

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
FOR
THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE



“Helping you feed our hungry neighbours”

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

OUR OBJECTIVES VALUES AND AIMS OF THE CHARITY.

Our Objectives are:

To relieve persons in central Bedfordshire and the surrounding area that are in poverty or financial hardship in such ways as the Trustees from time to time think fit, in particular, but not exclusively by:

1. Providing food packages to support individuals and families who are experiencing food deprivation.
2. Providing other items to meet immediate and essential needs, as resources allow.
3. Developing other forms of support to meet immediate need and alleviate financial hardship.

To achieve these objects The Need Project has the following:

Our Values are:

We are a Christian organisation motivated by Jesus' teaching on poverty and injustice. We operate according to Christian principles of compassion, honesty, integrity, openness, kindness and care of all people, regardless of backgrounds or beliefs (or none). We are passionate about inclusion and being non-judgemental is central to what we do. We believe that everyone has the right to have food on their plate, dignity, skills, a chance to work and hope for the future.

Our Aims are:

The Trustees employ a number of strategies to assist The Need Project to alleviate poverty or financial hardship and meet its objectives by:

- Providing free food parcels.
- By providing food and other essentials to families and individuals referred to the charity by recognised social work agencies, local authorities, community bodies, churches, charities or other organisations whose purpose includes the prevention or relief of poverty ('referral agencies').
- Developing effective relationships with local councils (County, unitary, parish and town), referral agencies, faith groups and community groups.
- Ensuring wide community participation in the charity's projects through giving and raising awareness.
- Developing a culture of lifelong learning throughout the organisation to allow the trustees, core staff and volunteers to do their allotted jobs effectively.
- Building strong links with the local media, and regularly updating the charity's website to stimulate public awareness of the charity's work and the issues facing people in poverty and distress.
- Setting up social enterprises which add value to the charity's existing projects by generating surpluses.
- Identifying, evaluating and incorporating best practice in project templates to ensure that projects become self-sustaining and are easy to replicate.
- Working closely with churches to help the Christian faith community to take a more active, practical and effective role in social action.
- Providing educational support to enable those referred to become more self-sufficient where it is appropriate, and resources allow.

"OUR" KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

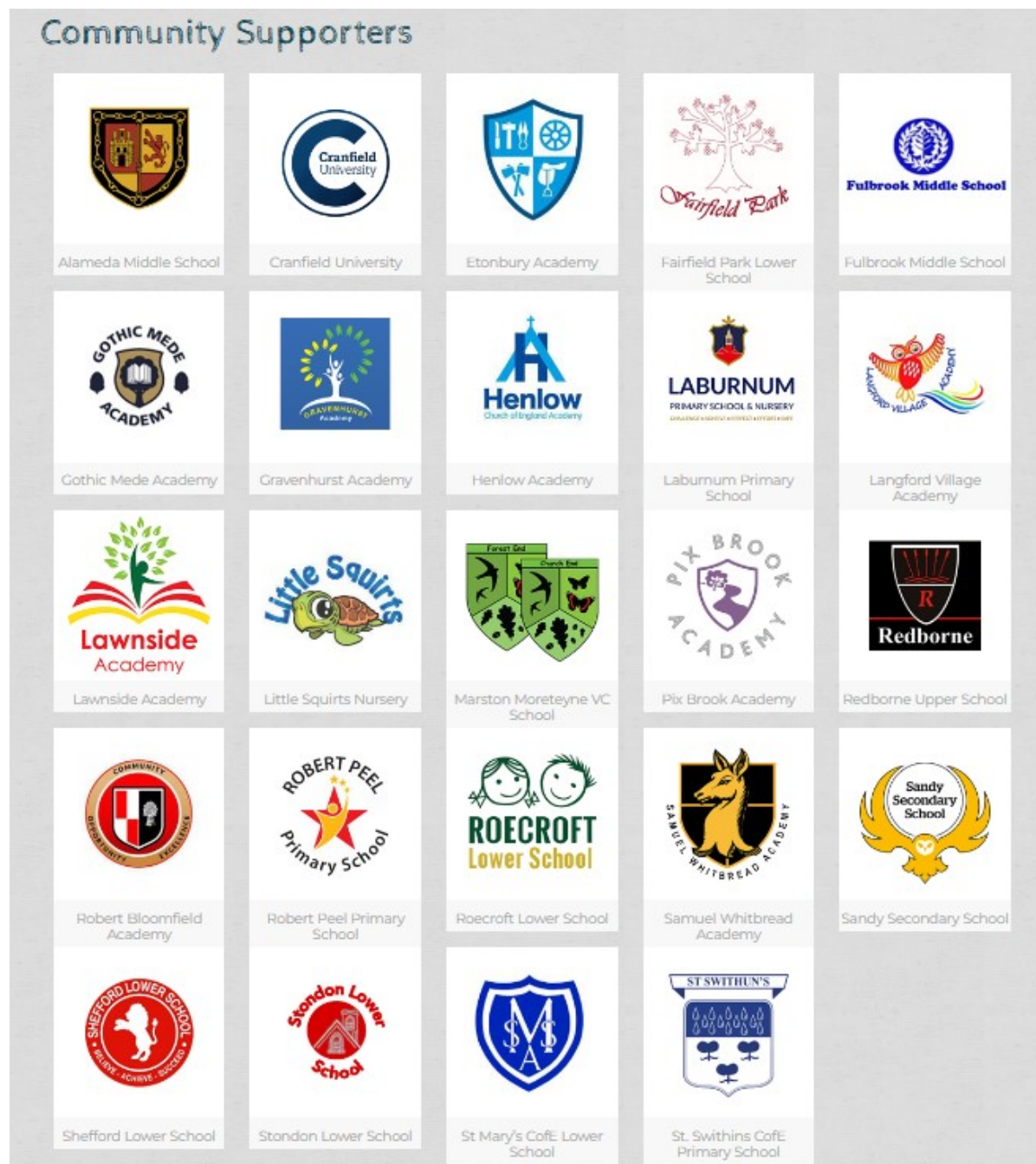
We have summarised below the outputs, outcomes, impacts and benefits of the work of the Need Project, but as Christian Charity it is our conviction that the Lord has done His work of meeting peoples' needs through our labours.

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

We have established partnerships with the following organisations:



THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Business - Best Before



Bridge Farm Shop



Co-Op



Discolicious



M&S



Sainsbury's



Tesco



The Fruit Basket



Waitrose

Councils



Central Bedfordshire
Council



Flitwick Town Council



Shefford Town Council



Stotfold Council

Business - Other



Boxall Taxis



Cultivo Lounge
Letchworth



Meadowcroft
Foodservice



The Therapy Lounge



Rebecca L Faret
Solicitors



Harrisons Accountancy

Harrisons Accountancy

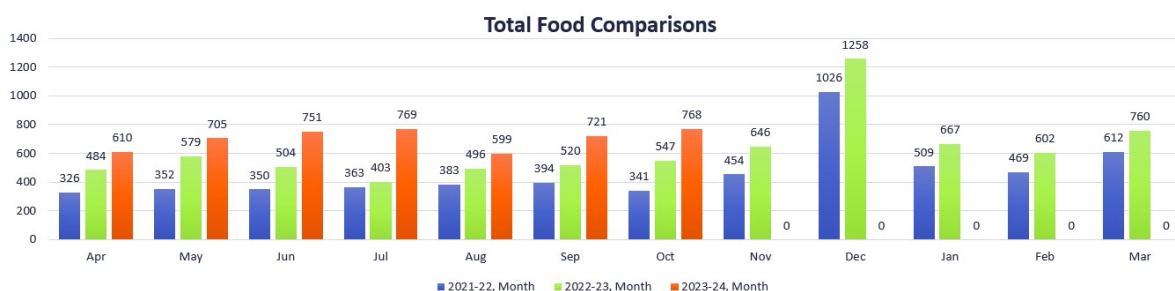
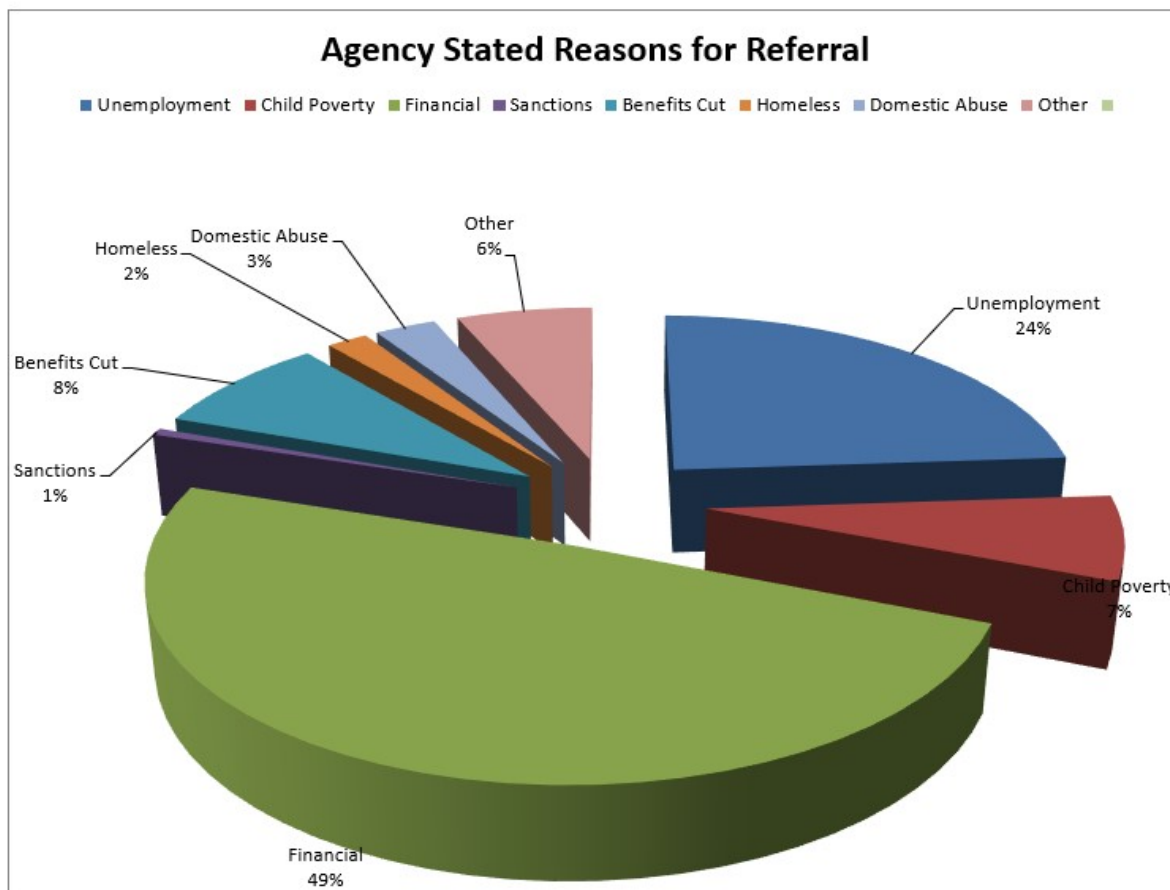


Strictly Beds & Bunks

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

These are the stats for the year *April 2023 – March 2024*:



Total value to date at £65 per parcel	£ 479,645.00	Christmas Parcels at £95 per parcel	£ 76,475.00
Total value for October at £65 per parcel	£ 49,920.00	Overall Total Year from April to Date	£ 556,120.00

Hub Summary	Total to Date	Monthly Average
Stotfold	4917	410
Flitwick	759	63
Biggleswade	404	34
Cranfield	454	38
Gamlingay	1029	86

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

Record number of food parcels delivered – an increase of 54% on the previous year. Our updated website, which now includes an online referral system which reduces the hands-on administration of this key process and has significantly improved our operating efficiency.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WE HAVE MADE

A sample of expressions of gratitude from those we are called to serve

Would like to send a massive thank you to Gordon and the team for once again supporting our young Carers group. Last month we were able to teach valuable life skills to a group of young people. We cooked spaghetti Bolognese from Scratch and Garlic bread, and all sat down together to eat. This was amazing and wouldn't have been possible without the NEEDS support.

I would like to say a huge thank you for the gifts you gave us at the women's refuge in Biggleswade. I personally am overwhelmed and so, so grateful to you all. It means so much. Well done for all that you do. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Client advised the food parcel was delivered yesterday and the people who came to her property were lovely. She said she is very grateful for all the support. She said the lady had previously been to the property and she is particularly thankful to her.

Thank you for my presents and Christmas hampers I enjoyed the chocolates I eat them very quickly
My favourite was the curly wurly.
I got Lego and football gloves it took me 20 minutes to build the Lego I keep it up safe with my other lego
and its my pride
And I've saved a lot of goals with the gloves I wear them twice a day to play football with my friends
And my sisters got wash stuff which they were happy with it

PROJECT LEADER'S REPORT

It goes without saying we are so busy. In the last year our parcels have gone up from approximately 550 a month to 847 which represents a 54% increase. This is something we expected, because year after year it gets busier, but this increase has been larger than we expected. But we are managing to keep up with demand at the moment.

On top of that we give away 369 bags of "best-before" food in January. Which, unless we gave it away, would end up in landfill this is valued at approximately £3,690. These figures reflect how sad and worrying it is for those people with families, who are experiencing food poverty. We are committed to keep on trying to help sourcing food and getting it to those who need it as quickly as we can. We have a referral system in place, which means that every person who has our food, as far as we can be sure, is in real need.

We have an amazing group of over 60 volunteers, who put in at least 300 hours a week of labour. Without those people we would not be able to function correctly or do anything like we do now. For those people I'm so so grateful.

We have two vans on the road, 5 to 6 days a week, which pick up food or are delivering food parcels, throughout Central Bedfordshire and surrounding areas. We also have a massive following on Facebook, with many followers, who when we need them, respond incredibly well and are always interested in what we are doing.

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The project functions, with hubs throughout Central Bedfordshire and beyond. We now have packing and delivery hubs in Cranfield, Flitwick, Stotfold, Gamlingay and Biggleswade. This ensures a swift response to need

Last year, in my report, I said we are looking for a permanent home for the project. We believe we have now found it and are in the process of purchasing it and hopefully we will get the key soon. We can develop it, so we don't have to rent premises anymore and have somewhere permanent to develop, to suit our growing ministry.

We have made some friends and been involved in some amazing situations and also some sad ones, but it is a joy to be involved, and we thank God for that.

Whatever happens next, our priority is, was and always will be feeding our neighbour along with anything else that we can do.

We continue to be amazed by God's amazing provision for this project and we realise the massive responsibility we have to serve correctly in a Christ Like manner.

In closing we have no idea where this project is going to lead us. All we know is that God's favour is upon our project and as long as he does that and we keep in step with Him, it's a great place for us to be.

Thank you.

Praise God Always.

Gordon

<https://theneedproject.org>

TREASURER'S REPORT

The results for the year show an income of £368,334 (2023:£212,113) and expenditure of £273,265 (2023: £197,957) resulting in a surplus of £95,069 (2023: £14,156).

As part of the income relates to donations for the development of the charity, these are shown separately in a designated fund.

The reserves as at 31 March 2024 were:

- General fund £123,952
- Development fund £120,000
- Operational reserve £65,988

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Our main goals for the project are to ensure our long-term sustainability, and increase our operational efficiency, which includes:

- Purchase and develop Stotfold Methodist Chapel as the new operational centre and a new Community Centre
- Secure funding to realise the above goal and sustain the purchase of food in bulk to meet the demands food poverty in our region
- Appoint a new chair of trustees
- Appoint a new Project Leader by mid 2025

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

TRUSTEES

Potential trustee candidates are normally referred by trusted local church leadership. We would normally expect the candidate to have good standing within their church, have Christian values and have referees that can attest to their suitability. Discussions would be had with the candidate to inform them more about the work of the charity and role as a trustee. If they wish to proceed then this is discussed at the following trustees meeting and, if there is unanimous agreement, the person is elected as a trustee.

RESERVES POLICY

As trustees we have set a prudent financial reserves policy to ensure that the ongoing financial commitments of the charity can be met. The reserves amount is set at 6 months of normal operating expenditure, excluding food. This is calculated twice per year and the figure used in the accounts for the following 6 months.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1157691

Principal address

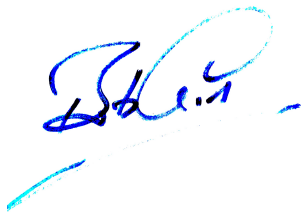
Trustees

R H Cain
Mrs D M Addams
G Hamilton
I D Adams
Mrs S Cain
S J Backhouse
D Deards

Independent Examiner

Neil C Harding FCA
Bradshaw Johnson
Chartered Accountants
Croft Chambers
11 Bancroft
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 1JQ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 19 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Bob Cain, Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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.

Neil C Harding FCA

Bradshaw Johnson
Chartered Accountants
Croft Chambers
11 Bancroft
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 1JQ

Date: 19 February 2025

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		31.3.24 Unrestricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes		
Donations and legacies	2	348,976	190,044
Other trading activities	3	17,170	17,998
Investment income	4	2,170	502
Other income		<u>18</u>	<u>3,569</u>
Total		<u>368,334</u>	<u>212,113</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds		5,511	-
 Charitable activities			
Running food bank		<u>267,754</u>	<u>197,957</u>
Total		<u>273,265</u>	<u>197,957</u>
 NET INCOME		95,069	14,156
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		<u>214,871</u>	<u>200,715</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>309,940</u>	<u>214,871</u>

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	31.3.24 Unrestricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	9,024	13,536
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	9	12,830	17,161
Debtors	10	32,903	-
Cash at bank		<u>256,383</u>	<u>184,174</u>
		302,116	201,335
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(1,200)	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>300,916</u>	<u>201,335</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>309,940</u>	<u>214,871</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>309,940</u>	<u>214,871</u>
FUNDS	12		
Unrestricted funds		<u>309,940</u>	<u>214,871</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>309,940</u>	<u>214,871</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 19 February 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

S J Backhouse - Trustee

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The Need Project Central Bedfordshire meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Income

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

Expenditure

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

Tangible fixed assets

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

Motor vehicles - 20% on cost

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

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

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

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

Irrecoverable vat

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Cash & cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Donations	97,052	34,797
Gift aid	8,073	-
Grants	<u>243,851</u>	<u>155,247</u>
	<u>348,976</u>	<u>190,044</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Government / Local Authority	129,310	94,274
Business	21,394	17,638
Charities / Trusts	76,264	27,740
Church	11,599	11,760
Schools	<u>5,284</u>	<u>3,835</u>
	<u>243,851</u>	<u>155,247</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Fundraising	<u>17,170</u>	<u>17,998</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>2,170</u>	<u>502</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

Mileage costs were paid in the year to R H Cain, one of the Trustees, of £1487 (2023: £860) to cover the cost of delivering food parcels.

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. STAFF COSTS

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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Food bank staff	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

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

7. 2023 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	190,044
Other trading activities	17,998
Investment income	502
Other income	<u>3,569</u>
Total	<u>212,113</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON	
Charitable activities	
Running food bank	<u>197,957</u>
 NET INCOME	 14,156
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	 <u>200,715</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	 <u><u>214,871</u></u>

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Motor
vehicles
£

COST

At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024

22,560

DEPRECIATION

At 1 April 2023

9,024

Charge for year

4,512

At 31 March 2024

13,536

NET BOOK VALUE

At 31 March 2024

9,024

At 31 March 2023

13,536

9. STOCKS

31.3.24

31.3.23

£

£

Stocks

12,830

17,161

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

31.3.24

31.3.23

£

£

Grants

25,000

-

Gift aid

7,903

-

32,903

-

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

31.3.24

31.3.23

£

£

Other creditors

1,200

-

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	214,871	95,069	(185,988)	123,952
Designated - Development fund	-	-	120,000	120,000
Designated - Operations reserve	-	-	65,988	65,988
	<u>214,871</u>	<u>95,069</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>309,940</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>214,871</u>	<u>95,069</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>309,940</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	368,334	(273,265)	95,069
	<u>368,334</u>	<u>(273,265)</u>	<u>95,069</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>368,334</u>	<u>(273,265)</u>	<u>95,069</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	200,715	14,156	214,871
	<u>200,715</u>	<u>14,156</u>	<u>214,871</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>200,715</u>	<u>14,156</u>	<u>214,871</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	212,113	(197,957)	14,156
	<u>212,113</u>	<u>(197,957)</u>	<u>14,156</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>212,113</u>	<u>(197,957)</u>	<u>14,156</u>

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Designated funds

The designated development fund includes donations received towards the longer-term development of the charity, including the purchase of a permanent home for The Need Project.

The designated operations reserve provides for 6 months operational costs, excluding buying food, in line with the reserves policy.

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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