

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	S A Wilderspin	
	M S Hewitt	
	J R King	
	D M Nicholls	
	S Mills	(Appointed 12 April 2024)
Charity number	1167237	
Independent examiner	Azets	
	Epsilon House, The Square	
	Gloucester Business Park	
	Brockworth	
	Gloucester	
	Gloucestershire	
	United Kingdom	
	GL3 4AD	

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 22
Independent examiner's report	23
Statement of financial activities	24
Balance sheet	25
Notes to the financial statements	26 - 37

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Annual Report 2024-2025

Caring Hands



In the Vale

**Making a Difference in our
Local Community**

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Caring Hands in the Vale Annual Report 2024-2025

During 2025, Caring Hands in the Vale marks twenty-two years of making a difference in our local community. The 'cost of living crisis' continues to have a significant impact on our local community and in turn on the services provided by Caring Hands. Rising food costs and utility costs continue to be the main drivers with many of our service users barely having enough money to provide even the basics.

The figures and charts included in this report show that during the 2024-2025 financial year, Caring Hands again experienced its busiest year in twenty-two years of operation. This continues the year-on-year increase in the support we provide to our local community.

Core Services

Drop-in Diner:

The drop-in diner is now open three times a week with a two-course meal on Monday and Wednesday and a light lunch on Friday, during term time. Individuals who access the diner are from a variety of backgrounds which now also operates as a 'warm hub' for many, where the meal is not the main reason they come in, often seeking friendship and a social environment.

We provide in the region of 130-150 meals each week through the three lunch sessions and during the year we ran 108 sessions.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The drop-in diner provides several different opportunities for individuals who access the service:

- A meal – a free two/three course meal on a Monday and Wednesday lunchtime
- A light lunch on Fridays
- A Community Pantry with surplus fresh produce, non-perishable items which are past their 'best before' dates and other donations that are not suitable for inclusion in food parcels. This not only reduces waste but supports individuals with food items and reduces the need for a referral for a food parcel.
- Networking with other front-line agencies to organise drop-in support, such as homelessness outreach teams, harm reduction, housing and benefits advice.
- Signposting service users to appropriate services to provide support for their ongoing needs.
- Volunteering Opportunities – individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds provide invaluable volunteer support. We also provide work experience placements for several local middle and high schools, as well as the local colleges.

Case Study

K arrived at The Lighthouse after a falling out with his parents and was asked to leave. He is 19 with additional needs. We supported him to call Wychavon Housing Duty Officer and sat with him whilst he did this as he was very anxious and worried. He was placed in emergency temporary accommodation. We provided him with vouchers for food, toiletry pack and towel and other items and spent a lot of time re-assuring him. He was then referred into a service supporting 16–25 year-olds.

- Many individuals who access the drop-in diner do so as they are looking for company and support, especially those who are socially isolated. We have seen a significant increase in the numbers of more senior members of our community joining the drop-in diner sessions.

Resource Banks:

Caring Hands in the Vale continues to offer five different 'banks' of resources. To access each of these 'banks' a service user requires a referral from a network of well over one hundred and thirty referral partner agencies. This is to ensure that our

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

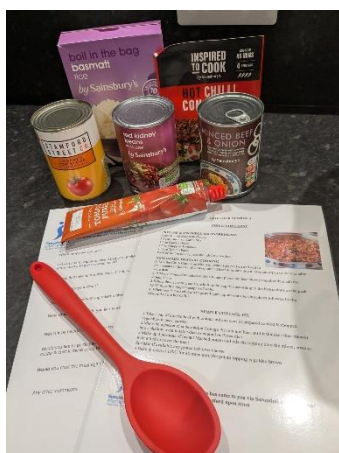
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

service users are receiving the help, support and advice they need to address the issues they have, which have resulted in the need for a referral to us. During the year we ran almost 250 food bank sessions.

In partnership with Blue Cross and Pets at Home in Evesham the pet food bank, which provides cat and dog food, has now been in operation for two years, and during that time has supported over 600 pets. The main aim of the pet food bank is to support individuals and families to be able to keep their pets and help shelters not become overwhelmed with surrendered pets.

Caring Hands was again the recipient of grants from the Household Support Fund. As well as supporting the food and household banks, this has allowed us to purchase some supermarket vouchers to support individuals and families where lack of, or restricted cooking facilities, allergens and religious or cultural dietary needs challenges our ability to provide items from the food bank.

Our food bank was originally set up to provide short-term crisis support for people in our local community. However, we are now seeing more families and individuals being referred more often as they struggle to cope with the increased cost of living. This is something which is a challenge to our services, and we continue to explore further ways of providing additional support to our service users in addition to short-term crisis support.



Caring Hands continues to produce its Food Bank Recipe Booklet, which is available free of charge. The ladies at Stratford Soroptimists have been providing us with 'Lets Cook' packages which include a recipe card and the ingredients needed to make the item, which are a mixture of fresh and non-perishable items. This often includes a free kitchen item. We are planning to put all the recipes into a 'Let's Cook' Booklet, to be provided free of charge.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In conjunction with Evesham Food Bank Forum, we have updated the Food Aid Projects leaflet covering the Vale of Evesham. This gives the information of the various Food Aid Projects, how to access these services and contact details.

Statistics

During 2024-2025 we received the most referrals ever in twenty-two years of operation, continuing the year on year upward trend in our statistics. In fact, if you refer to the charts at the end of this report, you will see that referrals to our services have almost quadrupled in the last ten years.

In total we received 1575 referrals for 757 different 'households' (up from 650, which is an additional 107 'households' or 'cases' and a further increase from the previous financial year) from a total of 80 different referral partner agencies. This provided a total of 1525 food parcels for 3373 people, providing 68226 meals. This is only a slight increase from the previous financial year. Of the people we were able to support 40% were children (under eighteen years of age). An interesting difference for us is that we supported more single individuals than families, which is the reverse from the previous financial year.

Reasons for referral are covered by seven broad categories – benefit issues; homelessness and housing; low incomes and debt; work related issues; health issues, refugee and asylum seeker support and crisis situations.

Case Study

Christmas is a challenging and stressful time for many individuals and families, and we often receive calls from social work teams and schools asking for support for families.

M a lone parent with three children worked full-time but was unable to afford any presents for her children or buy the groceries to provide Christmas Day lunch. We provided them with a Christmas Hamper with all the 'luxury' Christmas items, supermarket vouchers to be able to buy everything for Christmas Day Lunch and provided three bags of toys and gifts for the children.

V another lone parent with two children, who works full-time, called us two days before Christmas, in tears, as their plans for Christmas had all fallen apart. Again, we provided a Christmas Hamper, vouchers to buy groceries for Christmas Day lunch and some gifts for the children.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Case Study

E is a long-term 'entrenched' rough sleeper who tends to be itinerant and only bases himself in a single location for a few months at a time. During his time in Evesham, the housing outreach team supported him to open a bank account, and we acted as a care of address for his post, which he picked up regularly. He was also supported by housing outreach to apply for UC and attend appointments with the Job Centre. E regularly used the resources at The Lighthouse, showers, laundry, phone charging, drop-in diner, community pantry and homelessness bank. He also regularly checked in with the outreach teams and called in to see the staff and volunteers at The Lighthouse. E has chosen currently, not to access long-term accommodation and has moved away from Evesham for the time being. We look forward to seeing him when he comes back to the area.

You will see from the charts at the end of this report that 54% of referrals were due to low incomes of which 9% were families and individuals who are in work. Benefit issues (sanctions, benefit delays, benefit changes) accounted for 6% of referrals, which is the same as last year. Referrals for Homelessness were 18%, debt 6%, and health issues 3%. Referrals for domestic abuse situations is showing an increase, now 4%.

We are experiencing an increase in referrals for long-term illness, mostly due to mental health crises. However, we have noted that we are receiving referrals for individuals who are awaiting treatment or an appointment for surgery for medical conditions.

Refugee and asylum seeker support is 5% of referrals, which reflects the use of Evesham Hotel and dispersal accommodation available in Evesham.

Referrals to the Baby Bank have remained roughly the same.

Referrals to the Household Bank show a slight decrease. This is due to us placing a restriction on some items of only one referral a month.

It is important to state that the reasons for referral can be varied and complex. Often there is more than one reason for a referral, so our statistics record the most prevalent issue at the time of referral. For instance, an individual struggling on a low income may also have issues around debt, benefit delays or long-term illness and potential homelessness.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Our charts at the end of this report show that referrals to the homelessness bank have increased, at time the figures have stabilised for a while but then increased. However, due to the incredible work undertaken by the outreach teams that cover Evesham, individuals are identified and supported relatively quickly. We also now have additional temporary accommodation services available in Evesham.

We continue to work closely with the outreach teams, accommodation services and are regularly involved in rough sleeper group meetings.

Community Engagement/Awareness

We were able to provide a number of awareness sessions free of charge to the local community, local community groups and also our volunteers. These sessions included Shopping and Eating on a Budget, Homelessness Awareness and Basic Drug and Alcohol Awareness.

We are always looking for other organisations to visit to give us talks which are appropriate to the services we provide.



Caring Hands participates in a number of community events during the year to raise awareness of the services we offer, including the Primary Care Network Community Engagement Event, Battle of Evesham Medieval Market, Battle of Evesham Festival Weekend, Love Evesham, Wychavon Community Network Conference together with the Christmas Tree Festival held at All Saints Church, Evesham.

We are currently working on a Basic Cookery Skills Course which we hope to launch in the next few months.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We have also been able to give presentations to a number of local organisations and community groups plus a number of school assemblies.

Christmas 2024

We were delighted to be able to provide a Christmas Day Meal again in 2024, possible due to the number of volunteers who were willing to give up their time on Christmas Day to bless others.



We provided around fifty meals, including a number of

meals which were provided to one of the local sheltered housing schemes.



We had anticipated an increase in the number of nominations for Christmas Hampers and Gift Hampers, and the final total was 300, which is the most we have ever provided. This provided support for 645 people, around 60% of whom were children (under eighteen years of age).

Due to the generosity of local churches and individuals, we were able to include small, wrapped gifts in many of the Christmas Hampers, especially for children. We were approached by a number of referral partners to provide Gift Hampers for families who were struggling to buy Christmas presents.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Donations

We continue to receive incredible support from our local community, shops, supermarkets, families, individuals, schools, churches and community groups. We continue to be amazed and in awe of the incredible generosity of our supporters.

We received support from many schools, pre-schools and churches with donations of produce from their Harvest Celebrations, which as always is an incredible boost to our stock levels.

We were blessed by the many organisations, schools, families and individuals, who undertook a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' and Christmas collections which provided wonderful support for the Christmas Hampers.

During 2024 there were two food bank collections at Evesham Tesco, three at Evesham Morrisons, organised by Rotary in the Vale, to whom we are always incredibly grateful for their support. The collections all help to boost to our stock levels during the year and Christmas activities.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in our local community who have generously supported Caring Hands in the Vale through another really difficult year. We definitely would not have been able to provide the support we have without you.

Volunteers

We continue to boast a wonderful team of volunteers, without whom the work of Caring Hands in the Vale simply would not happen. During the last twelve months we have also seen another influx of new volunteers and we are enjoying getting to know everyone.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We produce a monthly Volunteer Newsletter to keep our volunteers informed of developments and events.

Our volunteers currently provide over 9,000 hours volunteering each year across all our different projects and events. If these hours were paid at the 2025 national living wage it would amount to over £110,000.00.



We welcomed Charles Moyle, High Sheriff of Worcester, twice, along with the Mayor and Mayoress of Evesham, to present some of our fabulous volunteers with awards.

We endeavour to organise a volunteer get-together at least once a year so that we can spend time together and get to know each other whilst celebrating the incredible work that they all do. In addition, we can support work experience placements from a number of schools and colleges plus volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.



All our volunteers are a blessing to Caring Hands, and we literally would not be able to do what we do without them.

Homelessness

Homelessness remains a significant issue within the Vale of Evesham. Caring Hands in the Vale is a member of the Wychavon Homeless Partnership and Wychavon Rough Sleeper Group.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Due to this partnership working and encouraging the community to use Streetlink as a way of notifying the relevant organisations about individuals who are rough sleeping, there have been many positive outcomes for individuals.

The outreach teams who cover Evesham have been doing an incredible job in supporting individuals, in addition to which we now have temporary accommodation services in Evesham. We work closely with all these services, providing as much support as we are able.

The Lighthouse is able to offer showers, laundry, lockers, health and wellbeing hub, phone charging and to be a care of address.

During 2024 we ran another very well attended Homelessness Awareness Session with the support of Wychavon District Council and others from the outreach teams and accommodation services, for the local community, our volunteers, church members and Evesham Street Pastors. This highlighted what homelessness is and the services available in the Evesham area to support and help individuals facing or experiencing homelessness.

We have been asked to undertake this presentation for different organisations, which gives us the opportunity to raise the issue amongst the wider community.

Our Homelessness Handbook has been updated and reprinted. It is available to local organisations, referral partner agencies, churches and particularly to anyone who is worried about being made homeless, is at risk about becoming homeless or is homeless.

Networking

Networking continues to be a significant and important part of the work of Caring Hands in the Vale. This helps us to know about and understand the work of other support agencies and organisations in Evesham. We are then able to signpost individuals and families to relevant organisations for the support that they need.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Case Study

We recorded S in a case study in last year's annual report. We have known S for several years and we supported him to access the housing outreach team who placed him in emergency accommodation and now has his own tenancy.

He is still in this tenancy, managing it successfully with support from his social worker.

S now has custody of his child, who has additional needs. We continue to support them both from the resource banks and they regularly access the drop-in diner and community pantry.

For some individuals support is needed beyond homelessness and into new tenancies to help maintain tenancies and manage household budgets. A new tenancy is often the start of another challenging journey.

We are involved in several networks including Evesham Food Bank Forum, Evesham Charity Network, Wychavon Homeless Partnership, Wychavon Rough Sleeper Group, Worcestershire VCSE Forum and Wychavon District Health Collaborative.

Caring Hands is a member of the Fareshare network and Neighbourly network which organises the collections from supermarkets, particularly surplus fresh produce.

Caring Hands is a member of the Independent Food Aid Network and regularly attend national zoom meetings. This has been incredibly helpful in understanding the national context of how food banks and charitable food aid is operating. IFAN also keeps all its members up to date with information, any changes in legislation and any grant funding available.

In partnership with IFAN and Act On Energy, we have produced a leaflet called 'Worrying About Money'. This will contain information to point individuals and families towards other organisations who are able to offer help, advice and financial support. IFAN adopts a 'cash first' approach which aims to help those in need to move away from charitable food aid provision. The leaflet is in the process of being updated and will be re-launched in the next few weeks.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In conjunction with Evesham Food Bank Forum, we have produced a leaflet called Community Food Aid Projects in the Vale of Evesham, which has recently been updated. Both leaflets will be available to anyone in the community who would like one.

Health and Wellbeing Hub

We work in conjunction with many different statutory and charity organisations to provide drop-in and other sessions within the Health and Wellbeing Hub.

Services covered drug and alcohol recovery, harm reduction, rough sleeper support, housing and benefit advice, homelessness prevention, housing and homelessness support, teen maternity clinic, Hep C testing, Health Bus, Inoculation Clinics, Fire Prevention Awareness and Starting Well Partnership Christmas Toy Giveaway. This was a total of 294 sessions totalling 1194 hours.

We receive some grant funding from Wychavon District Council for the operation of the Health and Wellbeing Hub, which allows us to offer the use of the hub free-of-charge.

Employees

Caring Hands now has four paid employees.



Diane Bennett

Diane Bennett is our full-time Community Outreach Manager and Emma Goodge part-time Deputy Community Outreach Manager.

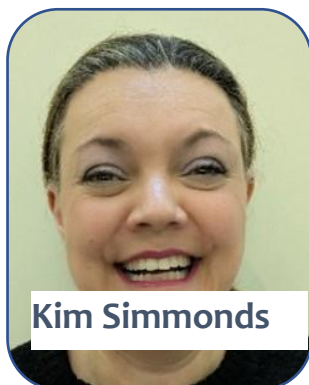


Emma Goodge

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



Added to the team this year are Kim Simmonds and Roy Simmonds (husband and wife team) who are both employed as part-time support workers. These are new posts, and we are developing the roles over the coming weeks and months.

The team works alongside our wonderful team of volunteers to provide our growing number of services.

The Future

Initiatives and services that we will seek to offer are as follows:

- A job club to assist those seeking work with job searching and job applications.
- Debt advice and budgeting
- An IT suite which will allow service-users access to the internet to help with job searching and job applications, bidding on local authority properties, checking emails, accessing social media, etc. Many vital government services and universal credit applications are only accessible on-line.
- Basic cooking classes and other ways to use limited resources well – further developing our 'Shopping and Eating on a Budget' course.
- We have received funding from Evesham Town Council to provide the Basic Cookery Skills Course.
- 'Let's Cook' recipe booklet in conjunction with Stratford Soroptimists.

There will be the opportunity to develop the services we already provide:

- Developing networking opportunities to be able to signpost individuals for further support.
- Increase the number of volunteering opportunities we have available.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- Helping individuals to develop their skills and knowledge and offer support to be able to change their circumstances.
- Further developing partnership working

We will also keep everyone up to date via our social media pages and our websites.

Diane Bennett MBE
Community Outreach Manager
April 2025

Caring Hands

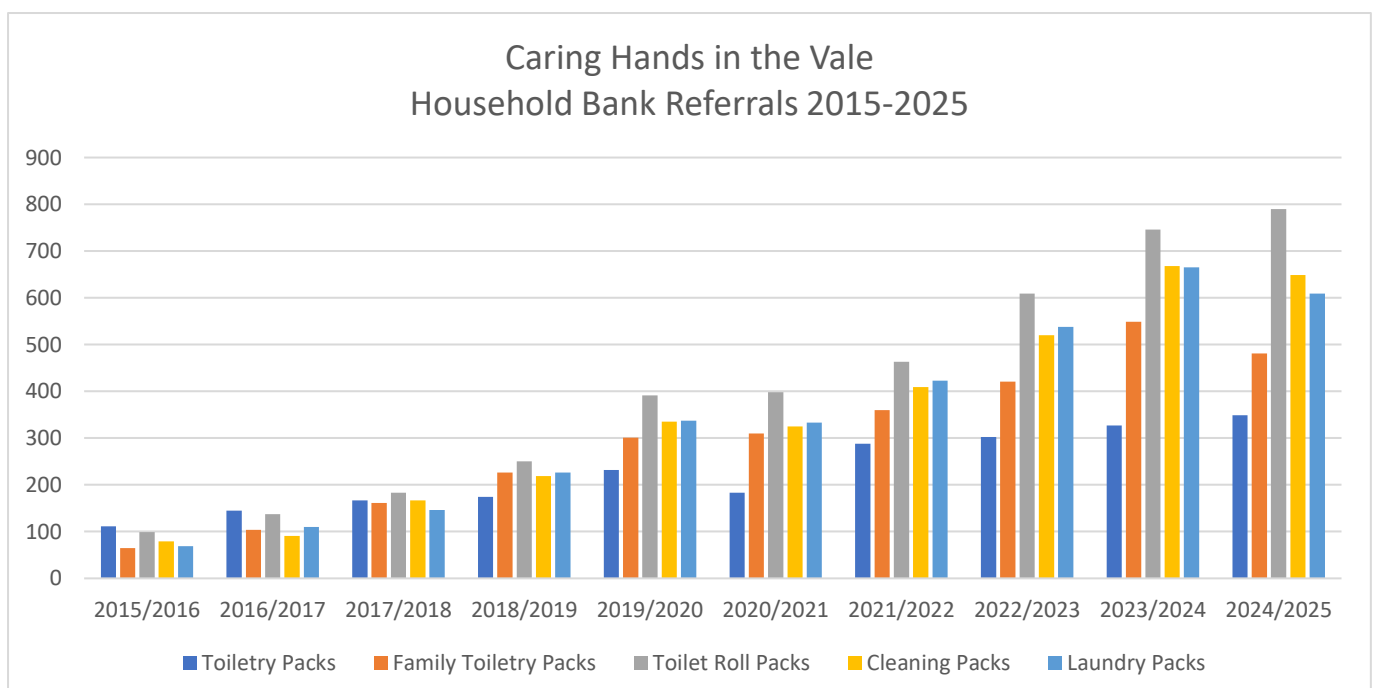
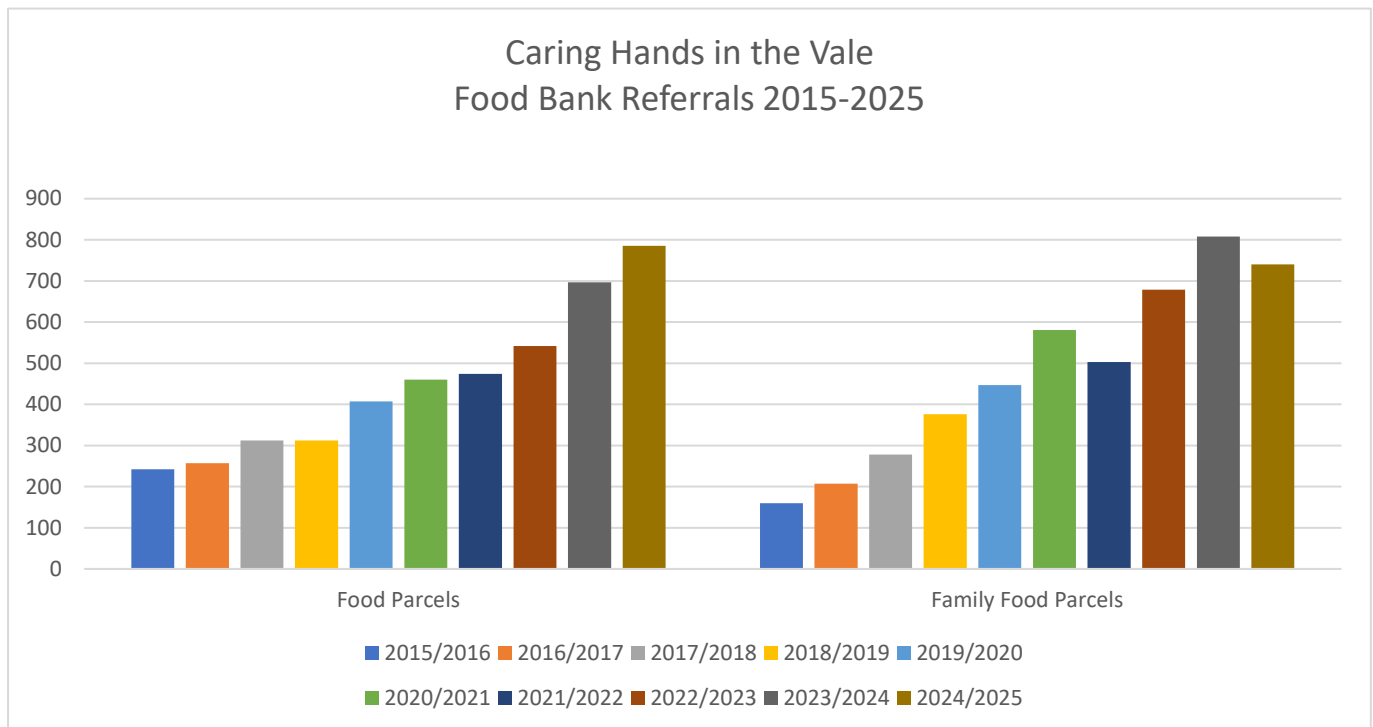
In the Vale



CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

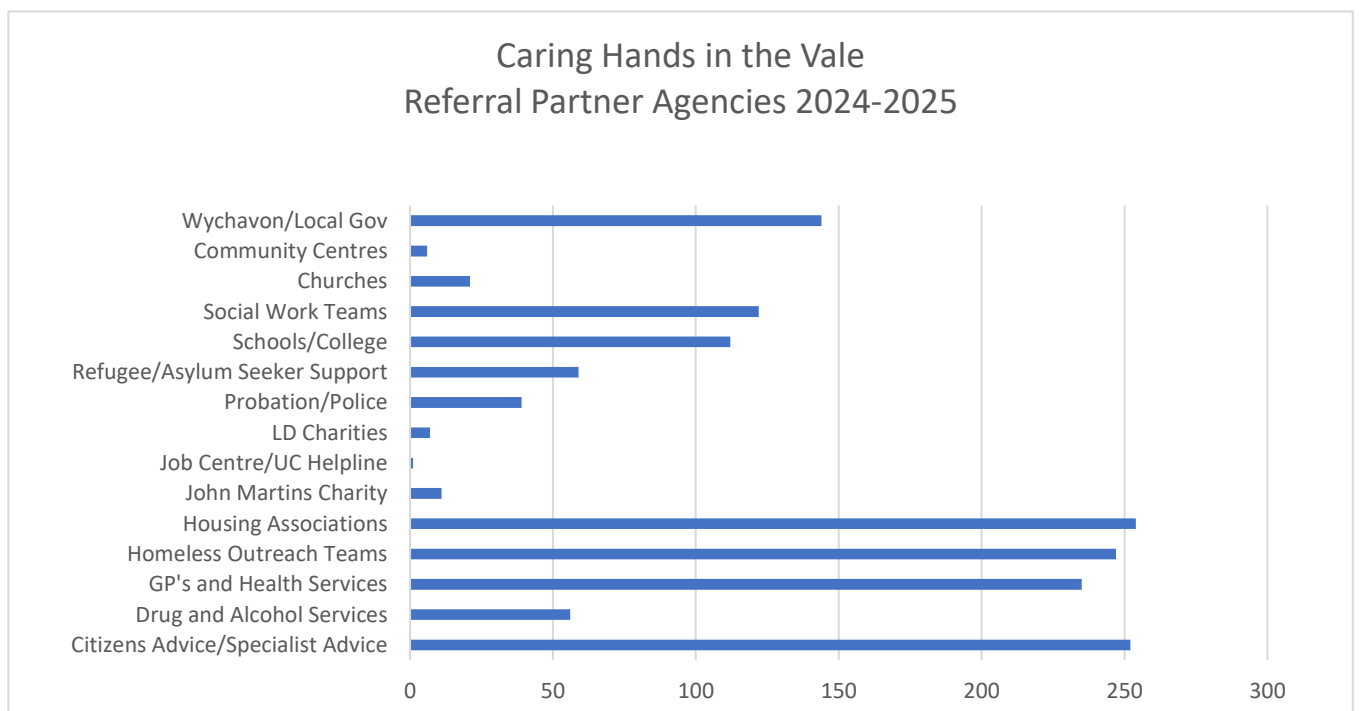
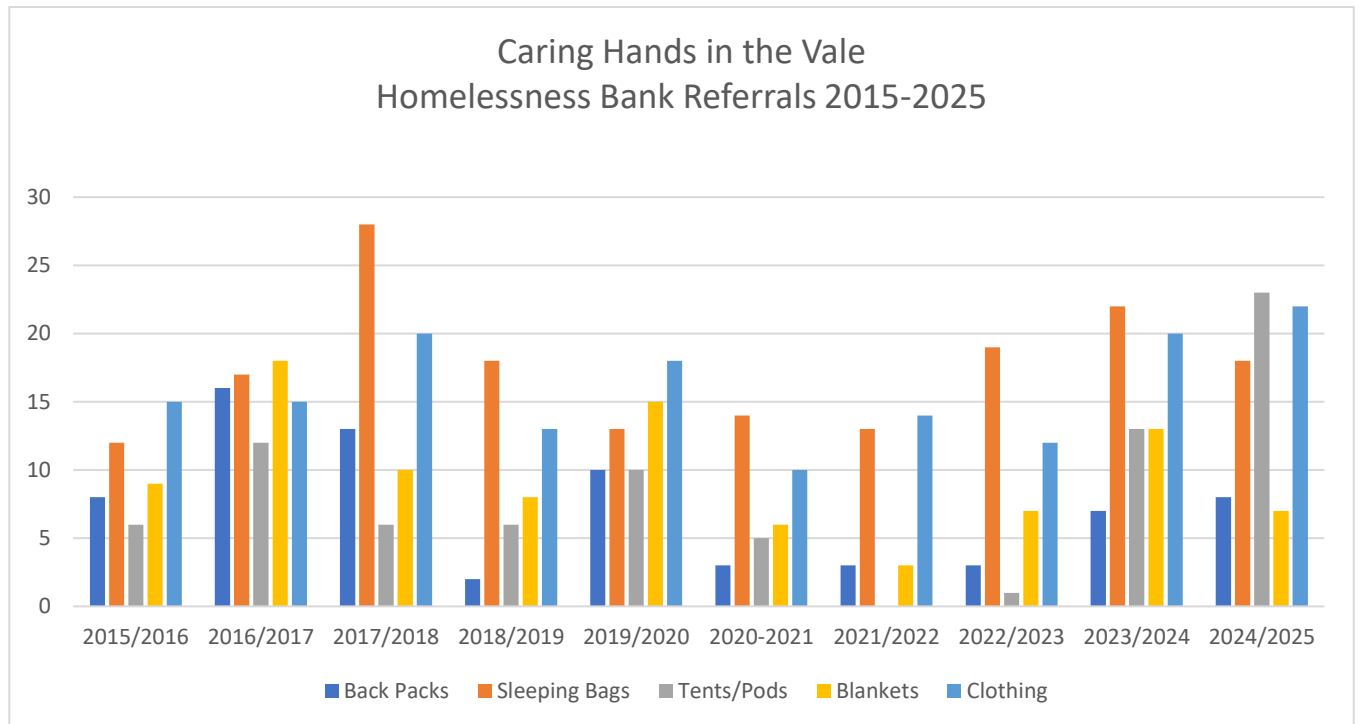
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

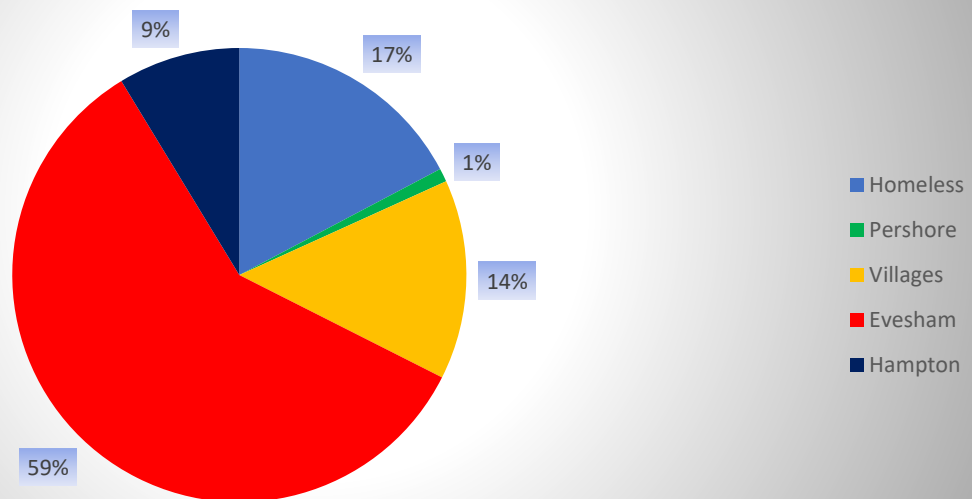


CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

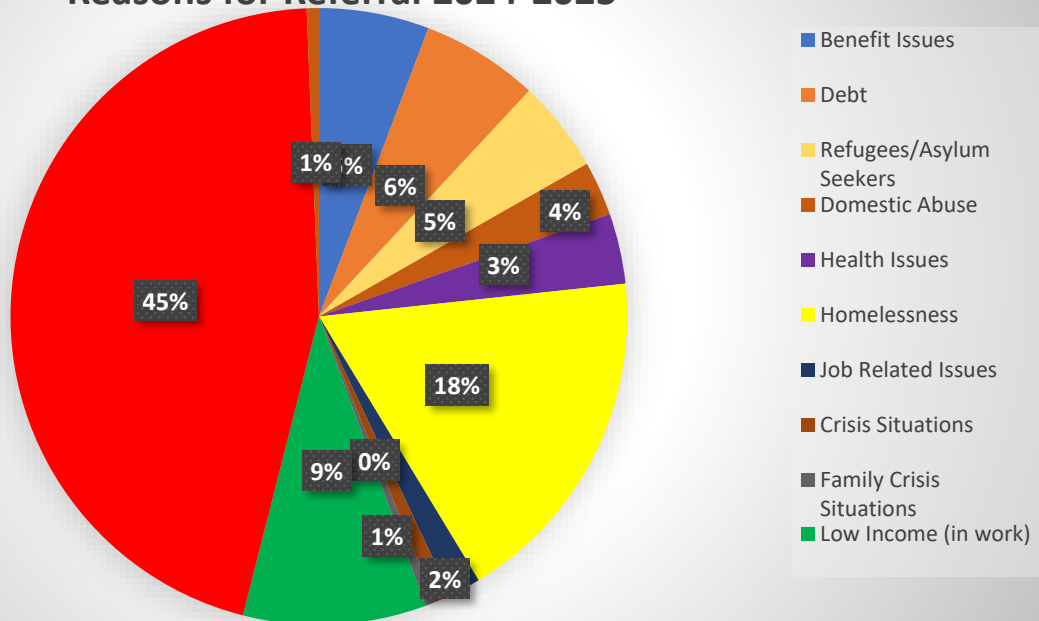
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Caring Hands in the Vale
Location of Referrals 2024-2025



Caring Hands in the Vale
Reasons for Referral 2024-2025



CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:35-40

Caring Hands in the Vale

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www.eveshamlighthouse.org.uk

Facebook: Caring Hands in the Vale

Twitter: @chandsevesham



CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and "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).

Objectives and activities

The aim of our charity, Caring Hands in the Vale, is as follows:

The prevention and relief of poverty and to relieve the needs of those who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of their social and economic circumstances in Evesham and the surrounding area by such means as the trustees shall from time to time decide.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Public Benefit

The activities of Caring Hands are all for the benefit of the public. There is a target group of clients, demonstrating genuine need, who must be referred by local agencies. Anyone who feels the need can attend the diner (operating Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays), and we cater for the lonely and senior citizens as well as those in financial need.

Everyone referred to Caring Hands receives the support they need unconditionally, non-judgmentally and totally free of charge. The geographical area we cover is the Vale of Evesham, although we do sometimes receive referrals from outside this area. We received 1575 referrals during the year, a significant increase on the previous year and increased throughout the year as the cost-of-living crisis worsened. Referrals are in addition to the attendees at the diner, who are all self-referred.

We have in excess of 60 volunteers all of whom make a very valuable and essential contribution to the work of Caring Hands.

Achievements and performance

We have provided food for a large number of families in financial crisis and signposted them to additional help to work their way out of their situation.

Service users work to become self sufficient which benefits the wider community with less poverty and homeless needs.

We have provided rooms where other organisations can meet with their service users which may well not have happened without.

Our main achievements during the year are:

- 1) Continued expansion of use by third party organisations at The Lighthouse (main premises)
- 2) Expansion of own services including laundry, showers and practical help with cooking on a budget training days and recipe booklets with ingredients.
- 3) Fulfilling all requests for resource parcels.

We have successfully obtained sufficient grants and regular giving to fund 2 part time additional staff members (from February 2025) and fund all existing and planned additional services.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial review

The trustees have reviewed the reserves policy and consider that due to the known level of monthly recurring income the minimum funds required are the amount required to continue the activities of the charity for four months.

Total cash reserves at 31 March 2025 amount to £59,050 (2024: £69,655) including restricted funds £29,363 (2024: £23,562) and unrestricted funds £29,687 (2024: £46,093). The trustees are aware that there is a need to generate significantly more unrestricted income if current salary commitments are to be maintained and they will monitor the position closely as the year progresses.

There are no funds in deficit at present

Our principal sources of income are:

- Regular giving
- Grants
- Donations
- Fundraising events such as Quiz, Tabletop sales, breakfast, and other meal events.

Our main risks are:

- Reliance of one-off grants
- Loss of key staff including Trustees – we would benefit from a greater number of Trustees with a wider range of expertise

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its Constitution.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

S A Wilderspin

M S Hewitt

J R King

D M Nicholls

S Mills

(Appointed 12 April 2024)

The trustees are elected by existing trustees. Selection is via application form, interview and references.

The day-to-day management of Caring Hands is undertaken by the Community Outreach Manager. This role includes general administration, line management of staff, overall supervision of volunteers, liaising with referral agencies, developing relationships with local churches, community and other organisations, which can include talks, school assemblies and church services, finances and ensuring all necessary resources required are in place.

In addition to Diane Bennett who is our full-time Community Outreach Manager, Emma Goodge as part-time Deputy Community Outreach Manager and, more recently, Roy and Kim Simmonds as Support Workers to assist both Diane and Emma as the range of tasks and administration increase as with the busyness of the centre.

We are continuing to look to add Trustees to our group to give us wider expertise in the areas which we address and areas such as IT and Fund raising.

On appointment, Trustees undertake an induction meeting with the chair of trustees to provide full details of the charity, any role which the new trustee is to undertake and further meetings as necessary.

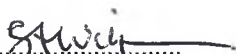
We have a large networking base with both referrals agencies and other organisations involved with our service user base.

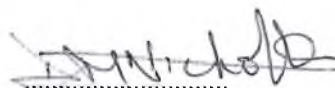
CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.


.....
S A Wilderspin
Trustee


.....
D M Nicholls
Trustee

Date: 23/11/2025.....

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Caring Hands in the Vale (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with 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) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Stuart Christy FCA
Azets
Statutory Auditors and Accountants
Epsilon House, The Square
Gloucester Business Park
Brockworth
Gloucester
Gloucestershire
GL3 4AD
United Kingdom

Dated: 24/11/2025

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
<u>Income from:</u>							
Donations and grants	3	36,804	55,326	92,130	36,117	62,177	98,294
Charitable activities	4	27,882	2,193	30,075	25,791	2,555	28,346
Investments	5	681	-	681	755	-	755
Total income		<u>65,367</u>	<u>57,519</u>	<u>122,886</u>	<u>62,663</u>	<u>64,732</u>	<u>127,395</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Raising funds	6	-	-	-	-	128	128
Charitable activities	7	80,532	63,862	144,394	65,364	78,222	143,586
Other	11	769	-	769	-	-	-
Total expenditure		<u>81,301</u>	<u>63,862</u>	<u>145,163</u>	<u>65,364</u>	<u>78,350</u>	<u>143,714</u>
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		(15,934)	(6,343)	(22,277)	(2,701)	(13,618)	(16,319)
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>69,006</u>	<u>485,805</u>	<u>554,811</u>	<u>71,707</u>	<u>499,423</u>	<u>571,130</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>53,072</u>	<u>479,462</u>	<u>532,534</u>	<u>69,006</u>	<u>485,805</u>	<u>554,811</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

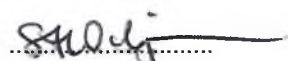
CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

BALANCE SHEET

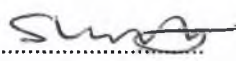
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		466,882		475,550
Current assets					
Stocks	14	5,370		9,562	
Debtors	15	3,164		3,272	
Cash at bank and in hand		59,051		69,655	
		67,585		82,489	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,933)		(3,228)	
Net current assets			65,652		79,261
Total assets less current liabilities			532,534		554,811
Income funds					
Property - restricted funds		433,863		443,197	
General restricted funds		45,599		42,608	
	18		479,462		485,805
Unrestricted funds			53,072		69,006
			532,534		554,811

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 23/11/2025



S A Wilderspin
Trustee



M S Hewitt
Trustee

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Caring Hands in the Vale is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with charity registration number 1167237. The charity's principal address is The Lighthouse, Vine Street, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4RE.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

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

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line on cost less residual value
Plant and equipment	20% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	20% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
Legacies receivable	7,000	-	7,000	-	-	-
Donations and grants	29,804	55,326	85,130	36,117	62,177	98,294
	<u>36,804</u>	<u>55,326</u>	<u>92,130</u>	<u>36,117</u>	<u>62,177</u>	<u>98,294</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	2,500	2,500	-	-	-
John Martin's Charity	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
Evesham Relief in Need	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
Strengthening Worcestershire Fund	-	4,000	4,000	-	-	-
Donations	29,804	26,434	56,238	31,872	4,834	36,706
Wychavon District Council	-	17,000	17,000	-	28,000	28,000
National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	4,245	21,975	26,220
Other Grants	-	1,392	1,392	-	7,368	7,368
	<u>29,804</u>	<u>55,326</u>	<u>85,130</u>	<u>36,117</u>	<u>62,177</u>	<u>98,294</u>

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Donations and grants (Continued)

4 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Standing orders	23,800	22,125
Fundraising	2,944	2,963
Gift Aid	2,821	2,910
Expenses recharged	110	70
Other income	400	278
	<u>30,075</u>	<u>28,346</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	27,882	25,791
Restricted funds	2,193	2,555
	<u>30,075</u>	<u>28,346</u>

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	<u>681</u>	<u>755</u>

6 Raising funds

	Total 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	-	128
	<u>-</u>	<u>128</u>

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs	61,834	55,029
Depreciation and impairment	13,290	13,095
Resources	31,204	36,845
Diner	6,174	5,259
Christmas	3,267	3,021
Rent	3,900	4,935
Motor expenses	2,532	2,684
Administration and service contracts	11,900	11,440
Equipment under £250 and other expenses	3,772	5,448
Utilities and rates	4,335	2,793
Repairs & maintenance	931	965
Lighthouse equipment	-	713
Other charitable expenditure	55	213
	<u>143,194</u>	<u>142,440</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,200	1,146
	<u>144,394</u>	<u>143,586</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	80,532	65,364
Restricted funds	63,862	78,222
	<u>144,394</u>	<u>143,586</u>

8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examiners' Fees				
	-	1,200	1,200	1,146
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,146</u>
	-	1,200	1,200	1,146
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,146</u>
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	1,200	1,200	1,146
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,146</u>

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but one of them was reimbursed a total of £1,671 (2024: £1,274) and another of them £nil (2024: £175) in respect of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	3	3
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	60,308	53,625
Other pension costs	1,526	1,404
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	61,834	55,029
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Other

	Unrestricted funds	Total
		£
	2025	2024
Other expenditure	769	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	486,735	19,092	9,450	515,277
Additions	-	4,622	-	4,622
At 31 March 2025	486,735	23,714	9,450	519,899
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2024	24,338	7,524	7,865	39,727
Depreciation charged in the year	9,735	3,238	317	13,290
At 31 March 2025	34,073	10,762	8,182	53,017
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2025	452,662	12,952	1,268	466,882
At 31 March 2024	462,397	11,567	1,586	475,550

14 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Supermarket vouchers and stocks of purchased (not donated) goods	5,370	9,562

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	3,164	3,272

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	106	1,637
Accruals and deferred income	1,827	1,591
	1,933	3,228

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

17 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to income and expenditure in respect of defined contribution schemes was £1,526 (2024 - £1,404).

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

18 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Household/Food banks	12,703	4,430	(23,579)	19,539	13,093	13,367	(25,443)	12,048	13,065
Baby bank	1,828	565	(27)	105	2,471	250	(562)	-	2,159
Homelessness	497	1,000	(1,493)	-	4	2,195	(1,049)	-	1,150
Christmas	4,295	1,658	(3,468)	-	2,485	3,399	(3,267)	-	2,617
Salaries	-	11,408	(11,408)	-	-	15,432	(8,682)	-	6,750
Utilities	-	430	(430)	-	-	1,200	(1,200)	-	-
Diner	884	2,292	(2,363)	1,705	2,518	5,232	(5,703)	2,067	4,114
Shopping & Eating on a Budget course	338	-	(26)	-	312	-	(34)	-	278
Drop in Centre / Lighthouse	20,626	-	(1,772)	(9,775)	9,079	3,804	(5,429)	(4,215)	3,239
Property	445,937	-	(9,335)	6,595	443,197	-	(9,335)	-	433,862
Resource bank - general/pet food bank	1,133	-	-	(1,133)	-	440	(149)	-	291
Cookery Skills	-	734	(35)	-	699	-	-	-	699
Insurance	-	240	(240)	-	-	200	(200)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	21,975	(21,644)	(321)	10	-	-	(10)	-
Household Support Grant	2,000	20,000	-	(19,895)	2,105	12,000	-	(14,105)	-
Drop in Centre / Lighthouse - capitalised items	9,182	-	(2,530)	3,180	9,832	-	(2,809)	4,215	11,238
	<u>499,423</u>	<u>64,732</u>	<u>(78,350)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>485,805</u>	<u>57,519</u>	<u>(63,862)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>479,462</u>

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 General unrestricted funds

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	71,707	62,663	(65,364)	-	69,006	65,367	(81,301)	53,072
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:					
Tangible assets	21,781	445,101	466,882	22,520	475,550
Current assets/(liabilities)	31,291	34,361	65,652	46,486	79,261
	<u>53,072</u>	<u>479,462</u>	<u>532,534</u>	<u>69,006</u>	<u>554,811</u>

21 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

Three trustees of Caring Hands are also trustees of Vale of Evesham Community Church (VECC). Caring Hands shared the premises of VECC in previous years but this year, following the move of all operations to The Lighthouse, only the church office has been used for the storage of some records. VECC's monthly donation to Caring Hands has remained unchanged at £800. The total amount paid in the year was £9,600 (2024: £9,440). This is in furtherance of one of VECC's aims which is 'to assist and relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress or who are sick or in poor health'.

Diane Bennett is not a trustee of Caring Hands but is a trustee of VECC. Diane is employed full-time by Caring Hands as Community Outreach Manager and is also available to assist with VECC's operations and activities on a voluntary basis.

Caring Hands paid expenses of £109.81 (2024: £69.95) on behalf of VECC and this was reimbursed to Caring Hands during the year.

VECC received payments totalling £531.25 (2024: £620) intended for Caring Hands and this was passed on to Caring Hands during the year.