

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157691

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024
FOR
THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

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FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

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THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 December 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

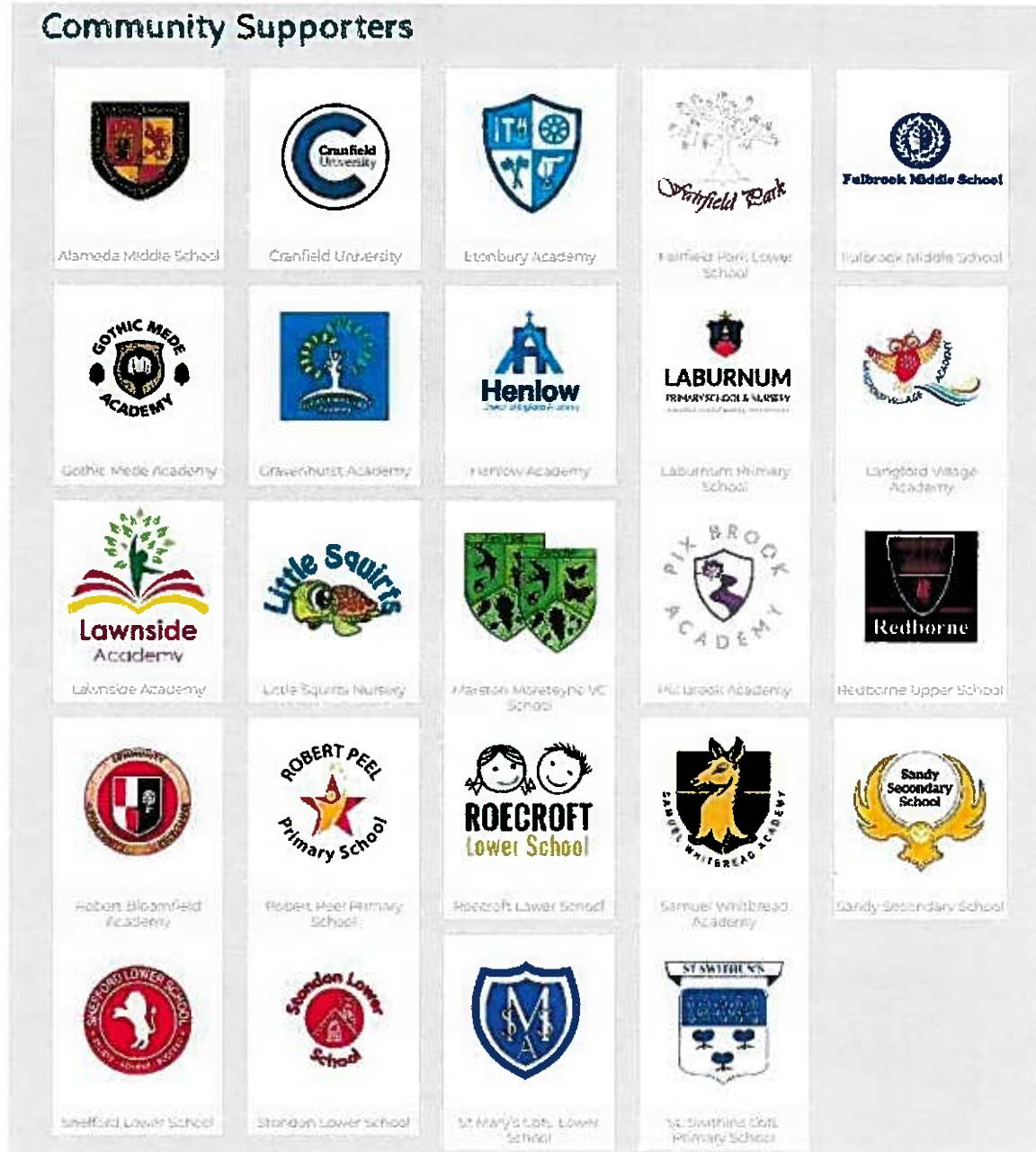
"OUR" KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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 PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

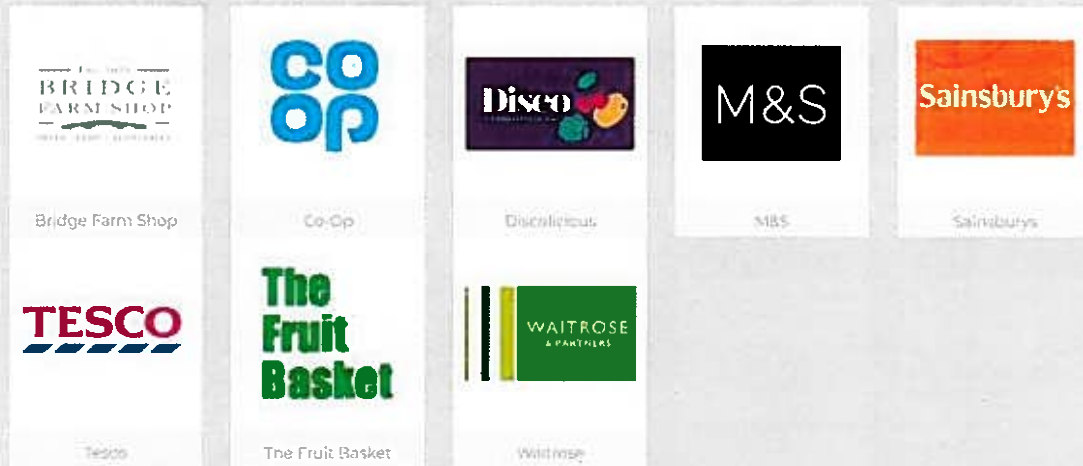
We have established partnerships with the following organisations:



THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

Business - Best Before



Councils

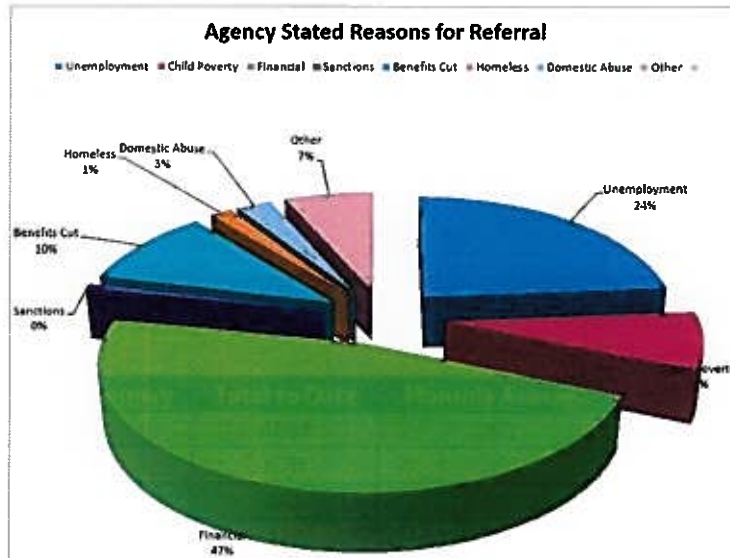


Business - Other



THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

These are the stats for the year:
April 2024 - December 2024



Total value to date at £65 per parcel (Apr - Dec) £ 452,150.00

Hub Summary	Total to Date	Monthly Average
Stotfold	4384	365
Flitwick	670	56
Biggleswade	462	39
Cranfield	420	35
Gamlingay	857	71

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.

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

WHAT DIFFERENCE WE HAVE MADE

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

*Thank you so much for the delivery made this morning. With my husband's terminal cancer and late-stage dementia it's been very stressful to pop out even for basic supplies as he cannot be left alone for long. It's very difficult to encourage him to eat anything. Apart from the odd one slice sandwich, biscuits, cakes and occasional clear soup or fruits. Hopefully I can tempt him with the contents sent. I can't express my appreciation of your kindness.
Respectfully yours*

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.

PROJECT LEADER'S REPORT

As in last year's report, we are still very busy with numbers. It's not slowing down, but we continue to meet the challenge and through God's grace and mercy, we continue to successfully feed our hungry neighbours. Our volunteers continue to amaze us, with their commitment and passion for our ministry and so does the incredible ongoing support from the public, who buy into what we do, sometimes quite literally.

We are averaging 754 parcels a month and 400 top up bags of food that would otherwise be in landfill, which totals approximately £50,000 per month. This always amazes us, as we continue to be in a position to carry out our ministry.

As this goes to print, I can confirm, we are the owners of the chapel we were in the process of purchasing and are in the process of developing the premises, (Praise God for his incredible provision), to suit our present and future needs and that of our community.

We continue to operate out of our usual hubs throughout Central Beds and beyond, with some additional volunteers joining our team. Christmas was very busy, as always, with us having to reshape our system, due to problems with premises, but it was a great success and we learnt from it for next year.

In closing, I am so grateful to those employed by the Project, those amazing volunteers and the wonderful public, without whom we couldn't function.

Praise God always

Gordon 🙏🙏

<https://theneedproject.org>

TREASURER'S REPORT

The results for the period show an income of £231,206 (2024 £368,334) and expenditure of £209,490 (2024: £273,265) resulting in a surplus of £21,716 (2024: £95,069).

As part of the income relates to donations for the development of the charity, these are shown in a separate designated fund. Fund balances can be found in note 12.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

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

- Align the reporting period with the calendar, January to December, hence this interim report covering April 2024 to December 2024
- 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 October 2025

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 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 29 April 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 period 1 April 2024 to 31 December 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').

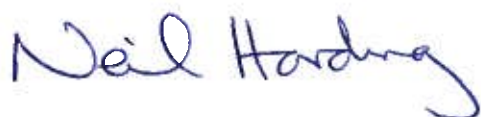
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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: 11 June 2025

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24 Unrestricted funds £	Year Ended 31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes		
Donations and legacies	2	212,925	348,976
Other trading activities	3	16,621	17,170
Investment income	4	1,660	2,170
Other income		-	18
Total		231,206	368,334
 EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds		3,234	5,511
Charitable activities			
Running food bank		206,256	267,754
Total		209,490	273,265
 NET INCOME		 21,716	 95,069
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		309,940	214,871
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		 331,656	 309,940

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	31.12.24 Unrestricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	5,640	9,024
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	9	7,868	12,830
Debtors	10	17,439	32,903
Cash at bank		<u>323,749</u>	<u>256,383</u>
		349,056	302,116
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(23,040)	(1,200)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>326,016</u>	<u>300,916</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>331,656</u>	<u>309,940</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>331,656</u>	<u>309,940</u>
FUNDS	12		
Unrestricted funds		<u>331,656</u>	<u>309,940</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>331,656</u>	<u>309,940</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 29 April 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:


S J Backhouse - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 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 PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
Donations	41,478	97,052
Gift aid	7,130	8,073
Grants	<u>164,317</u>	<u>243,851</u>
	<u>212,925</u>	<u>348,976</u>

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

	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
Government / Local Authority	62,510	129,310
Business	7,560	21,394
Charities / Trusts	85,094	76,264
Church	7,639	11,599
Schools	<u>1,514</u>	<u>5,284</u>
	<u>164,317</u>	<u>243,851</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
Fundraising	<u>16,621</u>	<u>17,170</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
Deposit account interest	<u>1,660</u>	<u>2,170</u>

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Included in staff costs is remuneration paid to two trustees. Both trustees were employed by the charity before their appointment. Their remuneration relates solely to their employment activities – they receive no remuneration for being a trustee. The other trustees (who receive no remuneration for this role) agreed to this arrangement as it was beneficial for the charity and agree any changes to the remuneration. This has been the position for the period ended 31 December 2024 and for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

Mileage costs were paid in the year to R H Cain, one of the Trustees, of £1,114 (2023: £860) to cover the cost of delivering food parcels.

6. STAFF COSTS

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

	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24	Year Ended 31.3.24
Food bank staff	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

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

7. 2024 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	348,976
Other trading activities	17,170
Investment income	2,170
Other income	<u>18</u>
Total	<u>368,334</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	5,511
Charitable activities	
Running food bank	<u>267,754</u>
Total	<u>273,265</u>
 NET INCOME	 95,069
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	<u>214,871</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	 <u><u>309,940</u></u>

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

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.

6. STAFF COSTS

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

	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24	Year Ended 31.3.24
Food bank staff	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

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

7. 2024 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	348,976
Other trading activities	17,170
Investment income	2,170
Other income	<u>18</u>
Total	<u>368,334</u>
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	5,511
Charitable activities	
Running food bank	<u>267,754</u>
Total	<u>273,265</u>
NET INCOME	95,069
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	214,871
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THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicles £
COST	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 December 2024	<u>22,560</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2024	13,536
Charge for year	<u>3,384</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>16,920</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2024	<u>5,640</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>9,024</u>

9. STOCKS

	31.12.24	31.3.24
	£	£
Stocks	<u>7,868</u>	<u>12,830</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.24	31.3.24
	£	£
Other debtors	1,660	-
Grants	-	25,000
Gift aid	15,033	7,903
Prepayments	<u>746</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>17,439</u>	<u>32,903</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.24	31.3.24
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>23,040</u>	<u>1,200</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At
	£	£	£	31.12.24
				£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	123,952	(13,284)	(6,282)	104,386
Designated - Development fund	120,000	35,000	-	155,000
Designated - Operations reserve	<u>65,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,282</u>	<u>72,270</u>
	<u>309,940</u>	<u>21,716</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>331,656</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>309,940</u>	<u>21,716</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>331,656</u>

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	196,206	(209,490)	(13,284)
Designated - Development fund	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,000</u>
	<u>231,206</u>	<u>(209,490)</u>	<u>21,716</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>231,206</u>	<u>(209,490)</u>	<u>21,716</u>

Comparatives for 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	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,988</u>	<u>65,988</u>
	<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>

Comparative 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>

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.

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 31 December 2024.