

WORCESTER COMMUNITY ACTION

England & Wales · Charity number 1172121

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-03-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Sanctuary Housing Association
Chamber Court
Castle Street
Worcester
WR1 3ZQ

Phone 01905335991

Email worcestercommunityaction@gmail.com

Website www.worcestercommunityaction.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP IN THE CITY OF WORCESTER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA BY ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER AND BY PROVIDING A VOLUNTEER BROKERAGE SERVICE.

Activities: Promotion & marketing of volunteering, recruitment of volunteers, brokerage service to support organisations using volunteers and match up with volunteers who are recruited, training for organisations using volunteers. Provide community services using volunteers where gaps are identified. Provide support to organisations which use volunteers.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£22,096	£19,482	-	-
2024-03-31	£18,293	£19,221	-	-
2023-03-31	£24,083	£25,769	-	-
2022-03-31	£11,597	£23,255	-	-
2021-03-31	£26,471	£8,936	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ROBBIE PORTER	Chair	2017-01-18
ANDREW WALTON		2017-01-10
CHRISTOPHER BURTON		2017-01-18
HEDLEY BURTON		2017-01-18
PAT AGAR		2024-11-20

WORCESTER COMMUNITY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1172121

Accounts



The Angel Centre,
Angel Place,
Worcester
WR1 3QN

Tel. 01905 936751

Email: worcestercommunityaction@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT 1st APRIL 2024 – 31st MARCH 2025

This has been another busy and successful year for Worcester Community Action (WCA). Whilst there have been some financial successes, much to the relief of the Trustees, it has been a difficult year for our Chief Officer who has been unable to access our Angel Centre office. This has meant that we have started to look for alternative accommodation. Hopefully we will achieve success during 2025, which as the Angel Centre is up for sale, may turn out to be a benefit after all.

Because of these access issues, Trustees have held their regular meetings at the home of one of our members – our 'Thanks' for their hospitality. Trustees have held regular meetings, receiving reports from both the Chief Officer and the Treasurer. In addition, discussions have included a broad range of topics including: membership, business plans, funding, corporate sponsorship, the future of the Angel Centre and succession planning. I would like to thank all the Trustees for their continued involvement and support – we are only a small group, but we work well together, as we all believe that Worcester city needs a local infrastructure organisation. However, we would welcome new members to the Board and hope that we are able to recruit new members during 2025.

As the only Worcestershire local infrastructure organisation not funded by their District Council, we initiated discussions with the Council Managing Director, which enabled us to successfully apply for some specific core funding – the Trustees extend their 'Thanks' to David Blake for his support and encouragement. We would also like to 'Thank' those city and county councillors who donated some of their divisional funds to WCA. We also continued to submit funding applications to a range of grant givers, with our best success is being granted core funding from the Severn Trent Community Fund. This was a very significant success, as core funding is very difficult to obtain, and few funders offer this funding so this funding will be important throughout 2025, and we are very grateful to Severn Trent for their support.

Our two core activities have continued during the year, although we have had to adapt how these are delivered in certain circumstances. Our infrastructure support to the sector and our volunteering marketing and brokerage, continue to be important to a number of organisations across the city. During the year we have provided advice and information on topics such as policy development, trustee and volunteer recruitment, funding support, DBS and banking support, governance and volunteer management. This support is important for smaller organisations and community groups who often don't have significant resources at their disposal, so will turn to their local infrastructure organisation.

During the year, apart from regular newsletters to everyone on our database, we have provided specific support to a number of organisations including: Read Easy, Open Door Café, Aspie, a local Muslim madrassa, the local LTA promoting community tennis, Dines Green Playgroup and a local arts group. We have also continued to provide the secretariat for the Warndon and Tolly Forum, where local residents are able to talk directly to local service providers e.g the Police, the NHS, Housing services, schools and council officers, as well as local Councillors. In addition, we

continue to provide a DBS service for approximately 30 organisations, an important service for the sector, whilst also bringing in much needed unrestricted income for WCA.

Our other core service is promoting and marketing the many benefits of volunteering, along with recruiting volunteers and offering a brokerage service to the sector. We have had to undertake our 'chats' with new volunteers via zoom or in different locations in the city centre. Thankfully, all the new volunteers met this way have been very supportive and helping them to find placements which they feel are worthwhile, and 'FUN', is an important aspect of this activity. Our weekly 'Lend a Hand' column continues to be printed in Worcester's Berrow's Journal and is an important vehicle for recruitment as well as helping to show the variety of volunteer opportunities in the city. Our 'Thanks' to the Editor for his continued support, especially as the column is also circulated to local colleges, the university, the NHS as well as uploaded to our website and social media outlets. We have many organisations asking us to promote their opportunities in this column including: Sensory Matters, YSS, Behind the Smile, Shopmobility, Age UK Wyvern, Read Easy, Worcester City Welcomes Refugees, Access to Education and Worcester Wheels – evidence of the need for this service.

We have continued to organise VOW (Voluntary Organisations of Worcester) network meetings with three being held during the year in a range of different venues which has been useful with attendees learning about the host organisations. As in the past, these meetings have been well attended and have led to the development of partnerships and collaborative working, which benefits both the services offered and the community. We have also continued to collaborate with the other infrastructure organisations across both the county and the region, which helps to ensure we keep up to date with changes and issues affecting the sector. We have also continued to work with the County Council and other volunteer leaders across the statutory and voluntary sector. This has included activity around the development of a Volunteer Portal for Worcestershire with the aim of trying to encourage more people to get involved in volunteering.

We again organised our Annual Volunteer Expo at The Guildhall in Worcester. 45 organisations attended, promoting their volunteering opportunities as well as networking with other attendees. Over 200 people attended with Worcester Male Voice Choir providing much appreciated entertainment. Our Thanks to the City Council, especially Kara Roberts, for their continued help and support. Evaluation of the event was very positive with a strong desire for an event in 2025.

Despite mobility problems, our Chief Officer continued to maintain an involvement with a number of local initiatives. These included the County Loneliness Board, the Worcestershire VCSE Alliance, Worcester city Towns Deal board, and the Worcester District Collaborative. Being involved in these initiatives helps to ensure that the voice, and concerns, of the voluntary and community sector continued to be heard. Where necessary / appropriate, we have been able to report back to the VOW network about any decisions which might have an impact, or be important, to the sector. In addition, we have attended several NAVCA workshops looking at 'Vision for Volunteering', the impact of the General Election and funding!

Future Plans for 2025 – 2026

- a) Continue to develop the Strategic Plan for WCA (with our Thanks to Malcolm Mitchell for his assistance so far) as well as an updated business plan and fundraising strategy.
- b) Consider the implementation of a Membership scheme, whilst also looking at developing links to local businesses.
- c) Further develop our infrastructure support services as well as continuing to offer our DBS service.

d) Continue to submit funding applications, particularly to cover core costs and the recruitment of a Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator.

e) Search for new, accessible office accommodation, preferably within the city centre.

f) Work with the City Council to plan and deliver the 2025 Volunteer Expo

f) Aim to enhance the VOW network, so that we can show involvement from local voluntary and community groups throughout the city. Ensure that the network continues to offer organisations the opportunity to share information, concerns and issues as well as to develop partnerships and collaborative working.

Finally, as Chair, and on behalf of all Trustees, I would like to express our sincere thanks to our Chief Officer, Sally Ellison, who has continued to maintain her excellent commitment to WCA, despite this being a slightly difficult year! We would also want to thank our volunteers, Jan and Annette, for their continued commitment and hard work in supporting WCA – both have contributed greatly to WCA's continued success.

Signed:

Chair of Trustees

Date

Registered Charity No: 117212

Worcester Community Action – Charity 1172121

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March

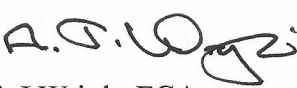
		2025	2024
	Restricted	Unrestricted	
INCOME			
Donations – Severn Trent		8,424	8,424
Worcester City Council		5,000	5,000
County Councillors		1,250	1,250
City Councillors		300	300
Worcester Lottery		396	396
2024 donations not repeated in 2025		0	0
Good Neighbourhood Network		0	0
Groundwork UK	1,875	-	1,875
Open Door Café	1,840	-	1,840
D.B.S Fees (net of costs)		2,310	2,310
Volunteer Event		635	635
Easy Fundraising		60	60
Admin Fees		6	6
Fees for Meeting Attendance		0	0
Miscellaneous		0	0
	<u>3,715</u>	<u>18,381</u>	<u>22,096</u>
			<u>18,293</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Project Officer's Salary	-	11,362	11,362
Room Rental	-	1,354	1,354
Office Costs	-	1,036	1,036
Telephone /Broadband	-	534	534
Heating and Lighting	-	59	59
Printing, advertising and Publicity	-	0	0
Bank Charges	-	60	60
NAVCA Membership	-	63	63
PAT Testing	-	27	27
Open Door Café	4,987	-	4,987
Transfer – Groundwork Costs	1,875	(1,875)	-
Good Neighbourhood Network Payments	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>6,862</u>	<u>12,620</u>	<u>19,482</u>
			<u>19,221</u>
EXCESS OF:			
INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	(3,147)	5,761	<u>2,614</u>
			(928)

Worcester Community Action – Charity 1172121

Balance Sheet at 31st March

		2025	2024
ASSETS			
Cash at Bank		27,742	25,356
Less Creditor	0		228
Held for Open Door Café	<u>5,406</u>	<u>8,553</u>	
		<u>5,406</u>	<u>8,781</u>
		<u>22,336</u>	<u>16,575</u>
Reflected in:			
Restricted Funds		0	0
Unrestricted Funds			
Balance at 1 st April 2024	16,575		16,105
Excess of Income for year	<u>5,761</u>		<u>470</u>
		<u>22,336</u>	<u>16,575</u>
		<u>22,336</u>	<u>16,575</u>

I have examined the accounts of Worcester Community Action shown on the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2025 and checked them against the books and records produced to me, together with explanations given and I am satisfied they show a true and fair view of the position of the charity at 31st March 2025 and of its results for the year ended on that date


A J Wright FCA

16th July 2025

WORCESTER COMMUNITY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1172121

Accounts



The Angel Centre,
Angel Place,
Worcester
WR1 3QN

Tel. 01905 936751

Email: worcestercommunityaction@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT 1st APRIL 2023 – 31st MARCH 2024

This has been another busy and successful year for WCA. Continued funding challenges have certainly been an area which Trustees have discussed at length and I thank them for their continued involvement and support, and appreciation of the difficulties that a small infrastructure organisation faces.

Topics discussed by the trustees covered a broad range of topics including: membership, succession planning, business plans, fundraising strategy, funding, possible redundancy, corporate and business sponsorship and the future of The Angel Centre. Unfortunately, due to lack of continuation funding, the Good Neighbour project finished in August 2023 and Jackie Murrall, the project worker, was made redundant. Trustees were very grateful for the work undertaken and were disappointed by the project finishing.

Jackie Phillips, Ian Jones and Gemma Taylor-Roberston each resigned as trustees during the year, with the Chair thanking them all for their involvement and support for WCA.

Funding has taken much time for both the trustees and the Chief Officer. Over a dozen funding applications were submitted with only a few successful outcomes. However, we will continue to work as a team to continue submitting applications. In addition, as we are the only local infrastructure organisation in the county that doesn't receive any funding from its District Council; we held a meeting with Cllr Jabba Riaz, Chair of the Communities committee and we hope to meet with the Council Managing Director in 2024. However, we thank those city and county councillors who donated funds from their divisional allocation to WCA – we are very grateful for their continued support.

Our two main areas of work have continued, through our Infrastructure support to the sector and volunteer marketing and recruitment. Over the year we have provided a range of services including funding support, policy development, DBS and banking support, trustee and volunteer recruitment, training opportunities and best practice governance.

Groups supported include: Open Door Café, Mason Foundation, Next Steps, Tudor House, Shopmobility and St Richards Hospice. Our DBS service continues to be an important service for the sector, whilst bringing in much needed core funding. We underwent a DBS compliance check and were found satisfactory. We organised a training session about Insurance whilst our Chief Officer undertook a cyber security training session.

Our other core service is promoting and marketing volunteering, along with recruiting volunteers and offering a brokerage service to the sector. Our weekly 'Lend a Hand' column in Worcester Berrow's Journal continues to be a very positive vehicle for recruitment, as well as helping to show the variety of opportunities available in the city. Out thanks to the Editor for his continued support. 'Lend a Hand' is also circulated to the University Students' Union; Worcester 6th Form College; Heart of Worcestershire College; the NHS, as well as being placed on our website and social media. Many

local organisations ask us to promote their opportunities including: Sight Concern; Age UK; Behind the Smile; YSS; Worcester Wheels and Young Carers – evidence of the need for this service.

We have continued to organise VOW (Voluntary Organisations of Worcester) network meetings, which continue to be well supported. These meetings have led to the development of partnerships and collaborative working which benefits both services and the community. Meetings continue to be held in different settings, which has been useful for getting a ‘taster’ for the work of members. We also continue to work with other local infrastructure organisations throughout the county through WeCan, as well as continuing our relationship with Here2Help and other volunteer leaders across the voluntary and statutory sector.

Our Annual Volunteer Expo was again held, with 45 organisations being represented at the Guildhall. Due to its popularity we decided to utilise both floors which enabled more organisations to attend. Over 300 people attended and the final evaluation was very positive - clearly an encouragement for 2025!

We also attended a Worcestershire County Council Wellbeing event at County Hall, promoting volunteering to staff and visitors.

Throughout the year, our Chief Officer maintained involvement with a number of local initiatives. These included the County Loneliness group; the Worcestershire VCSE Alliance; the Worcester City Town’s Deal Board; the Worcester District Collaborative. Being involved in these helps to ensure that the voice and concerns of the voluntary and community sector continue to be heard, and we are in a better position to report back to VOW members about decisions which might impact the sector and the community. In addition, we have continued to provide the secretariat to the Warndon and Tolladine Form, ensuring our connection within two socially deprived areas of the city.

As a member of NAVCA, we have attended several workshops, meeting others working in the sector across the country. Quarterly network meetings and information about initiatives such as ‘Vision for Volunteering’, have helped us to be aware of how other organisations work, as well as enabling us to share issues and concerns.

Future Plans

- a) Continue to develop our infrastructure support services to the sector including organisational development, as well as continuing with our DBS umbrella service.
- b) Continue with our volunteer marketing, promotion, recruitment and brokerage service. Develop our social media presence
- c) Develop a strategic plan for WCA aligned with a membership scheme, a fundraising strategy and an updated business plan
- d) Continue to submit funding applications particularly to cover our core services to ensure our long-term sustainability.
- e) Work with the City Council to plan and deliver the Annual Volunteer Expo
- f) Ensure our VOW network continues to offer organisations the opportunity to share information, concerns and issues as well as to develop partnerships and collaborative working.

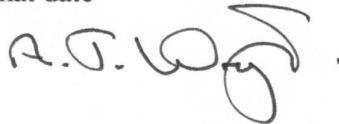
Finally, I would like to express the sincere thanks of all trustees to our Chief Officer, Sally Ellison, who has continued to maintain her excellent commitment to WCA. We also want to show our appreciation for the support of our volunteers, Jan and Annette. Both of them have contributed to WCA’s continued success.

Worcester Community Action – Charity 1172121

Balance Sheet at 31st March

		2024	2023
ASSETS			
Cash at Bank		25,356	23,261
Debtor		<u>-</u>	<u>50</u>
		25,356	23,311
Less Creditor	228		
Held for Open Door Café	8,553		
Held for WCWA	-		
Received in advance	<u> </u>	8,781	5808
		<u>16,575</u>	<u>17,503</u>
Reflected in:			
Restricted Funds			
Good Neighbourhood Network	-		1,398
Unrestricted Funds			
Balance at 1 st April 2023	16,105		
Excess of Income for year	<u>470</u>		
		16,575	16,105
		<u>16,575</u>	<u>16,105</u>

I have examined the accounts of Worcester Community Action shown on the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2024 and checked them against the books and records produced to me, together with explanations given and I am satisfied they show a true and fair view of the position of the charity at 31st March 2024 and of its results for the year ended on that date



A J Wright FCA

27th September 2024

WORCESTER COMMUNITY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1172121

Accounts

Worcester Community Action – Charity 1172121

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March

			2023	2022
	Restricted	Unrestricted		
INCOME				
NAVCA	10,000		10,000	
Good Neighbourhood Network	7,217		7,217	5525
Donations – Arnold Clark		1,000	1,000	
City Council (P Agar)		500	500	
Worcester Lottery		260	260	468
Local Giving		500	500	
Fees for Meeting Attendance		1,800	1,800	
D.B.S Fees (net of costs)		1,846	1,846	1,840
Volunteer Event		718	718	450
WCWR Admin Fees		207	207	-
Room Hire Contribution				233
Miscellaneous		35	35	120
	<u>17,217</u>	<u>6,866</u>	<u>24,083</u>	<u>8,636</u>
			2023	2022
	Restricted	Unrestricted		
EXPENDITURE				
Project Officer's Salary		9,966	9,966	8,784
GNN Worker's Salary	4,306		4,306	3,837
GNN Expenses	1,307		1,307	-
Room Rental	624	1,872	2,496	1,404
Office Costs		1,216	1,216	978
Telephone /Broadband	245	886	1,131	593
Heating and Lighting		89	89	109
Printing, advertising and Publicity		196	196	390
Bank Charges		62	62	
NAVCA Donations	5,000		5,000	
Items in 2022 not repeated				4199
	<u>11,482</u>	<u>14,287</u>	<u>25,769</u>	<u>20,294</u>
Transfer NAVCA Funds	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
	<u>16,482</u>	<u>9,287</u>	<u>25,769</u>	<u>20,294</u>
EXCESS OF:				
INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	735	(2,421)	(1686)	11,658
	<u>17,217</u>	<u>6,866</u>	<u>24,083</u>	<u>8,636</u>

Worcester Community Action – Charity 1172121

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March

			2023	2022
	Restricted	Unrestricted		
INCOME				
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WORCESTER COMMUNITY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1172121

Accounts



The Angel Centre,
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WR1 3QN

Tel. 01905 936751

Email: worcestercommunityaction@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT 01.04.2021 – 31.03.2022

This has again been a most difficult year for everyone, with lockdowns and restrictions, meaning that most charities, like many organisations across the country, struggled to operate, provide services or raise funds. WCA was no different and, whilst our Project worker tried, when not furloughed or part-furloughed, to maintain services, this proved extremely difficult at times. We have been very grateful to the Angel Centre, our landlords, for the significant help they have provided, by giving us rent free periods due to the minimal use of the offices during lockdown and the grants that they received from the Council / Government.

During 2021 - 2022, the Trustees continued to meet regularly, initially, due to the restrictions imposed by the Government because of Covid-19, these meetings were held on Zoom but we were able to meet 'in person' by August and this then continued for the remainder of the year. At each meeting we received reports from both the Volunteer Project worker and from the Treasurer. My thanks to my fellow Trustees for their continuing support and commitment to the organisation – we are very fortunate to have such an excellent group of Trustees. We were very sad when one of our Trustees, Richard Menzies, sadly passed away in August – his quiet but thoughtful comments will be much missed. We will continue to look for additional Trustees who might have different skills which could be of advantage to the organisation. Any Trustees recruited will be inducted fully to the organisation, using best practice as shown by the Charity Commission.

Trustees, in recognising their responsibility to develop Strategic plans for WCA, organised a small sub-group to meet to look at what work should WCA be undertaking, and how to ensure that local statutory bodies recognised the value of local infrastructure. Unfortunately, due to a number of circumstances, this work has not progressed as quickly as hoped and will therefore be continued in 2022 / 2023. However, one area which members felt might be important, is developing a membership structure for the organisation and we would hope to implement this in the near future. Trustees know that in doing this, they have to ensure that WCA offers members an increased level of activity in some areas of our work and this has been difficult to agree.

One of the major activities stated in our constitution is that we will promote and market volunteering and provide a brokerage service to match people who wish to volunteer with organisations who need/use volunteers. During this year we were unable to undertake our 'normal' activities i.e. attending Student Fairs etc but we continued to provide the 'Lend a Hand' column to Berrow's Journal every week and we'd like to 'Thank' the Editor for their continued support. National Volunteers Week usually provides a very important focus for our promotional activities but we were unable to organise any events during this week in June, which was a great shame both for us and other organisations. However, we were able to organise our Volunteer Fair in October, which again was very successful, with positive evaluation from most attendees

One of the services which we have continued to offer during the lockdowns, is as an umbrella body for DBS checks. The DBS agreed that ID checks could be undertaken using video during lockdown, but we were very careful in following their rules to allow this to happen. When we weren't in lockdown, we were able to meet (socially distanced of course) to undertake this process. Being an umbrella body brings us in unrestricted funding which has been very important during this difficult time. In December we underwent a DBS Compliance assessment which we were delighted to pass at our first session.

Volunteer recruitment continued to be quite slow during the year, mainly due to Covid and the lockdowns, as well as an individual's reluctance to undertake social interaction during these difficult times. However, we have continued to undertake our informal chats with new volunteers either via Zoom or, later in the year, face-to-face. We have also met with many organisations who were keen that we help to promote their volunteer opportunities – i.e. Parkinson's, Behind the Smile, Like U, Street

Pastors and the Talking Newspaper for the Blind. The VOW network also continued to meet, visiting different venues around the city, with very good attendance at each meeting. The opportunity for networking and sharing information was much appreciated by all attendees, with some positive outcomes and partnerships being developed.

One of these partnerships was between WCA and Age UK Worcester & Malvern Hills. We worked together on a 3month, public health funded, project on developing a Good Neighbour Network (GNN). We were fortunate to be able to recruit a project worker very quickly and the work focussed on areas of the city where there were very limited activities taking place, such that there were many individuals suffering from loneliness and social isolation. Our first activity concentrated on Lower Wick where we were able to arrange a 'Meet Your Neighbour' Tea and Cake afternoon which, to everyone's surprise, was very successful and generated many positive comments. We would like to apply for further funding to enable us to develop this initiative.

Our Project Manager continued to work with the other Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIO's) across the county. This resulted in the submission of a funding bid to the National Lottery to develop the services across the county, and ensure that people all across the county would be able to access a similar service from LIO's where ever they lived. In addition, the group began having meetings with the County Council Here 2 Help staff to try to ensure a better working relationship and the development of clearer pathways for volunteers. Again, this work will continue in 2022/2023.

The upcoming changes in the NHS, with the development of Integrated Care Services and the Integrated Care Board and District Collaboratives, has meant that the VCSE in Worcestershire has looked to develop a VCSE Alliance, to ensure the meaningful involvement of the voluntary sector at all levels of these new arrangements. It was agreed that the Officers from LIO's would be members of this Alliance, so our Project manager has been involved in this development. 2022 / 2023 will see significant activity in the health and social care world as the impact of Covid continues to impact on communities.

The Town's Deal Board has continued to meet, having been successful in obtaining funding from Government for the 6 projects which had been identified by the Board. We have maintained our involvement with this work and hope it will have a significant impact on the city and our communities. Subsequently, the Board also submitted a funding application to the Levelling Up Fund which will be for approximately £15m, and for 3 themes – Transport, Town Centre Regeneration & Heritage. The outcome will be known in 2022/2023.

Future plans:

- a) Continue with Volunteer Recruitment, Volunteer Brokerage, VOW network meetings, organise the Volunteer Fair and aim to enhance our Infrastructure support services including organisational development.
- b) Continue to offer DBS and similar services to organisations
- c) Funding applications for GNN, Training
- d) Complete the Strategic plan for WCA including our membership offer.

Finally, I would like to express the sincere 'Thanks' of all the Trustees to our Project Manager, Sally, and to our volunteer Jan. They are the reason that WCA continues to be successful, so we are extremely grateful for their hard work and continued commitment. Sally has had a difficult year but has continued to ensure her commitment to the organisation, for which we are very grateful. It would be useful if we could find more help in the office but we do need to ensure that they have the skills which are beneficial to the organisation and our services.

Worcester Community Action - Charity 1172121

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March

			2022	2021
	Restricted	Unr'stricted	Total	
INCOME				
Donations:				
Neighbour Network	500	525	1025	0
Worcester Lottery	0	468	468	485
2021 not repeated	0	0	0	9,177
Good Neighbourhood Network	4500	0	4500	0
Fee for contribution to Family Law Commission	0	120	120	0
DBS Fees	0	4801	4801	2793
Room Hire Contribution	0	233	233	337
Volunteer Event	0	450	450	0
Sundry Donations	0			125
Lottery Funds	0			11300
Open Box Development	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>2254</u>
	<u>5000</u>	<u>6597</u>	<u>11,597</u>	<u>26471</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Sessional Worker	5472	3312	8784	3136
Room Rental	281	1123	1404	1348
Office Costs	483	495	978	841
Telephone/Broadband	107	486	593	543
Heating and Lighting	13	96	109	160
Printing, Advertising and Publicity	331	59	390	240
Open Box Expenses	1714	0	1714	540
DBS Costs	0	2961	2961	1783
Training - Worcs CC	237	0	237	345
Miscellaneous	96	22	118	0
IT Products	1440	<u>0</u>	1440	0
Feed the Birds	190	<u>0</u>	190	0
Donation - Knife Angel	500	<u>0</u>	500	0
GNN Project Worker	<u>3837</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3837</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>14701</u>	<u>8554</u>	<u>23255</u>	<u>8936</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	<u>-9701</u>	<u>-1957</u>	<u>-11658</u>	<u>17535</u>

	Balance Sheet	31st March	2022	2021
Assets				
Cash at Bank			19309	30887
Less Creditor			<u>120</u>	<u>40</u>
			<u>19189</u>	<u>30847</u>
Reflected in				
Restricted Funds				
National Lottery Community Funds				8650
Open Box				1714
Good Neighbourhood Network			<u>663</u>	<u>0</u>
			663	10364
Unrestricted Funds				
Balance at 1st April 2021		20483		
Excess of Expenditure		<u>-1957</u>	<u>18526</u>	<u>20483</u>
			<u>19189</u>	<u>30847</u>

I have examined the accounts of Worcester Community Action shown on the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2022 and checked them against the books and records produced to me, together with explanations given and I am satisfied they show a true and fair view of the position of the charity at 31st March 2022 and of its results for the year ended on that date.

A J Wright FCA



24th August 2022

WORCESTER COMMUNITY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1172121

Accounts



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Angel Place,
Worcester
WR1 3QN

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Email: worcestercommunityaction@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT 1st APRIL 2020 - 31st MARCH 2021

This has been a most difficult year for everyone, with constant lockdowns and restrictions, meaning that most charities, like many organisations across the country, struggled to operate, provide services or raise funds. WCA was no different and, whilst our Project worker tried, when not furloughed or part-furloughed, to maintain services, this proved extremely difficult at times.

During 2020 - 2021, the Trustees continued to meet regularly throughout the year, however due to the restrictions imposed by the Government because of Covid-19, all the meetings were held on Zoom. At each meeting we received reports from both the Volunteer Project worker and from the Treasurer. My thanks to my fellow Trustees for their continuing support and commitment to the organisation - we are very fortunate to have such an excellent group of Trustees. We will, however, continue to look for additional Trustees who might have different skills which could be of advantage to the organisation. Any Trustees recruited will be inducted fully to the organisation, using best practice as shown by the Charity Commission.

One of the major activities stated in our constitution is that we will promote and market volunteering and provide a brokerage service to match people who wish to volunteer with organisations who need/use volunteers. During this year we were unable to undertake our 'normal' activities i.e. attending Student Fairs etc but we continued to provide the 'Lend a Hand' column to Berrow's Journal every week and we'd like to 'Thank' the Editor for their continued support. National Volunteers Week usually provides a very important focus for our promotional activities but this year we were unable to organise any events which was a great shame both for us and other organisations.

As in previous years, we continued to try to recruit volunteers, undertaking many interviews via video, as well as providing a brokerage service, referring volunteers to a range of organisations, whilst also working closely with both the City Council Community Engagement team and we tried to link up with the County Council 'Here2Help' team but this sometimes proved more difficult. Most services were linked to providing support to those in the community who were socially isolated or had been instructed to isolate due to their medical needs. Services such as telephone befriending, shopping, prescription collection and dog walking were much in demand, whilst the increasing utilisation of IT meant that volunteers who could support this for people in the community, were also needed. Many people wanted to develop their IT skills, so that they could communicate with their family and friends. The lockdowns meant that meetings with other organisations were often arranged via video and we met groups such as 'Behind the Smile', Age UK Worcester & Malvern (Men's Shed & Good Neighbour Network), LikeU, Sight Concern, and the Three Choirs Festival.

In addition, we continued to meet with the Chief Officers of the other Volunteer Centres / CVS's in the county and we started to work together on a funding bid to the Lottery to help all the organisations to grow and develop their services, whilst recognising that we are all very different with different needs. This became quite important as both Worcestershire Voices and Worcestershire County Council began to identify the importance of recruiting volunteers. This work wasn't completed during this year but we hope to submit a 3year funding bid later during 2021.

Our VOW (Voluntary Organisations of Worcester) network didn't meet during the early months of the year, due to the pandemic, but as the year progressed, members asked for a video meeting so that they could keep in contact with others. So, we organised a number of video meetings and these were well attended again with many members stating how pleased they were to meet again. As we weren't able to arrange our Volunteer Fair in June, members asked that we organise an event later in 2021, which we will do for October. We will have to ensure that we are Covid secure so arrangements will need to be arranged carefully but we are sure that we will have many organisations attend the event. We have continued to support some specific organisations through charity registration, governance issues and volunteer management usually using video which has its own limitations.

As we have increasingly worked as both a Volunteer Centre and a Local Infrastructure Organisation, we decided to apply to NAVCA for membership. By evidencing our activity, and with the support of two local NAVCA members, our application was successful. This has been very useful during the last year because meetings / events which they have organised, we have been able to attend via video, taking part in some very useful consultations and having a voice in national discussions. Membership of NAVCA and NCVO means that we have been able to engage in both regional and national discussions.

One of the services which we have continued to offer during the lockdowns is as an umbrella body for DBS checks. The DBS agreed that ID checks could be undertaken using video during lockdown, but we were very careful in following their rules to allow this to happen. When we weren't in lockdown, we were able to meet (socially distanced of course) to undertake this process. Being an umbrella body brings us in unrestricted funding which has been very important during this difficult time. The financial report presented by the Treasurer shows the different funders who have supported us and I would definitely want to 'Thank' them all especially the Co-op, the Edgar Lawley Foundation and local stores who have helped us.

Two significant tranches of funds came from the National Lottery - the first was to aid the development of different ways of enhancing the VOW network, using modern technology, whilst also working to liaise with new organisations, many of whom were started during the pandemic. This project has proved difficult to fully implement during this financial year but we will endeavour to make sure that we develop this further during the next year. The second funding was to help with the establishment of a Good Neighbour Network and, although we had a good start through developing a 'Feed the Birds' initiative, the funding had to be spent in a very short period of time, not enabling us to continue the development of this initiative.

The Towns Deal Board has continued to have meetings, as the plan to develop the Worcester Towns Deal application was formulated. Whilst many of the projects in the plan revolve around capital investment, there is a significant aspect around developing skills and supporting communities which are socially deprived. This is an area of activity where the voluntary sector can have a very important role. Therefore, it has been important to have our Project Manager as a member of the Board and she has regularly contributed to the discussions and plans. The final submission was for nearly £28m and the Board is waiting for the decision by the Government before any further activity can be undertaken.

Future plans

As this report is for the year which ends on March 31st 2021, we find ourselves still in lockdown without any real certainty about how to plan for the future. We will continue to do our best to promote volunteering, to recruit volunteers, to provide a brokerage service to the sector, to arrange VOW meetings, to support organisations as necessary / required, to continue providing a DBS umbrella service, and hoping to work with other organisations developing services i.e. the Men's Shed project, which has been in abeyance during the past year.

Finally, on behalf of all the Trustees, I'd want to 'Thank' our Project Manager, Sally, and to Jan, her volunteer. They are both the reason WCA is so successful, so we are extremely grateful for their work, and their commitment, which has been with us from the start. We do need some more help in the office - hopefully we can find the right person next year.

Worcester Community Action - Charity 1172121

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March

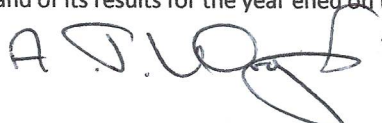
			2021	2020
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
INCOME				
Worcestershire CC Divisional Payments		1000	1000	1700
Donations:				
Edgar E Lawley Foundation		1500	1500	1500
Co-op, Asda & Waitrose		6677	6677	0
Worcester Lottery		485	485	315
Sundry		125	125	30
DBS Fees		2793	2793	4331
Room Hire Contribution		337	337	620
Volunteer Event		0	0	623
First Aid / Food Hygiene Course		<u>0</u>	0	385
Lottery Funds	11300		11300	0
Open Box Development	<u>2254</u>		<u>2254</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>13554</u>	<u>12917</u>	<u>26471</u>	<u>9504</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Sessional Worker	1310	1826	3136	6125
Room Rental	448	900	1348	2472
Office Costs	487	354	841	765
Telephone/Broadband	136	407	543	547
Heating and Lighting	89	71	160	256
Printing, Advertising and Publicity	180	60	240	395
Open Box Expenses	540	0	540	0
DBS Costs	0	1783	1783	2615
Training - Worcs CC	0	345	345	1459
Miscellaneous	0	<u>0</u>	0	83
Repayment to Worcs CC	0	<u>0</u>	0	<u>513</u>
	<u>3190</u>	<u>5746</u>	<u>8936</u>	<u>15230</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	<u>10364</u>	<u>7171</u>	<u>17535</u>	<u>-5726</u>

Balance Sheet 31st March 2021 2020

Cash at Bank			30887	<u>13312</u>
Less Creditor			<u>40</u>	
			<u>30847</u>	
Restricted Funds				
National Lottery Community Funds (2)		8650		
Open Box		<u>1714</u>	10364	0
Unrestricted Funds				
Balance at 1st April 2020		13312		
Excess of Income		<u>7171</u>	<u>20483</u>	<u>13312</u>
			<u>30847</u>	<u>13312</u>

Worcester Community Action - Charity 1172121

I have examined the accounts of Worcester Community Action shown on the attached sheet and checked them against the books and records produced to me, together with explanations given and I am satisfied they show a true and fair view of the position of the charity at 31st March 2021 and of its results for the year ended on that date.



A J Wright FCA

31st May 2021

Worcester Community Action - Charity 1172121

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March

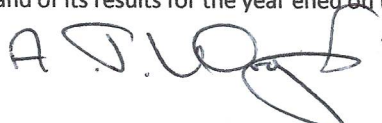
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Balance Sheet 31st March 2021 2020

Cash at Bank			30887	<u>13312</u>
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Worcester Community Action - Charity 1172121

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A J Wright FCA

31st May 2021