

Communities Together Durham

**Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Charity number 1157214

Company number 08860961

Communities Together Durham

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

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Communities Together Durham

Directors and Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Reference and administration details

Charity name:	Communities Together Durham
Registered charity number	1157214
Company number	08860961
Registered office address	Cuthbert House Stonebridge Durham DH1 3RY

The trustees under charity law, who were also the directors under company law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report were:

The Revd Canon Sheila Jane Bamber (from 24.01.14; reappointed 11.03.25)
Kathy Bevan (from 05.03.24, resigned 15.07.25)
The Rt Revd Sarah Elizabeth Clark (DBF nominee, from 01.08.19)
Elaine Kilgannon (from 05.03.24)
Andrew Tinkler (from 05.03.24)
Katherine Margaret Welch OBE, DL (from 26.03.14; reappointed from 11.03.25)
The Revd Dr David Edwin George Whiting (from 26.03.14; reappointed from 11.03.25)

Independent Examiner	Mr J I Henderson FCA 1 Silverdale Way Whickham Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 5SL
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Structure, governance and management

During the early part of 2024 we reviewed the management structure and successfully appointed Alexander Jones as our first Chief Executive Officer. This is a half time appointment, and Alexander is seconded from the Diocese of Durham, under a carefully drawn secondment agreement. Alexander's early objectives include reviewing the management structure to build capacity within both the staff team and the Board. In March 2025 we successfully recruited a part time Administrator to support the CEO, governance and project teams. We continue to seek new trustees, in particular seeking experience in financial management and succession planning for the role of Chair of Trustees. We also expect to review our accounting systems during 2025.

Objectives and activities

The objects of Communities Together Durham are, for the benefit of the public:-

- 1.1 to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of Christian based charities in the furtherance of their objects or any one of them, mainly but not exclusively, by the provision of information, advice, support and infrastructure provision; and
- 1.2 the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, through the provision of grants, goods or services.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

2024 was a year of significant change for CTD. We welcomed three new trustees, secured funding for a second major project, recruited our first Chief Executive Officer, experienced a significant turnover of development staff and doubled the staffing in our refugee and asylum seeker project. We recruited 6 new people into our team.

Our long-standing Lead Development Worker, Val Barron, appointed at the inception of the charity in 2014, left us to take up a new opportunity as a Community Organiser with Citizens UK, and two of our development workers also moved on to new challenges in church ministry. In consultation with the diocese, we took the opportunity to review and strengthen our partnership arrangements and review role descriptions before moving to recruitment. Our new CEO and two new project Development Workers took up their roles in August/September 2024.

Building on our success in establishing a 'New Arrivals Pathway' in County Durham, we were successful in securing funding for a three-year project to deliver welcome and integration services for refugees and asylum seekers. We finally received confirmation of the grant from Durham County Council in May. This enabled us to significantly increase the staffing within the project, and recruitment of two new members of the project team was completed in November.

During the year we directly supported 14 holiday clubs with activities, based around food provision. In all, 339 different individuals participated in these clubs, with 86 volunteers serving across the clubs. A celebration event in September shared good practice and stories in preparation for wider engagement in 2025. Twelve church schools completed audits from Children North East's 'Poverty Proofing Schools' programme. One teacher observed: "We have stopped asking children questions related to where they have been after a holiday. We are not visiting shops when out on a school trip so that children do not need to bring money into school. We are also actively encouraging parents to use our uniform bank." The next steps include sharing the impact of the programme with other schools and considering how the model might be extended to church activities.

Churches across Durham Diocese continue to engage with warm spaces and Places of Welcome. Christ Church Felling has operated as a Place of Welcome for over 5 years. In 2024 they launched a pilot project for a council scheme for adult social care. They are a trusted organisation in the community and are seen as a safe place for people to go for support. Churches operated a range of other schemes for engaging with isolation in their community. The Durham Dales Parish Nursing is now established, and the nurse had sustained contact with more than 30 individuals over the year.

Two parishes used the Know Your Church Know Your Neighbourhood tool from the Church Urban Fund to consider how best to serve the needs of their community. In addition, we facilitated a networking and

training day for church-based community workers in November 2024. The event included an external speaker and opportunities for focused conversation. As a result of the feedback, twice yearly meetings are being planned.

Churches in all seven local authorities from the Tyne to the Tees have been involved in supporting refugees and asylum seekers located in their local area. We continue to work to build links between these different drop ins alongside other agencies. Our drop-ins for refugees and asylum seekers in County Durham continue to grow: the largest of these, in Durham City, has an average weekly attendance of around 70. We continue to work closely with Durham County Council to welcome and coordinate support for refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the authority, developing our own staff and engaging with other agencies with specialist skills. The pilot project operated from 2022-24, and received 360 referrals from Mears (the housing provider), welcoming a total of 527 individuals. We will be building on that work over the next three years, in particular by developing a programme of integration activities alongside the core service. We are preparing to register with the Immigration Advice Authority, which includes specialist training and supervision for our advice worker and a complete audit of policies and record keeping, and we hope to complete this in 2025. Activity to raise awareness of the situation refugees and asylum seekers find themselves included presentations to a number of Synods, Chapters and other groups, and we continue to see practical and thoughtful engagement with the issues faced by asylum seekers and refugees.

At the end of 2024 we introduced a new system of data capture which will enable more rigorous reporting of both the outcomes and impact of our activities. Plans for 2025 include a refreshed training offer, further development of the 'cutting the cost of the school day' work, a 'food summit' looking more broadly at responses to food insecurity, and development of integration activities for refugees and asylum seekers. We will also continue to broaden and deepen contacts with local churches and community groups to promote sustainable responses to the continuing challenge of poverty in the region. None of this would be possible without continuing support and partnership with the Diocese of Durham, Lord Crewe's Charity, Durham County Council and our other funders, and we are immensely grateful for their support.

Financial performance

The year saw an increase in turnover supported by two major grants, from Durham Diocese (Lord Crewe's Charity) and Durham County Council. Although some smaller projects came to an end, income from management fees increased as a result of a new grant for the delivery of the refugee and asylum seeker project, awarded for three years (so ending in March 2027). Delays in recruiting a CEO and part time administrator also contributed to an increase of unrestricted reserves, which stand at £97,368. We expect that in 2025 the costs of the CEO and administrator will draw on these reserves and we continue to designate £20,000 for this. Careful financial planning of core costs will be necessary and existing major grants will be reviewed during 2026.

The Board reviewed the financial procedures in March 2025, and a new accounting system will be implemented during the year.

Our general reserves are supporting cash flow as income flows quarterly in arrears, and as our core costs increase we expect to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to one year's core costs of £60k. The pressures on the voluntary and charitable sector continue, and while we do not wish to increase our reserves, we believe the present level to be appropriate.

Trustees' responsibilities in respect of the financial statements

Company Law requires the trustees, who are the directors under company law, to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company at the year end and of the net incoming/outgoing resources of the company for the year then ending. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

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

Independent examiner

The trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 in respect of the audit requirements for small companies and opted to have an independent examination in accordance with the Charities Act.

Small company special provisions:

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the trustees on 16 September 2015 and signed on their behalf by

Sheila Bamber.

Sheila Bamber
Director and Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees of Communities Together Durham on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 8 to 14

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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



Date 16 September 2025

Name

Mr J I Henderson FCA

Address

1 Silverdale Way
Whickham
NE16 5SL

Communities Together Durham

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Incoming resources	3				
Generated funds					
Voluntary income		0	34,880	34,880	6,305
Activities for generating funds		30,506	0	30,506	23,810
Investment income		0	0	0	0
Charitable activities			0	0	
Other incoming resources		49	291,506	291,555	217,971
Total incoming resources		<u>30,555</u>	<u>326,386</u>	<u>356,941</u>	<u>248,086</u>
Resources expended	4				
Generation of voluntary income		0	0		0
Charitable Activities		13,951	252,451	266,402	235,372
Governance costs		2,165	3,394	5,559	0
Other resources expended		0	0	0	0
Total resources expended		<u>16,116</u>	<u>255,845</u>	<u>271,961</u>	<u>235,372</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		<u>14,439</u>	<u>70,541</u>	<u>84,980</u>	<u>12,714</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		79,889	34,228	114,117	101,403
Net movement in funds throughout year		14,439	70,541	84,980	12,714
Transfer between funds		<u>3,040</u>	<u>(3,040)</u>	0	0
Total funds carried forward		<u>97,368</u>	<u>101,729</u>	<u>199,097</u>	<u>114,117</u>

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing and recognised gains and losses and movement on reserves are shown above.

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these accounts.

Communities Together Durham

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	95,275	41,280
Cash at bank and in hand		106,205	74,572
Stock (vouchers)		<u>7,715</u>	<u>180</u>
Total current assets		209,195	116,032
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>10,098</u>	<u>1,915</u>
Net current assets		199,097	114,117
Total assets less current liabilities		199,097	114,117
Net assets		<u>199,097</u>	<u>114,117</u>
The funds of the charity	11		
Restricted income funds		101,729	79,889
Unrestricted income funds		97,368	34,228
Total charity funds		<u>199,097</u>	<u>114,117</u>

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirement of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Sheila Bamber

Sheila Bamber
Director and Trustee

Date *16 September 2025*

Communities Together Durham

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Note 1: Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) as applicable to Charities (effective January 2016) comprising the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities ("SORP 2015").

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Note 2: Accounting policies

2.1 Incoming resources

2.1.1 Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resource
- The trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

2.1.2 Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

2.1.3 Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

2.1.4 Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

2.1.5 Contractual income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

2.1.6 Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

2.1.7 Donated services and facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measureable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

2.1.8 Volunteer help

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

2.1.9 Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

2.2 Expenditure and liabilities

2.2.1 Liability recognition

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

2.2.2 Governance costs

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

2.2.3 Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

2.3 Assets

2.3.1 Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Note 3 Analysis of incoming resources

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Voluntary income				
..Donations (FIC#)	0	120	120	120
Donations (RAS#)	0	34,760	34,760	6,185
Transfer DDBF held funds (FIC#)	0	0	0	0
Activities for generating funds				
Durham Diocese	18,408	0	18,408	23,336
Durham County Council				
Pathways/Flexible Integration	11,950	0	11,950	0
Training Delivery				
Lindisfarne College of Theology	148	0	148	474
Other incoming resource				
Grant –				
Durham Diocese	0	153,162	153,162	177,571
HMRC Employment Allowance	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
Faith in Community (FIC#)	0	0	0	0
Durham C C Pathways (RAS#)	0	107,557	107,557	30,400
Middlesbrough BC (RAS#)	0	0	0	5,000
Mears Foundation (RAS#)	0	5,000	5,000	0
Reloc8 UK (RAS#)	0	1,000	1,000	0
Other	49	19,787	19,836	0
Total incoming resources	<u>30,555</u>	<u>326,386</u>	<u>356,941</u>	<u>248,086</u>

a full breakdown of the restricted funds is included in Note 10.

Note 4 Analysis of resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable activities				
Staff costs	9,169	160,966	170,135	174,139
Travel and subsistence	128	4,016	4,144	4,738
Administration	2,264	8,642	10,906	9,901
Programme costs	1,761	50,500	52,261	31,508
Misc #	629	28,327	28,956	11,131
Governance costs	2,165	3,394	5,559	3,955
Total resources expended	<u>16,116</u>	<u>255,845</u>	<u>271,961</u>	<u>235,372</u>

In 2024 this includes a lump sum payment of grant of £20,000 to Durham Dales Parish Nursing. In 2023 a one-off fee of £10,169 for management consultancy related to organisational development was made.

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

5.1 Trustee expenses

No Trustees claimed expenses during 2024 or 2023.

5.2 Fees for the examination of the accounts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Note 6 Paid employees

At the end of the year the organisation employed eight members of staff. Two members of staff were seconded from Durham diocesan Board of Finance. One person was remunerated at £48,486 per annum (FTE, including pension contributions).

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

Analysis of debtors	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Grant payments outstanding	74,785	40,856
Prepayments	703	424
Invoice outstanding	19,787	0
<i>Total</i>	<u>95,275</u>	<u>41,280</u>

Note 8 Creditors and accruals

Analysis of creditors	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	10,098	1,915
<i>Total</i>	<u>10,098</u>	<u>1,915</u>

Note 9 Transactions and related parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Note 10 Movements on funds

	Fund balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer between funds	Fund balance c/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	<u>79,889</u>	<u>30,555</u>	<u>16,116</u>	<u>3,040</u>	<u>97,368</u>
Restricted Fund					
Lord Crewe's Charity (DDBF)					
Bridge Project	0	52,643	52,643	0	0
Free Help with Debt	0	46,762	45,576	0	1,186
Dales Parish Nursing	0	20,000	20,000	0	0
Restricted Fund					
Faith in Community					
URC	6,851	0	1,872	0	4,979
Lord Crewe's Charity (DDBF)	8,355	0	3,743	0	4,612
Donations	170	120	0	0	290
Other (transfer from DDBF restricted fund)	2,618	0	0	0	2,618
Restricted Fund					
Refugee/Asylum Project					
Lord Crewe's Charity (DDBF)	0	56,752	50,804	0	5,948
Durham CC	10,994	109,349	54,107	(3,040)	63,196
Middlesbrough BC	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Donations (cash)	60	210	85	0	185
Donations (in kind)	180	34,550	27,015	0	7,715
Mears Foundation	0	5,000	0	0	5,000
Reloc8 UK	0	1,000	0	0	1,000
Total Restricted Funds	<u>34,228</u>	<u>326,386</u>	<u>255,845</u>	<u>(3,040)</u>	<u>101,729</u>
Total funds	<u>114,117</u>	<u>356,941</u>	<u>271,961</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>199,097</u>

Note 11 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets	0	0	0	0
Net current assets	97,368	101,829	199,097	114,117
Total assets	<u>97,368</u>	<u>101,829</u>	<u>199,097</u>	<u>114,117</u>

Note 12 Liability of Members

The liability of members is limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up during the period of membership, members would be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.