



ATTIC PROJECT
CHARITY NO. 1158300

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS**

31 MARCH 2025



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Trustee Annual Report - December 2025

Introduction

The Attic Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Commission No 1158300. We have a board of committed Trustees who meet quarterly, and we hold an Annual General Meeting yearly. The “Attic Project” is a charitable foundation located in the heart of Bury, dedicated to providing targeted wrap around support to our most vulnerable and marginalised groups and helping those in need. With the dedication of our volunteers, staff members and partners, we strive to improve the lives of everyone who needs help within the community. The Attic project is here to support anyone struggling and in genuine need and bring about positive life changes. Empowering our people, building our communities and providing a lifeline to many.

Period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Name of Trustees

David Stopford, Dawn Turnbull, Tracy Turner, and Chris Fargher.

Service User Trustees

Joseph Roantree and Jimmy Wakudyanaye

Number of Volunteers

15

1. Executive Summary

The Attic Project has continued to provide an essential lifeline for vulnerable individuals and families across Bury during a year marked by significant economic challenge, rising poverty, and increasing demand for support. Despite limited funding availability and spiralling operational costs, we have delivered high-impact community services, emergency support, and targeted projects that have transformed lives, supported wellbeing, and prevented crisis escalation for those most at risk.

Partnership working, community generosity, volunteer commitment and the continued success of our collaboration with **Realise Training** have been instrumental in enabling us to keep our doors open. We are proud of the positive outcomes achieved and remain committed to supporting those who need us most.



2. Overview of The Attic Project – Mission & Purpose

The Attic Project Bury exists to support people facing hardship, isolation, poverty, illness, or crisis. We provide a safe, welcoming environment where those who are struggling can access practical help, emotional support, opportunities to connect and rebuild confidence, and routes into training, employment, and improved wellbeing.

We support a wide range of vulnerable groups including older people, families on low income, individuals facing mental or physical health challenges, victims/survivors of domestic abuse or violence, and those experiencing economic hardship or social isolation.

3. Core Services Provided (Ongoing Year-Round Support)

Alongside our funded projects, these core services form the backbone of our community impact:

- **Community Foodbank & Emergency Crisis Support**

Providing emergency food parcels, basic essentials, and urgent household support to individuals and families in emergency need. Demand has risen sharply over the last year due to cost-of-living pressures and increasing local poverty.

- **Welfare, Benefits & Financial Support**

Guiding people through benefit applications, appeals, debt concerns, housing challenges and hardship support. This has prevented crisis escalation for many households and improved financial capacity for those who had nowhere else to turn.

- **Mental Health & Peer-Support Groups**

Safe space support groups help reduce isolation, anxiety and loneliness while building confidence, connection, and emotional resilience.

- **Digital Inclusion & Practical Help**

Support with online access, application completion, job search, universal credit/benefit systems and general welfare support, vital for those who struggle digitally or lack computer access.



- **Community Drop-In & Warm Space Social Connection Hub**

A welcoming warm space offering hot drinks and warm snacks, conversation, belonging and community connection — Particularly for isolated older adults, those most vulnerable and those with mental health needs.

- **Emergency Food & Toys at Christmas (Annual Initiative)**

This support is vital because rising living costs leave many families and vulnerable individuals unable to afford even the basics, let alone anything extra for Christmas. Without help, children may wake up with no presents and families may go without a proper meal, deepening feelings of hardship and exclusion during what should be a joyful time. Providing food hampers and toys ensures that vulnerable people are not left behind, offering relief, dignity, and a sense of normality, while showing care leavers and those without support networks that they are valued and not alone.

Together, these services deliver emergency help and wrap around support, that improves wellbeing, reduces isolation, prevents crisis, and builds community resilience. Empowering our people, strengthening our communities and bringing about long-term positive growth.

4. Funded Projects Delivered This Period

Supporting Our Pensioners Project

A vital programme protecting older residents facing loneliness, food insecurity and financial worry. Through group sessions, befriending, support access and emergency help, we improved wellbeing, reduced isolation, and ensured older people felt valued, connected, and supported.

Supporting Our Pensioners, a new 14-month project, created to support older residents across Bury who are struggling with rising living costs, isolation, and access to welfare entitlements. The project runs weekly face-to-face drop-in sessions providing a warm, welcoming environment with refreshments, social connection, and direct welfare support.

Specialist support staff offer pension credit checks, benefit application support (including Attendance Allowance), and wrap-around advice for individuals at risk of financial hardship. The service aims to maximise income for older people, improve wellbeing, reduce loneliness, and prevent crisis escalation during a period of increased pressure caused by the removal of Winter Fuel Payments and high household costs.



Through regular attendance monitoring, entitlement outcomes and client feedback, we have dealt with more than 150 clients since the project started and maximised income in the region of £425,000. The client feedback has been incredible, with people feeling much more equipped to cope, significant reductions in worry and stress and most importantly, people do not know how they would have survived these desperate times without the valuable help, support, and compassion of the Attic Project.

Many thanks for this valuable funding to National Lottery Awards for All.

Additional Smaller Funding Pots for Projects Delivered This Period.

In It Together Project

Delivered targeted support for individuals facing isolation, mental health challenges or social barriers. The project enabled our most vulnerable by building confidence, independence, created social connection and improved emotional wellbeing for participants through group activities, workshops and peer support.

Many thanks for this valuable funding to Bury VCFA

Cost of Living Support

This project aimed to provide direct support to individuals and families who are being affected by rising living costs, particularly those in work who are struggling to make ends meet. The initiative delivered immediate relief through emergency food parcels, helping households who experience shortfalls due to increased rent, utility bills, and other essential expenses. Alongside this, the project delivered individual, tailored wrap-around support to address the root causes of financial hardship and prevent future crisis. This included budgeting advice, access to benefits guidance, signposting to debt support services, and referrals to partner organisations for longer-term assistance. Our goal is to prevent families from reaching crisis point, improve financial stability, and support households towards greater resilience and independence.

Many thanks for this valuable funding to GM Grants Programme.

Supporting Bury East

Working directly at the heart of our community, supporting local families and individuals in hardship. We delivered practical help, community connection activities, welfare support, emergency intervention and food provision for those most in need.

Many thanks to our Local Councillors for a kind grant donation towards this.

Welcome Wednesdays

This project provided specialist welfare reform support alongside our core services, ensuring low-income families can access urgent advice when requesting emergency food support. The service helped prevent crises escalating, particularly for those with long-term mental/physical health conditions and victims / survivors of domestic abuse and violence who often lack support networks and working families, struggling to meet monthly outgoings. The project helped to stabilise households financially, reduce stress, remove risks



and prevent deeper poverty during a time of uncertainty and welfare changes.
Many thanks for this valuable funding to Bury VCFA

Beyond the Streets

A youth-led initiative tackling rising knife crime through safe discussion spaces, awareness workshops and positive diversion. Working alongside community mentors, young people took the lead in two workshop phases before expanding to sessions with parents and peers, creating open forums, honest conversations, and inspirational speakers. The project was aimed to address root causes, influence culture around knife carrying, and empower young people to choose safer pathways. The approach supports early intervention, builds resilience, and strengthens family/community relationships.

Many thanks for this valuable funding to Bury VCFA Standing Together Funding

Emergency Food Bank – Top-Up Supplies

Funding used to replenish essential supplies post-Christmas to maintain crisis food support for residents in immediate hardship. The food bank operates two days a week with emergency provisions provided where necessary, offering wrap-around help and support with universal credit / benefits, debt, housing, employment support and digital access. Demand continues to rise due to the cost-of-living crisis, making this funding vital to maintain food security and safeguard residents during their most vulnerable moments. Christmas is particularly challenging for us due to emergency community needs, so topping up our essential supplies is vital.

Many thanks to Irwell Valley Homes for a kind grant donation towards this.

- **Family Christmas Support 2024**

Delivered festive support to at least 75 local families, experiencing severe financial strain. Toys for more than 80 local children otherwise gone without, this was targeting those most vulnerable by working with front line statutory services and around 25 care leavers with no stable family or support network. Essential Food Hampers were created and distributed through community donations, small business support and volunteers. This project built on last year's successful Christmas initiatives, by making sure families in crisis received essential food and children with nothing, received toys, helping to reduce hunger and hardship over Christmas and ensuring all families can enjoy a positive celebration. It also strengthened community engagement and showcased the collective compassion across Bury.

Many thanks to Great Places Housing for a kind grant donation towards this.



Warm Welcome Project

A new service offering weekly warm-space sessions, social connection place and targeted pension/welfare support to older residents. The project aimed to reduce loneliness, improve wellbeing, increase benefit entitlement (including Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance) and support residents through winter pressures and cost-of-living challenges. This initiative addressed isolation, financial vulnerability, and health decline among older adults, while building long-term resilience and community connection. This valuable pilot helped us capture the needs and demands within the community.

Many thanks for this valuable funding to Albert Hunt Trust.

Household Support Fund

Funding contributes to core operational costs ensuring continued food provision and warm-space access for struggling residents throughout winter. Support includes food, safe communal spaces, and wrap-around help, allowing The Attic Project to remain a lifeline for those facing hardship and help keep vulnerable people warm and safe during the winter months. This grant also underpins sustainability by covering utilities and operational essentials during a period of peak demand.

Many thanks for this valuable funding to Bury Council.

5. Outcomes & Impact Achieved

Despite a difficult financial climate, we have achieved **outstanding results for those at highest risk**, including:

- Emergency food and crisis support preventing hardship and hunger.
- Wrap-around intervention for high-risk and vulnerable people
- Improved mental health, confidence, and emotional resilience.
- Reduced isolation among older people, carers and those living alone.
- Successful progression for participants into work, training, or volunteering
- Increased social value through partnerships, volunteering and community action.
- Lives changed, confidence restored, and hope rebuilt for those in crisis.
- Families in crisis receive essential food, helping to reduce hunger and hardship over Christmas.
- Children who would otherwise go without receive toys, allowing them to experience joy and inclusion during the festive season.



- Strengthened community engagement, ensured a sense of belonging and showcased the collective compassion and support across our communities.

For many local residents, **we have been a lifeline when no one else was there.**

6. Challenges This Year

This year has brought significant strain:

- Severe reduction in available grant funding across the sector.
- Only small funding pots available but the needs of the community extremely high.
- Increased demand — more families are now in poverty and relying on support.
- Rising operational and utility costs threatening sustainability.
- Higher need for foodbank resources and crisis intervention.
- Growing mental health and wellbeing pressures among residents.

Despite these challenges, our team has worked tirelessly to maintain access and protect services, people in need and our communities.

7. Partnership Spotlight

Realise Training

Our partnership with REALISE, a national training provider, has been invaluable.

Over the past 12 months, Realise have delivered a wide range of free training courses from The Attic, supporting local residents to upskill, gain confidence, and move closer to employment. Many participants have since successfully transitioned into paid work, which we are incredibly proud of.

Beyond life-changing outcomes for learners, the partnership has:

- Provided essential room-hire income helping us cover vital bills.
- Supported our survival during the most challenging financial period to date.
- Contributed food donations to our emergency foodbank.
- Offered volunteer help, goodwill, and shared community commitment.



We sincerely thank Realise for choosing to work with us. This partnership has not only changed lives — it helped us create an additional income stream helping keep our charity open when it was needed most.

8. Looking Forward

Our priority for the coming year is to:

- Secure new funding streams to protect essential services.
- Build on partner relationships and expand community collaborations.
- Strengthen sustainability, reduce risk, and increase resilience.
- Grow capacity to meet increasing the needs within our communities.

Continued trustee guidance and support will be key as we navigate a challenging but hopeful future.

9. Closing Statement

The Attic Project remains a vital lifeline for vulnerable people in Bury.

Despite a year of hardship, we have delivered exceptional impact and achieved outstanding outcomes. Prevented crisis for those most vulnerable and protected those at highest risk, we have continued to offer compassion, stability, and hope where it is needed most.

Throughout the year, we have played a key role in bringing our communities together, empowering our people, increasing community engagement, and creating shared ownership. We are very proud to be at the heart of building stronger, prouder, and more resilient communities.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our fantastic team, trustees, volunteers, partners, funders, community sponsors and supporters — without whom this incredible work would simply not be possible.



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Financial review

The net receipts for the period were £46,603 (unrestricted £15,573, restricted £31,030). The charity aims to build its unrestricted reserves to cover 6 months running expenses.

Investment powers and policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are few funds for any long-term investment.

Risk Management

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to 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. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

D. Turnbull
Trustee
19 December 2025

C. Fargher
Trustee
19 December 2025



Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Attic Project

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Attic Project for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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 (S)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I can 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Scott Davenport

Davenports Group Ltd
Community House, Badger Street
Bury, BL9 6AD
19 December 2025



Statement of assets and liabilities

at 31 March 2025

Charity No. 1158300	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets				
Fixtures & Fittings	424	-	424	-
	<u>424</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	52,432	20,096	72,528	87,874
Prepayment and accrued income	-	-	-	126
	<u>52,432</u>	<u>20,096</u>	<u>72,528</u>	<u>88,000</u>
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	-	(1,779)	(1,779)	(409)
	<u>52,856</u>	<u>18,317</u>	<u>71,173</u>	<u>87,591</u>
Net current assets				
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>52,856</u>	<u>18,317</u>	<u>71,173</u>	<u>87,591</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability	<u>52,856</u>	<u>18,317</u>	<u>71,173</u>	<u>87,591</u>
Total net assets	<u>52,856</u>	<u>18,317</u>	<u>71,173</u>	<u>87,591</u>

Approved by the trustees on 19 December 2025

And signed on their behalf by:

D. Turnbull
Trustee
19 December 2025

C. Fargher
Trustee
19 December 2025



Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts:					
Charitable activities		15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Total		15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Payments on:					
Charitable activities		2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Other		2,387	53,069	55,456	66,512
Total		4,530	57,419	61,949	72,686
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income		11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)		11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		41,389	46,485	87,874	60,774
Total funds carried forward		52,432	20,096	72,528	87,874



Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.

Taxation	The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates
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Transactions with trustees

No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year



Detailed Statement of Financial

Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts from:				
Charitable activities	15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
	-	-	-	-
	15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Total income	15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Payments on:				
Charitable activities	2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
	2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	45,759	45,759	47,707
Pension costs	-	1,041	1,041	1,318
Staff Training	-	-	-	6,170
	-	46,800	46,800	55,195
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Premises costs				
Rent	-	1,800	1,800	4,306
Premise repairs and maintenance	1,046	126	1,172	2,556
	1,046	1,926	2,972	6,862
General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation				
Depreciation	81	-	81	-
General insurances	-	1,057	1,057	1,040
Software, IT support and related costs	374	296	670	-



Sundry expenses	886	-	886	-
Telephone, fax and broadband	-	2,028	2,028	2,842
	<u>1,341</u>	<u>3,882</u>	<u>5,102</u>	<u>3,882</u>
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	-	461	461	574
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>461</u>	<u>461</u>	<u>574</u>
Total of expenditure of other costs	<u>2,387</u>	<u>53,069</u>	<u>55,456</u>	<u>66,512</u>
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Other gains	-	-	-	-
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for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	45,759	45,759	47,707
Pension costs	-	1,041	1,041	1,318
Staff Training	-	-	-	6,170
	-	46,800	46,800	55,195
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Premises costs				
Rent	-	1,800	1,800	4,306
Premise repairs and maintenance	1,046	126	1,172	2,556
	1,046	1,926	2,972	6,862
General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation				
Depreciation	81	-	81	-
General insurances	-	1,057	1,057	1,040
Software, IT support and related costs	374	296	670	-



Sundry expenses	886	-	886	-
Telephone, fax and broadband	-	2,028	2,028	2,842
	<u>1,341</u>	<u>3,882</u>	<u>5,102</u>	<u>3,882</u>
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	-	461	461	574
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>461</u>	<u>461</u>	<u>574</u>
Total of expenditure of other costs	<u>2,387</u>	<u>53,069</u>	<u>55,456</u>	<u>66,512</u>
Activities Total expenditure	4,530	57,419	61,949	72,686
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income	<u>11,043</u>	<u>(26,389)</u>	<u>(15,346)</u>	<u>27,100</u>
Net income before other gains/(losses)	11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Other gains	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>11,043</u>	<u>(26,389)</u>	<u>(15,346)</u>	<u>27,100</u>
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	41,389	46,485	87,874	60,774
Total funds carried forward	<u>52,432</u>	<u>20,096</u>	<u>72,528</u>	<u>87,874</u>