



End of year report & Independently Examined Financial statements

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Charity number: 1161092

The Fod

Reports and Accounting

For the Year ended 31st March 1974

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Report of the Trustees | 1 - 4 |
| Statement of Income and Expenditure | 5 |
| Statement of Assets and Liabilities | 6 - 7 |
| Independent Examiners Report | 8 |
| Independent Review of Accounts | 9 |

Trustee report

The Pod is ten years old this year! It fills me with awe and pride to reflect on the journey The Pod has made over the past decade. What started as a vision by a group of intrepid parent carers has developed into a network of connection and support for young people and adults with additional needs and their families in Frome. It is hard to believe that ten years have already passed since those early days of pooling resources to create a youth club. Today, The Pod is a thriving community offering a range of services, identified by the community itself, to enrich the lives of so many.

We are delighted that in our tenth year we have had the honour of being nominated and awarded The Frome Times Group of The Year. We are grateful to all the people who voted to bring us this recognition.

Celebrating Ten Years of Impact

When those dedicated and determined parent carers first gathered ten years ago to create a youth club for young people with additional needs, could they have imagined the vibrant, multifaceted organization The Pod would become?

Looking Back and Moving Forward

Reflecting on our history, our success is built on the dedication of our team and the unwavering support of our community. Our members, volunteers, staff, and supporters have been the backbone of The Pod, ensuring that we can continue to provide high-quality services that meet the evolving needs of our members.

In our drive to ensure that our services meet our members' needs, we have worked hard this year on developing new ways of measuring our impact. This has been a collaborative effort, taking much time and energy, with involvement from all our team and our members together. With these new systems for measuring impact in place, we are ready to learn and adapt to the information they give us.

The year has held challenges. As always, our team has met these challenges with resilience, creativity, and flexibility, finding new ways forward when barriers emerge. We have also focused on securing sustainable funding to ensure that we can continue to grow and thrive.

Gratitude and Acknowledgements

The Pod exists through the hard work, commitment, and passion of our staff, our members and volunteers, our trustees, and the generosity of our donors. I extend heartfelt thanks to you all. To our funders, both large and small, thank you for believing in our mission. Your contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of so many families.

As we move forward, we will continue to strive for excellence in our services, expand our outreach, and foster an even stronger sense of community. Our vision remains clear: to create a society where every person with additional needs feels valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

With heartfelt thanks,

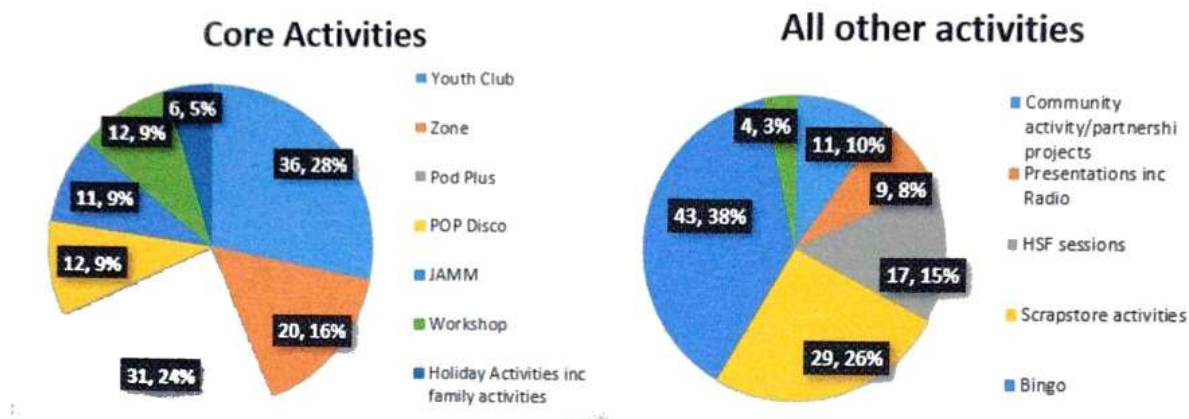
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Moira Spence". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Moira" and "Spence" being capitalized and prominent.

Moira Spence

History - The Pod is a grassroots initiative, founded by parent carers in 2013 in response to a lack of services for disabled children in Mendip. Maintaining a service that is member led is essential in ensuring Pod beneficiaries support one another and reach their full potential.

Objectives - (CIO extract) To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.'

The charity achieves this through the following services;



In summary; the number of activities has increased by 12%, 2024 = 242 activities (2022/23 = 216)

Pod Youth Club

The Youth club welcomes children with additional needs aged 10-17 years. The club meets on a Tuesday 5.30-7.30pm in term time and occasionally in the holidays. The staff ratio is 1:3, the team are skilled, experienced and understand how to enable the children to reach their full potential. Children learn important life skills and make friends. Activities in youth club and all Pod projects are co-led by the people who attend the groups. Youth club activity favourites include the sports hall, cooking, seasonal craft and games as well as trips out to the climbing centre and ice skating this year. There continues to be a waiting list, historically children wait more than a year before they can join the group. A consultation with all stakeholders took place in 2023 and a solution has been identified. The Pod is now seeking funding to double the capacity on the youth club and reduce the cost per head to access. Children who reach 17 years may transition into Pod Plus and continue their positive social experiences and friendships.

The Zone

The Zone is a youth club for Young Carers who join between 8-16 years old. The Zone runs on alternate Wednesday evenings in term time with occasional holiday activities. Many but not all the children have a sibling with additional needs, or they may have parents who have long term health conditions that impact their ability for their children to lead normal childhoods. The group are diverse, and the activities chosen to support these needs. Children may come to Zone to enjoy respite from high energy households whereas other young carers who attend prefer high energy, often competitive activities. The children really enjoy their nurturing session alongside trips out which this year included; Center Parcs, Pumpkin festival, roller skating and a theatre trip.

Pod Plus & POP Discos

The Pod Plus group meets on Mondays from 6.30-8.30pm, young adults aged between 17 + 30 attend. The team provide a ratio of 1:5. Members activity suggestions are creative, and we aim to facilitate these wherever possible; this year the group have enjoyed a casino night, meals out, and ready steady cook. Members created invitations, prepared cream teas and invited their mums in for a Mother's Day celebration.

The monthly POP Disco continues to be a highlight in the Pod calendar for many. The number of beneficiaries from this event has increased significantly. POP disco employs a resident DJ, a young man with additional needs himself. POP is equally enjoyed by parent carers and personal assistants who come together for support. Themes for each event are chosen by the group, ranging from Karaoke, Silent discos, or dance tunes.

JAMM – Just A Monday Meet-Up

Our parent support group meets once a month on a Monday from 10-12 noon. We provide refreshments and a space to pause from stressful lives. This is the chance for parent carers to take a rare opportunity to sit, reflect and have a chat. This may be about their lived experience in caring for their child/young adult or sharing ideas on navigating the challenges of emotional and professional support, education, and funding issues, or just a distraction from that focus. There are many poignant conversations within this supported space. The group attracts a combination of regular attendees and new parents seeking out supportive peer relationships and guidance from the Pod team.

Workshop

The concept of Workshop developed with members voicing they wanted to experience a "Make & Sell" idea; following a successful soap making activity in a project. Workshop has developed into a stand-alone project designed to offer a space to learn new skills, social time to meet friends and an experience of being in a Workplace environment.

It gives it an adult "workplace" feel in preparation for further work experience or employment. Workshop attendees need to follow processes and work as a team to create quality artisan products which they help design e.g. bunting, candles and cards, then sold at local markets to raise funds for the project. Attendees gain experience of running the market stall and interacting with the public, increasing confidence and improving communication and social skills, and it is fun to do!

Workshop needs to be sustainable to guarantee its future, Pod is working with the local authority to develop day services and hope to relaunch late 2024.

Pod Scrapstore

Pod began the Scrapstore journey in response to our community voicing they were unable to find an accessible placement to gain work experience. Pod Scrapstore now in its 3rd year is developing into a viable social enterprise model for Pod.

- Pod Scrapstore is the ideal vehicle for work experience, training, and potential employment. It offers a role for everyone whatever their level of skill or support needs. Everyone is growing in confidence and learning new skills. Feedback captured reflected they enjoy feeling responsible and being an expert in something.

- Scrapstore provides the community with a resource for materials that appeals to schools, nurseries, childminders, families and creative people - The public response is strong and supportive.

Concerns regarding customers being perceived as challenging can be difficult for members to process. Training and signage (explaining the needs of the staff team to the public) through leaflets and badges, has provided the tools to handle this.

Pod ambassadors have visited local FE Colleges encouraging other young adults to try volunteering. Pupils from Fairfield College came for their first experience of volunteering at Scrapstore, college staff were amazed at the achievements of the young people.

This year Scrapstore has led;

- Two successful Pop-Up events
- Scrap play at the Frome Children's Festival in July, visited by over 100 children.
- A new permanent little Scrapstore in the town centre, affectionately known as "Green Doors" situated in the town centre. Open to the 2hrs weekly and on Independent Market days for 5 hours monthly. The premises has increased the visibility of Scrapstore. There is a constant flow of donations from new sources, many donors include commercial waste providers.
- Scrapstore is commissioned by Frome Town council to provide "Loose Parts Play" materials for the Play Trolley in a local Park.
- Scrapstore supplied materials to festival and event organizers creating displays, artworks and activities across the town.

All projects are coordinated and run by Pod staff, with member volunteers helping to run these sessions and gain further work experience, contributing to the community, and being valued members of society, working to break down stereotypes and social boundaries.

Pod Scrapstore is continuing with its search and funding for larger premises, the leadership team are preparing key governance, policy and procedure in preparation for a new premises for the charity to open Scrapstore, multiple days each week, as well as a community base for The Pod to potentially run its projects from in partnership with other interested parties.

Additional Activities.

Community partnerships are strong and Pod families enjoy taking part, and volunteering at community events. Project members and families are consulted when local events are planned, and the charity has led or taken part in numerous initiatives including;

- Young Drivers School, 26 young people aged 10+ had the opportunity to drive a car for 30 minutes with a driving instructor, it was a fantastic opportunity for people to get behind the wheel of a real car that may never get to experience independently.
- Volunteers held a stall at the Cheese & Grain Christmas Fayre, selling beautiful products produced in Pod Workshop.
- Pod Plus, Pod Youth Club and Zone contributed to a window display at Gorehedge Community room as part of the "Window Wonderland" trail.
- Annual Panto trip. Pod members and Friends of Pod watched the accessible screening of Snow White at the Memorial Theatre (Oh yes, they did!) they had a great time joining in with the stage fun.

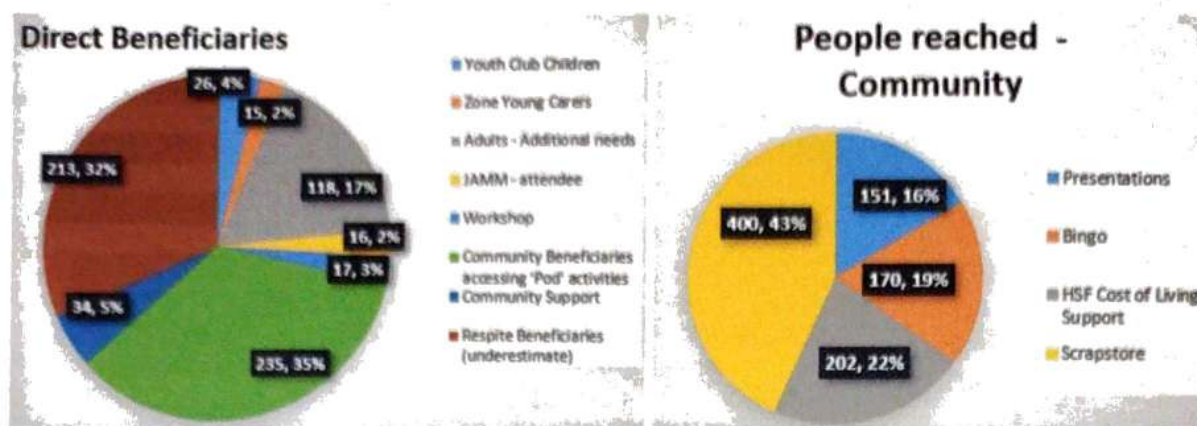
- A coach trip to Weymouth for Pod members, families, and friends of Pod. Fun with Sandcastles, fish and chips, sea life centre, ice-creams and new friendships.
- Circus Starr trip with Pod Youth club & Pod Plus, alongside the distribution of 36 tickets to Friends of Pod.
- To celebrate Bonfire Night Frome Town Council ran a Drone Show, the Pod was asked to run an accessible viewing area which was very well received.
- All Pod groups came together to try out the new "Slip and Slide" activity in Wanstrow, a great session with lots of splashing and squealing.
- To celebrate the Kings Coronation, Frome displayed flags for all of the charities and organisations in the town. All clubs got creative and made a flag which was displayed as part of a trail around the town.
- Pod Plus members and colleagues launched a "Puzzle Swap" which takes place on the 2nd Monday of each month. Puzzles are donated, members run the sale or swap whilst also doing puzzles together. It is a social meet up for many people who lead isolated lives in our community.
- Pod Scrapstore is featured in an advertising campaign by "Loops" promoting the circular economy in Frome. A leaflet was posted through every door in Frome and the charity feature on a billboard locally.
- Due to Pod's connections to marginalized groups, Somerset Council commissioned the charity to carry out a piece of work to inform eligible groups about the Household Support Fund. The fund had not been taken up by as many people as the local authority intended and we could make these connections and help people get the additional benefit they were entitled to. This was delivered by a member of staff who was supporting our employee through an access to work scheme. The project was successful in providing valuable work experience and also reaching a large number of eligible candidates who have benefitted from having additional income to help with household bills and essential items.
- PYC members were involved in the Kindness festival, they produced beautiful fish made from Scrapstore materials to an artwork named "The Bridge of Kindness" displayed in the Town Hall.

Community Accessible Bingo

The weekly bingo runs every Monday evening, (partnership - Cheese & Grain) with thanks to our wonderful group of volunteers, including learning-disabled adults. The charity runs a small Pop-up café providing the players with affordable snacks and drinks. Volunteers supporting the café include people from the charities projects who find it difficult to secure work experience due to their support needs – they appreciate being able to gain valuable work experience alongside their club activities or when they move on from accessing Pod projects to supporting the charity.

Presentations this year included;

- Frome FM various – all about disability/Frome Times award and love your mind, all about autism.
- BBC Radio Somerset – Scrapstore was promoted through an interview at the Children's Festival.
- Frome Community Lottery presentation following a donation to purchasing sound equipment for Pop Disco.
- 2 Presentations by Pod Plus Volunteers to Further Education colleges about Scrapstore, supported by Pod staff.



In summary; the number of direct beneficiaries has increased by 88% - 2024 - 674 (2022/23 = 358). This does not include the wider community benefitting from our broader activities and Scrapstore trading.

Impact

Despite the increase in Pod's activities and offer of even more possibilities from partnerships and the wider community, The Pod remains focussed on its core values which is what our members and Pod community want. We continue to listen to our members and families and are gradually increasing our presence in the community and offering social opportunities for all.

A new impact collection process has been rolled out following a consultation with all stakeholders in 2023; group participants, and all team members were involved in the design of a new survey. It is too early to report as we only have one tranche of data, however we have identified that 93% of people have said they have enjoyed new experiences and learned new things and 71% of parents have reported making friends through Pod. We have created a lovely WordArt using parent carers and participants 'what three words'



With the success of Scrapstore and its many benefits to the Frome community, Pod members are being seen as capable, having skills, and valued by others. Building on these connections will open doors in the future for other volunteer work possibilities.

Project participant volunteers have spoken to school groups and colleges are amazing ambassadors for The Pod. To hear them tell others of their enjoyment, pride, and development

in skills and self-confidence is inspiring. They have received high praise from all settings for their courage to do this, which they say has been built on trust for the support they receive from The Pod.

By bringing previously separate groups of people together through the open-access Pop Disco, the charity has opened the doors to new friendships and connections which can and are being transferred outside of the project, creating a wider social network for all who attend. Pop Disco is also the most joyous space in Frome once every month.

The following is a small selection of testimonials from our community. The success of our projects and the experiences of those who attend is founded on building strong trusting relationships with families and members.

Their reported experience is that they are happier, healthier, and more confident as they form friendships and learn to be independent. Where previously they may have struggled to be accepted and understood.

Our project teams capture and record the special moments or comments from sessions we call "gems". Each statement recognises the huge progress made by individuals which may to an onlooker appear trivial. The team and peers recognise and celebrate each success.

Feedback from Fairfield College

"Thank you for the fantastic opportunity to help with setting up Scrapstore. All four students enjoyed the day very much, it was great for us to see them engaging with other volunteers, participating in tasks. Everybody made us feel very welcome. This was an excellent chance for me to observe one of our work skills students to see what sort of work experience he might be interested in. This student has been reluctant in the past, to engage, or even think about the world of work. I know that before he came he was anxious, and worried about the number of people and the noise, in the hall. Due to the approach of several volunteers, he was able to self-regulate and simply got on with the tasks he had been asked to complete. This has now enabled me to approach him and chat about a possible external work experience for the near future."

The team

The Pod employs 2 part time Co-Charity Managers who each work 20 hrs wk. Day-to-day management, project development and fundraising is undertaken by the charity managers. Trustees ensure that key policies are in place, reviewed and adhered to, with safeguarding at the top of the agenda. Service delivery is in the skilled hands of employed sessional workers who are often flexible and may work across other projects run by the charity or provide cover ensuring no projects are cancelled due to unforeseen staff absences.

The team around the projects also include;

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Administrator | 5 hours per week |
| Pod Youth Club | 1 Youth Leader/4 Youth Workers/1 Volunteer |
| The Zone | 1 Youth Leader/1 Youth Worker |
| Pod Plus | 1 Project Lead/1 Assistant/2 x Volunteers |
| Workshop | 1 Project Lead/1 Assistant |
| Community | 24 volunteers inc 3 Young people with additional needs |
| Scrapstore | 1 Scrapstore Co-ordinator/31 volunteers inc 14 adults with additional needs |

We value our team of volunteers and are very grateful for the hours they donate. This year volunteer hours totalled an impressive 2476 hours. The full-time equivalent would be equivalent to 1.3 full time members of staff. These hours are calculated as follows;

- 565 Core projects requiring volunteer support; 14 volunteers
- 356 People with additional needs supported to volunteer across a variety of roles e.g. pop-up cafe @ bingo, puzzle club, supporting project teams by organising and running activities in a project and the design and production of marketing materials; 10 volunteers (inc 1 DofE placement)
- 880 Before, during and after the bingo each week; average 20 hours per week; 10 volunteers
- 416 Additional hours worked by 2 x charity managers; average approx. 8hrs week. (2023 – 13hrs)
- 85 People with additional needs supported to run Scrapstore events; 14 volunteers
- 174 Scrapstore support team, many of the adults with additional needs would not be able to run the event without a team member to support them. Support volunteers included local Rotarians, carers, representative from local specialist provision and our own colleagues. 17 volunteers.

Without this invaluable contribution of time and energy, it is abundantly clear we would not be able to run a diverse range of services and support as many families as we do. However, the charity is unable to run its projects without paid sessional staff who provide expertise, consistency and stability for vulnerable children adults, families and training for volunteers. In this year salaries represent 79% of our annual expenditure. (2023 – 67%)

Fundraising

The trustees would like to draw attention to the introduction of an employed fundraiser this year. Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond anyone's control, this role was in existence for only a few weeks. During a period of reflection, the trustees made the decision to direct the skills within the team, thereby strengthening the charity and restructuring the leadership team from the new financial year ending March 2025.

Structure and Governance

The Charity Managers report to the board at every trustee meeting; this report provides up to date information on each project, community activities, safeguarding, finance and anything pertinent at the time. Board meetings generally take place in March, June, September & December - this year all meetings took place face to face however Zoom continues to provide a useful tool for remote access. Trustees liase and individually meet with the charity managers to discuss actions specific to their area of responsibility.

The Charity Managers line manage the administrator and their designated Project Lead workers who in turn provide supervision to the project teams.

Administration

Registered Charity address:

c/o Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome, BA11 1EB

Banking: Co-operative bank, Po Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Trustees

M Spence

S Drake

Z O'Gorman

D Killah (appointed June 2023)

A Clarke (appointed September 2023, resigned March 2024)

Payroll: In-house using Brightpay software.

Insurance: Zurich Insurance – Policy renewal date 25th February 2025.

Unaudited accounts: Westcotts Chartered Accountants, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5AD

Independent Examination: A Liggatt, FCA, 16 Sunny Hill, Nunney, BA11 4ND

Governance

Governing Document:

The charity formed as a community group on the 1st May 2013 and became a registered charity (CIO) with voting members on the 27th March 2015. If the CIO is wound up; the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities. Members must be aged 18+ and membership is an annual renewal costing £12 for family membership and £8 for individual adults. The number of members in the year ending 2024 is 54 (2023 – 61)

Trustee Appointments:

The board of trustees have been through a period of change following the commission of a new governance and operational audit this year, followed by a skills audit in January 2024. Recruiting new trustees that can broaden the skillset of the board is a priority. The members or the charity trustees may at any time appoint a new charity trustee when there is an identified need. An interested trustee is provided with an 'essential guidance on being a trustee' They will attend a trustee meeting before their first appointment in addition to receiving a copy of the constitution, latest annual report and statement of accounts. *'The 'new trustee' will be provided with a mentor for the first 6 months. During this time the mentor will be available to provide support as required'*

One-third of the charity trustees retire from office at the AGM. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office. Charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or benefits.

Summary of Financial Activities

We always aim to minimize the cost of our services to disadvantaged families, however we do acknowledge an income made up of voluntary contributions e.g. weekly 'subs' in the reports. In 2023/24 charitable activity and fundraising income generated £16,558 (2023: £15,255)

The charities trading activities generated an additional £12,373 (2023: £10,555) against £7,967 in expenses (2023: £4,474)

The team around Pod maintains excellent relations with its funders and has a good track record with fundraising. Charitable donations and grants given by individuals, groups and grant making bodies totaled £68,974 (2023: £70,276)

The trustees would like to thank all our funders and donors both large and small for their support which has enabled us to develop and expand our provision. A full list of donors is presented on page 18-19 of this report.

The income for the year ending 31 March 2024 totaled £97,905 (2023: £96,086) against expenditure of £74,525 (2023: £69,938)

Reserves

The trustees acknowledge the considerable challenges and competition within the current funding climate alongside the cost-of-living crisis and increased demand. The Trustees will continue to monitor the level of unrestricted reserves which should be between £28,750 and £47,916 at year end. This represents 3-5 months of the charities annual operating costs in the year ending 2024/25. Looking forward, the trustees have considered the risks associated with the charity's growth and step change over the course of the next year and consider the unrestricted reserves level at year end is appropriate in these circumstances.

The unrestricted reserves at the end of 2023/24 are £41,546 In addition to a further £50,185 of restricted reserves associated with 5 out of 6 core projects and some core costs.

The projected charity costs in 2024/2025 are £115,000 The charity is in receipt of a multi-year grant from the Gosling Foundation in addition to other one-off grants and donations. There is currently a shortfall and fundraising target of at least £50,000 which will enable us to continue providing and developing essential services for vulnerable children, adults and families.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the fundraising policy and reserves level during the next financial year.

Declaration

Signed and approved by the board on 9th July 2024

 (Trustee)

The Pod

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Pod

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Pod for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of The Pod 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 The Pod's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I 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 Pod 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 accounting 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.

AALiggatt FCA

Date: 5.7.2024

The Pod

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

| Note | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income and Endowments from: | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 21,658 | 53,073 | 74,731 | 76,759 |
| Other trading activities | 21,319 | 1,855 | 23,174 | 19,327 |
| Total income | 42,977 | 54,928 | 97,905 | 96,086 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | |
| Raising funds | (4,208) | (3,759) | (7,967) | (4,474) |
| Charitable activities | (38,224) | (36,301) | (74,525) | (69,938) |
| Total expenditure | (42,432) | (40,060) | (82,492) | (74,412) |
| Net income | 545 | 14,868 | 15,413 | 21,674 |
| Gross transfers between funds | 342 | (342) | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | 887 | 14,526 | 15,413 | 21,674 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 38,820 | 35,659 | 74,479 | 52,805 |
| Total funds carried forward 11 | 39,707 | 50,185 | 89,892 | 74,479 |

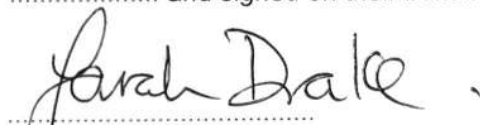
All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 11.

The Pod

(Registration number: 1161092)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

| | Note | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 8 | 2,598 | 303 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 9 | 89,133 | 75,651 |
| | | <u>91,731</u> | <u>75,954</u> |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 10 | <u>(1,839)</u> | <u>(1,475)</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>89,892</u> | <u>74,479</u> |
| Funds of the charity: | | | |
| Restricted income funds | | | |
| Restricted funds | | 50,185 | 35,659 |
| Unrestricted income funds | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | <u>39,707</u> | <u>38,820</u> |
| Total funds | 11 | <u>89,892</u> | <u>74,479</u> |

The financial statements on pages 5 to 14 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on and signed on their behalf by:


.....
S Drake
Trustee

The Pod

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Pod meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. There are no key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

The Pod

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Cash and 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.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
(continued)**

Financial instruments

Recognition and measurement

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

2 Income from donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted funds General £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Donations and legacies; | | | | |
| Donations | 4,621 | 5,135 | 9,756 | 19,716 |
| Voluntary contributions | 5,597 | - | 5,597 | 6,057 |
| Grants, including capital grants; | | | | |
| Grants from other charities | 11,280 | 47,938 | 59,218 | 50,560 |
| Memberships | 160 | - | 160 | 426 |
| | 21,658 | 53,073 | 74,731 | 76,759 |

3 Income from other trading activities

| | Unrestricted funds General £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds £ | Total 2023 £ |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Trading income | 8,934 | - | 8,934 | 6,314 |
| Fundraising | 8,444 | 1,623 | 10,067 | 8,100 |
| Tuck | 734 | - | 734 | 672 |
| Scrapstore | 3,207 | 232 | 3,439 | 4,241 |
| | 21,319 | 1,855 | 23,174 | 19,327 |

The Pod

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

| | Note | Unrestricted funds General £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|-----------------------|------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Charitable activities | | 36,765 | 36,236 | 73,001 | 67,976 |
| Support costs | 5 | 1,459 | 65 | 1,524 | 1,962 |
| | | 38,224 | 36,301 | 74,525 | 69,938 |

5 Analysis of support costs

| | Unrestricted funds General £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Training | 325 | - | 325 | 745 |
| Finance costs | (40) | 27 | (13) | 38 |
| Governance costs | 1,174 | 38 | 1,212 | 1,179 |
| | 1,459 | 65 | 1,524 | 1,962 |

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year (2023: Nil).

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year (2023: Nil).

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Staff costs during the year were: | | |
| Wages and salaries | 59,156 | 49,563 |

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

The Pod

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

| | 2024 No | 2023 No |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Average head count of employees | 13 | 10 |

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil)

8 Debtors

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Other debtors | 2,598 | 303 |

9 Cash and cash equivalents

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash on hand | 2,244 | 1,651 |
| Cash at bank | 86,889 | 74,000 |
| | 89,133 | 75,651 |

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Trade creditors | 1,359 | 995 |
| Accruals | 480 | 480 |
| | 1,839 | 1,475 |

11 Funds

| | Balance at 1 April 2023 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | Balance at 31 March 2024 £ |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| <i>General</i> | | | | | |
| General Funds | 38,820 | 42,977 | (42,432) | 342 | 39,707 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Children in Need | 7,702 | - | (7,414) | (288) | - |
| SCF Discovery | 1,408 | - | (1,408) | - | - |
| Gosling Foundation | 813 | - | (813) | - | - |
| Local Giving | 281 | - | (227) | (54) | - |
| Frome Town Council | 2,130 | - | (2,130) | - | - |
| David Soloman | 1,500 | - | (850) | - | 650 |
| Frome Town Rotary | 1,187 | - | (794) | - | 393 |

The Pod

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

| | Balance at 1 April 2023 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | Balance at 31 March 2024 £ |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| MASG | 479 | - | (165) | - | 314 |
| Douglas Arter | 500 | - | (437) | - | 63 |
| FAST | 3,489 | - | (447) | - | 3,042 |
| FTC - Business Plan | 900 | - | (900) | - | - |
| FTC - Scrapstore | 2,212 | 232 | (712) | - | 1,732 |
| FTC - Workshop | 2,000 | - | - | - | 2,000 |
| Inner Wheel | 1,500 | - | (1,500) | - | - |
| Leonard Laity Stoa | 1,000 | - | (296) | - | 704 |
| Mendip Shape Lottery | 1,000 | - | (831) | - | 169 |
| National Lottery | 7,558 | - | (7,558) | - | - |
| Frome Lottery | - | 500 | (500) | - | - |
| Frome Town Rotary | - | 750 | - | - | 750 |
| Access For All - DWP | - | 485 | (562) | - | (77) |
| Albert Hunt | - | 3,000 | - | - | 3,000 |
| Witham Vale - Community | - | 1,000 | (960) | - | 40 |
| Swim fundraiser | - | 1,623 | (1,050) | - | 573 |
| ASDA PYC | - | 800 | - | - | 800 |
| CO-OP fund | - | 638 | - | - | 638 |
| Happy Families | - | 900 | (900) | - | - |
| Lions Club | - | 1,000 | - | - | 1,000 |
| Medlock | - | 2,000 | - | - | 2,000 |
| SCF Core | - | 5,000 | (691) | - | 4,309 |
| Sir Jules Thornton | - | 2,000 | - | - | 2,000 |
| SC fund | - | 25,000 | (8,122) | - | 16,878 |
| Van Neste | - | 10,000 | (793) | - | 9,207 |
| | 35,659 | 54,928 | (40,060) | (342) | 50,185 |
| Total funds | 74,479 | 97,905 | (82,492) | - | 89,892 |

Unrestricted funding to support core activities and charity growth includes grants and donations from the following funders:

Leathersellers £8,500
 Zion group £500.00
 Masonic Charitable Trust £1,780
 SC & ME Morland £1,000

The Pod

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

| | Balance at 1 April 2022 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Balance at 31 March 2023 £ |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| <i>General</i> | | | | |
| General Funds | 28,294 | 37,222 | (26,696) | 38,820 |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| True Colour Trust | 1,130 | - | (1,130) | - |
| Children in Need | 7,339 | 10,250 | (9,887) | 7,702 |
| SCF Discovery | - | 5,000 | (3,592) | 1,408 |
| Gosling Foundation | 2,500 | - | (1,687) | 813 |
| Frome Town Council | 880 | - | (880) | - |
| Hartfield Trust | 300 | - | (300) | - |
| Local Giving | 500 | - | (219) | 281 |
| Frome Town Council | 5,000 | - | (2,870) | 2,130 |
| Awards of All | 1,174 | - | (1,174) | - |
| David Soloman | 1,500 | - | - | 1,500 |
| 3H Fund | 466 | - | (466) | - |
| Frome Rotary | 1,000 | - | (1,000) | - |
| Frome Town Rotary | 1,500 | - | (313) | 1,187 |
| MASG | 595 | - | (116) | 479 |
| Other restricted funds | 627 | - | (627) | - |
| Douglas Arter | - | 500 | - | 500 |
| FAST | - | 4,034 | (545) | 3,489 |
| FTC - Business Plan | - | 1,800 | (900) | 900 |
| FTC - Scrapstore | - | 5,000 | (2,788) | 2,212 |
| FTC - Workshop | - | 2,000 | - | 2,000 |
| Inner Wheel | - | 1,500 | - | 1,500 |
| Leonard Laity Stoate | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 |
| Mendip Shape Lottery | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 |
| National Lottery | - | 9,730 | (2,172) | 7,558 |
| Friends of Frome Hospital | - | 300 | (300) | - |
| Frome Lottery | - | 500 | (500) | - |
| Frome Town Rotary | - | 500 | (500) | - |
| SSE SCF | - | 15,000 | (15,000) | - |
| Witham Farmers | - | 750 | (750) | - |
| | 24,511 | 58,864 | (47,716) | 35,659 |
| Total funds | 52,805 | 96,086 | (74,412) | 74,479 |

The Pod

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted funds General £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds at 31 March 2024 £ |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Current assets | 41,546 | 50,185 | 91,731 |
| Current liabilities | (1,839) | - | (1,839) |
| Total net assets | 39,707 | 50,185 | 89,892 |

| | Unrestricted funds General £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds at 31 March 2023 £ |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Current assets | 40,295 | 35,659 | 75,954 |
| Current liabilities | (1,475) | - | (1,475) |
| Total net assets | 38,820 | 35,659 | 74,479 |

13 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year (2023: Nil).