDIVIDUALS
- CHURCHES & FAITH GROUPS
- CORPORATE SUPPORT
- GRANTS
- OTHER DONATIONS
- OUR FUNDRAISING EVENTS
- OTHER INCOME INC. GIFT AID
- RESTRICTED TARGETED FUNDS

HOW WE USE YOUR GIFTS

Our expenditure increased to £518,812 as we responded to changing needs during the pandemic. We supported our clients more often in direct financial ways including paying for bed-nights to ensure people who fell through the cracks of statutory support were not forced to sleep on the street.

We invested in staff to meet a rising need for specialist support and we offered our services to a wide geographical area as the economic impact of the pandemic caused huge challenges. We improved our IT and office infrastructure as we began to work in new ways.



- PROVIDING SERVICES: STAFF
- PROVIDING SERVICES: OFFICE
- PROVIDING SERVICES: OTHER
- FUNDRAISING: STAFF
- FUNDRAISING: EXPENSES



PLEASE KEEP GIVING
WWW.WYHOC.ORG.UK/DONATE

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2021-22:

We will build on the progress made to ending rough sleeping for good in our community

The government wants to end rough sleeping in the UK by 2024 and some of the steps taken, like providing emergency accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic, has brought us closer to that goal. However, the causes of homelessness remain complex and the economic impact of the pandemic and other factors loom large. The next 12 months will be critical in terms of ensuring that we do not return to mass rough sleeping.

Buckinghamshire was named as the third best local authority area in the country in terms of the proportion by which rough sleeping was reduced in 2019-21. We want to continue on this track and for Buckinghamshire to be recognised as a place where great partnership working and innovative solutions bring real change.

We will recruit a new support worker who will focus on helping people in emergency and temporary accommodation to find more permanent homes. This will be a huge challenge given the significant lack of suitable and affordable homes in the area.

We will expand our homeless health work

We intend to grow the number of GP surgeries we partner with so that we can ensure that primary health care is available and accessible to our clients. We plan to share our knowledge and expertise with primary care networks so together we can ensure our clients get the healthcare they are entitled to. We will increase the amount of funding we use to pay for healthcare e.g. dental treatment.

We hope to build on the great success we had partnering with local NHS services to deliver COVID-19 vaccination clinics for homeless people to find other ways to work to reduce health inequalities in our area.

We will reach local communities that need more support

As the new unitary council for Buckinghamshire settles we will be looking to collaborate with councillors and officials at all levels.

We are particularly interested in doing more in Chesham following a number of pilot projects we have undertaken in the town. Our research indicates it is an area of particular need for our homelessness prevention and harm reduction services.

We will work alongside charities and organisations that have a presence in Chesham, and continue piloting community outreach walks that promote opportunities to support our work, while also making contact with people who may need our help directly.

We are excited about bringing help to people across the whole of south Bucks, in terms of access to health care, advocacy and housing rights for people threatened with homelessness. We will ensure that anyone facing sleeping rough there is offered as good a service as people in Wycombe would receive.

WE WILL MAKE
SURE CLIENTS GET THE
HEALTHCARE THEY ARE
ENTITLED TO



VOLUNTEERS HAVE
STARTED A PILOT
OUTREACH WALK
IN CHESHAM



**WE ARE COMMITTED
TO THERE BEING ZERO
TOLERANCE TO LEAVING
PEOPLE TO LIVE ON THE
STREET...**

**WE BELIEVE THAT THERE
SHOULD BE ENOUGH HOMES
FOR EVERYONE...**

**AND THAT EVERYTHING
THAT CAN BE DONE
SHOULD BE DONE TO
PREVENT ANYONE EVER
LOSING THEIR HOME...**

**WITH YOUR HELP,
WE CAN MAKE THESE
AIMS A REALITY.**

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

INCORPORATING WYCOMBE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Oakley Hall
8 Castle Street
High Wycombe
HP13 6RF

01494 447699
contact@wyhoc.org.uk
www.wyhoc.org.uk



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



Wycombe Homeless Connection

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year ended 30th April 2021

	Unrestricted Funds 2020-2021 £	Restricted Funds 2020-2021 £	Total Funds 2020-2021 £	Total Funds 2019-2020 £
Notes				
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grants	197,190		197,190	69,420
Corporate Donations	29,047		29,047	31,655
Church Collections & Donations	46,918		46,918	39,962
Individual Donations	149,798		149,798	112,060
Other Donations legacies etc	46,283		46,283	74,920
Fund Raising Events	54,207		54,207	53,948
Other income	39,319		39,319	21,273
Bank Interest	885		885	594
Personalisation Fund		2,187	2,187	9,650
Homeless Health Fund		1,033	1,033	0
Rent In Advance Fund		5,000	5,000	11,592
Housing Benefit receipts		66,495	66,495	
Total incoming resources	563,646	74,714	638,361	425,074
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Staff costs	277,733		277,733	235,369
Employers Pension & NI & Payroll	28,693		28,693	20,891
Travel	405		405	1,265
Training	3,713		3,713	11,788
Office Expenses	44,949		44,949	33,053
Telephones	5,659		5,659	6,631
Communications & Marketing	6,270		6,270	948
Legal Fees	0		0	0
Insurance	1,675		1,675	1,500
IT systems	17,473		17,473	14,609
Service Support incl Night Shelter	55,889		55,889	44,111
Fund Raising Events & Costs	160		160	224
Recruitment	350		350	12,179
Sundries	0		0	1,416
Bank Charges	84		84	60
Personalisation Fund		3,317	3,317	10,581
Homeless Health Fund		801	801	0
Rent In Advance		2,232	2,232	13,357
Housing benefit payments		69,502	69,502	
Total resources expended	443,055	75,853	518,907	407,981
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	120,592	-1,138	119,453	17,093

Balance Sheet at 30th April 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Current Assets:			
Bank		585,451	387,322
Cash		158	216
Debtors		0	0
Prepayments		0	0
		<u>585,609</u>	<u>387,538</u>
Less Current Liabilities:			
Creditors		9,984	12,992
Accruals	6	151,625	70,000
		<u>161,610</u>	<u>82,992</u>
		<u><u>423,999</u></u>	<u><u>304,546</u></u>
FINANCED BY:			
General Fund	2	269,653	149,061
Designated Reserve Fund	5	150,000	150,000
Homeless Health Fund		232	0
Rent In Advance Fund	4	2,643	2,883
Personalisation Fund	3	1,471	2,602
		<u><u>423,999</u></u>	<u><u>304,546</u></u>

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2021

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities applicable in the UK (effective from 1 January 2015) – the Charities SORP (FRSSE) – in replacement for the SORP's 2005 version specified in its related 2008 Regulations and in accordance with the 'true and fair override' provision contained therein."

The Accounts have been prepared under the Historic Cost Convention on an accruals basis to show a true and fair view of WHC's financial position and activities. This is in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2016).

2. General Fund (Unrestricted)

The general fund is the working capital of the organisation. Fund raising peaks during the late Autumn so that the free cash in the General Fund is at its highest at the end of the winter months. At that point it has to be sufficient to carry the organisation through a 'funding drought' in the summer months. This year the Coronavirus pandemic has generated a significant increase in income from individuals and grants, some of which has been accrued to 2021-2022 since it relates to employment costs in that year, or is grant income attributable to that year.

3. Personalisation Fund (Restricted)

The personalisation Fund is money donated specifically for use in enabling guests to obtain and maintain accommodation, and to pay for ancillary costs such as copies of Passports, Medical records, travel costs, etc.

4. Rent In Advance Fund (Restricted)

This fund is normally reserved for money donated specifically for Rent in Advance payments. This year housing benefit claims for clients housed by Wycombe District Council have been paid to WHC to hold prior to being invoiced for the same amount by a different department in the council. This money has been carried forward to the next financial year as it has not yet been invoiced.

5. Reserve Fund (Unrestricted Designated)

The reserves policy is to maintain a balance of between 3 and 6 months operating expenditure plus sufficient funds to meet redundancy and other legal liabilities in the event of a forced closure. The reserve fund has been set at £150,000 in line with turnover and commitments.

6. Accruals

£124,458 of grant income has been carried forward to 2021-2022 as it relates to salary costs in that year. £3,000 has been carried forward for the Personalisation Fund, £24,167 for the Health Fund, and £8,384 due to Bucks Council for housing benefit.

Independent Examiner's Unqualified Report to the Trustees

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

P. W. Curren

Date:

23-6-21