

THE GAP WALES ANNUAL TRUSTEE'S REPORT 2024-2025



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1172283

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE GAP WALES – ANNUAL TRUSTEE'S
REPORT 2024–2025
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1172283

Our Mission

To create a safe, welcoming space for refugees, asylum seekers, and local residents—fostering inclusion, dignity, and hope.

Key Achievements This Year

- ✓ 6,776 Centre Visits 🏠
- ✓ 2,935 Support Sessions 🧑🏽🧑🏿🧑🏻
- ✓ 2,841 Community Lunches Served 🍲
- ✓ 3,060 Activity Attendances 🏃🏿🏃🏻
- ✓ 345 Bikes Given Away 🚲
- ✓ 40 Volunteers Engaged 🧑🏽🧑🏿🧑🏻

Highlights

- Expanded wellbeing programmes, including Women's Group and youth football sessions. 🏃🏿⚽
- Delivered specialist housing support and bereavement services. 🏠
- Strengthened partnerships with local agencies and funders. 🤝

Looking Ahead

- Launching a new CRM system for better impact measurement. 💻
- Introducing Tots & Toys toddler group and enhanced games room. 🧸
- Increasing preventative work with young people around crime. 🛡️

Support Us

Donate via LocalGiving:

<https://localgiving.org/charity/the-sanctuary-newport>



ABOUT THE GAP WALES

CHARITY NAME: THE GAP WALES
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1172283

WHO WE ARE

The Gap Wales is a charitable incorporated organisation based in Newport, South Wales. Since 2017, we have been committed to creating a safe, welcoming space for refugees, asylum seekers, and local residents. Our centre acts as a community hub where people can access support, advocacy, and activities that promote wellbeing, inclusion, and belonging.



"THE GAP CENTRE – A WELCOMING SPACE FOR COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT"

WHAT WE DO

We provide holistic support tailored to individual needs, including help with housing, health, education, and integration. Through projects such as The Sanctuary, Housing Support, Cycle Hub, and Beacon Bereavement, we aim to relieve hardship, reduce isolation, and empower people to rebuild their lives.

Our Mission and Ethos

Rooted in a Christian ethos of compassion and integrity, we serve people of all faiths and none. Our mission is to foster a community where diversity is celebrated, barriers are broken down, and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



CHAIR'S FOREWORD

As Chair of The Gap Wales, I am proud to reflect on a year of resilience, growth, and community spirit. Since our beginnings in 2017, we have continued to provide a safe and welcoming space for refugees, asylum seekers, and local residents in Newport. This year, demand for our services has grown significantly, and our team—staff and volunteers alike—has worked tirelessly to meet that need.

Through projects such as The Sanctuary, Housing Support, Cycle Hub, and Beacon Bereavement, we have delivered practical help and emotional support to hundreds of individuals and families. From advocacy and English classes to community lunches and wellbeing activities, every initiative has been rooted in our mission: to foster inclusion, dignity, and hope.

However, challenges remain. One of the most pressing issues is the lack of access to legal aid and specialist immigration advice, which leaves many vulnerable individuals without the support they need to navigate complex systems. We are working closely with partners to address this gap, but it continues to be a significant concern.

We are deeply grateful to our funders, partners, and volunteers whose generosity and commitment make this work possible. Looking ahead, we know challenges remain—particularly in housing, integration, and legal support—but we are determined to respond with creativity and compassion.

On behalf of the trustees, thank you for standing with us as we continue to build a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

The trustees confirm they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in planning and delivering activities.

ANDREW CLEVERLY

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



OPERATIONS DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

This year has been one of both challenge and achievement for The Gap Wales. As demand for our services continues to rise, we have worked hard to ensure that our centre remains a safe, welcoming space for refugees, asylum seekers, and local residents. Every day, our team delivers practical support and community activities that make a real difference—whether it's helping someone secure housing, learn English, or simply find a place to belong.

Operationally, we have strengthened our partnerships, improved systems, and expanded projects such as The Sanctuary, Housing Support, and Cycle Hub. These initiatives not only meet immediate needs but also empower individuals to build independence and resilience. Our volunteers remain at the heart of this work, contributing thousands of hours to advocacy, activities, and community engagement.

However, the year has not been without its challenges. The growing complexity of immigration cases and the lack of accessible legal aid have placed additional pressure on our services. We are actively exploring ways to collaborate with specialist providers and secure resources to bridge this gap. At the same time, we continue to focus on sustainability—ensuring that our funding, governance, and operational capacity can meet future demand.

Looking ahead, our priorities include deepening community partnerships, enhancing wellbeing programmes, and investing in systems that support efficiency and impact measurement. We remain committed to our mission: building a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, trustees, funders, and partners for making this work possible. Together, we are creating lasting change.

BYRON JAMES

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a white rounded rectangular box with a black border. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'Byron James'.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



CENTRE
VISITS
6776

COMMUNITY
LUNCHES
SERVED
2841

SUPPORT
SESSIONS
2935



BICYCLE
REPAIRS
692



ACTIVITY
ATTENDANCES
3060



BICYCLE
GIVEN
AWAY
345

VOLUNTEERS
ENGAGED
40



THE SANCTUARY

**NEWPORT
CYCLE HUB**

OUR PROJECTS

HOUSING

**BEACON
BEREAVEMENT**

THE SANCTUARY'S OBJECTIVES

ADVOCACY

- **Access to Justice:** Guarantee that every refugee and asylum seeker can access legal, immigration, and justice services to secure their rights.
- **Homelessness:** Ensure all refugees and asylum seekers have safe, appropriate accommodation—no one is left homeless.
- **Financial Stability:** Support refugees to achieve financial security—managing budgets, sustaining tenancies, and accessing employment, benefits, and education opportunities.

THE SANCTUARY'S OBJECTIVES

WELLBEING

- **Social Inclusion:** Create opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers to connect—through social activities, English classes, volunteering, and friendship networks—reducing isolation and fostering belonging.
- **Physical Health:** Enable access to healthcare and promote active lifestyles through initiatives like football, cycling, and wellbeing activities, ensuring everyone can manage their physical health.
- **Emotional Resilience:** Strengthen mental health and wellbeing by building resilience and providing safe, supportive spaces for refugees and asylum seekers to thrive emotionally.

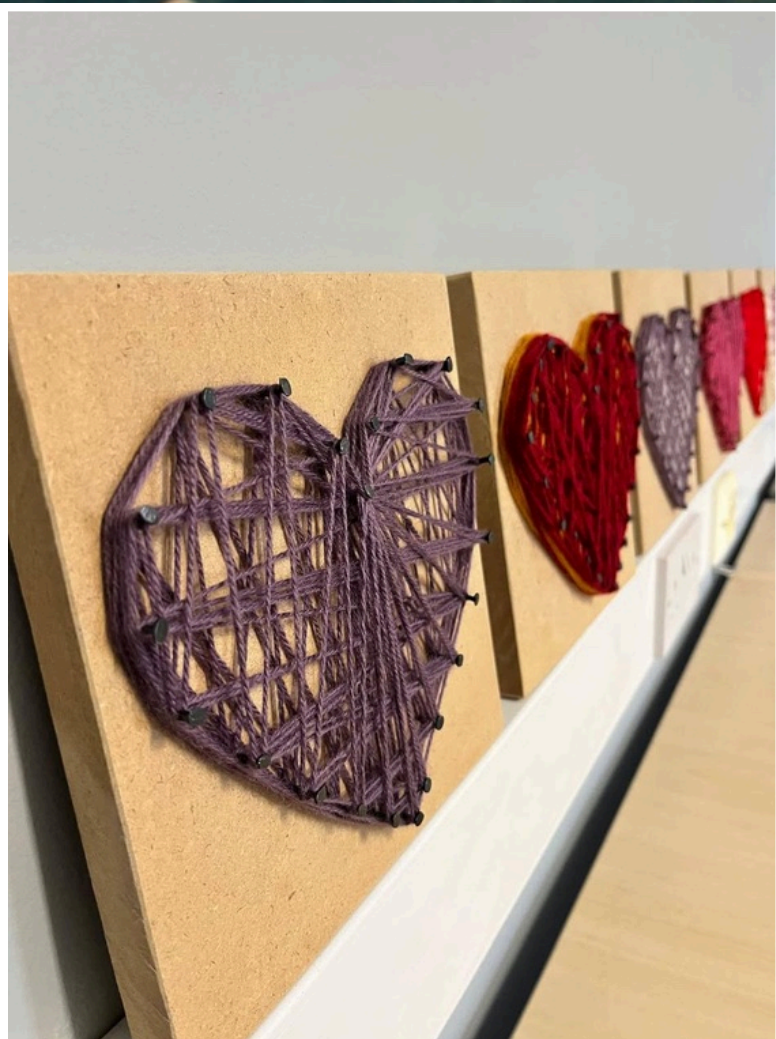
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

- **Daily Advocacy and Support:** Delivered consistent, trauma-informed advocacy and practical support through daily drop-ins, helping refugees and asylum seekers navigate housing, employment, education, benefits, and healthcare systems. On average, 30 individuals supported each day, ensuring no one is left without help.
- **Housing and Financial Stability:** Secured accommodation for those at risk of homelessness and provided tailored budgeting support, enabling refugees to sustain tenancies and access benefits. This work has prevented crises and promoted long-term stability.
- **Access to Justice:** Facilitated connections to immigration and legal services, ensuring refugees and asylum seekers understand their rights and can progress their cases effectively.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS WELLBEING

- **Women & Family Group:** Created a safe, welcoming space for women and families, with weekly sessions averaging 15 participants and additional trips during school holidays. These activities foster friendships, reduce isolation, and build confidence.
- **Youth Engagement & Physical Wellbeing:** Delivered weekly football sessions in partnership with Newport Live, attracting an average of 30 participants, alongside wellbeing trips and a dedicated games floor for young people. These initiatives promote health, resilience, and community belonging.
- **Language and Learning:** Hosted ESOL classes in partnership with Adult Learning Wales, supporting refugees to improve English skills—critical for employment, education, and social integration.
- **Community Lunches:** Served weekly lunches for up to 40 participants, prepared by volunteers, creating opportunities for conversation, cultural exchange, and stronger community networks.

WOMEN'S GROUP



WOMEN'S GROUP



Outdoor Trips and Social Connection: The group enjoyed memorable outings, including picnics at the beach and visits to scenic parks across Newport. These trips provided opportunities for relaxation, cultural exchange, and strengthened community bonds.



Creative Arts and Crafts: Our women's group produced an array of beautiful, handcrafted pieces throughout the year. These sessions were more than creative—they were therapeutic, fostering trust, confidence, and friendships around a shared purpose.



Cycling for Confidence: Continuing our now annual tradition, participants learned to ride bicycles and explored safe cycling routes around Newport in partnership with Newport Live and Momentwm. For many, this was a lifelong dream fulfilled—one participant shared that she had wanted to learn for years and finally achieved it.



Community Lunch Integration: The group regularly met during our weekly community lunches, combining friendship, conversation, and shared meals with activities like relaxation classes, pamper sessions and games in our dedicated games room—creating a vibrant, inclusive space.

Empowerment through Community Cohesion: Every activity was designed to build confidence, resilience, and independence while strengthening social ties. By coming together in safe, supportive spaces, participants developed a sense of belonging and empowerment that extends beyond the sessions.

WOMEN'S WELL-BEING AND CONNECTION

PARTICIPANT QUOTES

**“When I came here, I didn’t
know anyone and felt very alone.
The Women’s Group welcomed
me with kindness. Now, The Gap
feels like my home.”**

**“I never ride a bike before.
Today I learn, and I feel so
happy and free.”**

**“I want to learn bike for
many years. Today I do
it, and I feel so so
proud.”**

**“The beach trip was
beautiful. We eat, we
laugh, and feel relaxed.”**

**“Making craft together is
more than craft. We talk, we
laugh, we feel like family.”**

**“This group is safe for me. I
make friends and feel part of
community.”**

WELL-BEING ADVENTURES

- Reduce isolation by creating opportunities for social interaction and friendship.
- Improve mental health through outdoor activities, exercise, and positive experiences.
- Build confidence and resilience by introducing new challenges in supportive settings.
- Encourage cultural integration through shared experiences and exploration of local heritage.
- Promote physical well-being with active, engaging pursuits.
- Strengthen community bonds by fostering trust, teamwork, and mutual support.

WELL-BEING ADVENTURES

Brecon Beacons 4 Waterfalls Walk – Participants enjoyed a scenic hike through the Brecon Beacons, promoting physical fitness and mental relaxation.

Skirrid Mountain Walk – A mindful trek offering space for reflection, fitness, and shared achievement.

Trips to Barrybados (Barry Island) – A seaside trip offering a joyful escape and cultural experience in a relaxed setting.

We visited Big Pit – An educational visit exploring Welsh industrial heritage, sparking curiosity and shared learning.

We also took a trip to Chepstow Castle – A historical outing that combined leisure with cultural enrichment and storytelling.

Picnics in the Park – Simple yet meaningful outdoor gatherings that nurtured well-being and connection.

Laserquest – A high-energy game encouraging strategy, cooperation, and fun.

WELL-BEING ADVENTURES

Rock Climbing – A dynamic activity that encouraged problem-solving, resilience, and physical strength while fostering confidence.

Ice Skating at the ICC – A lively, social activity promoting balance, laughter, and community bonding.

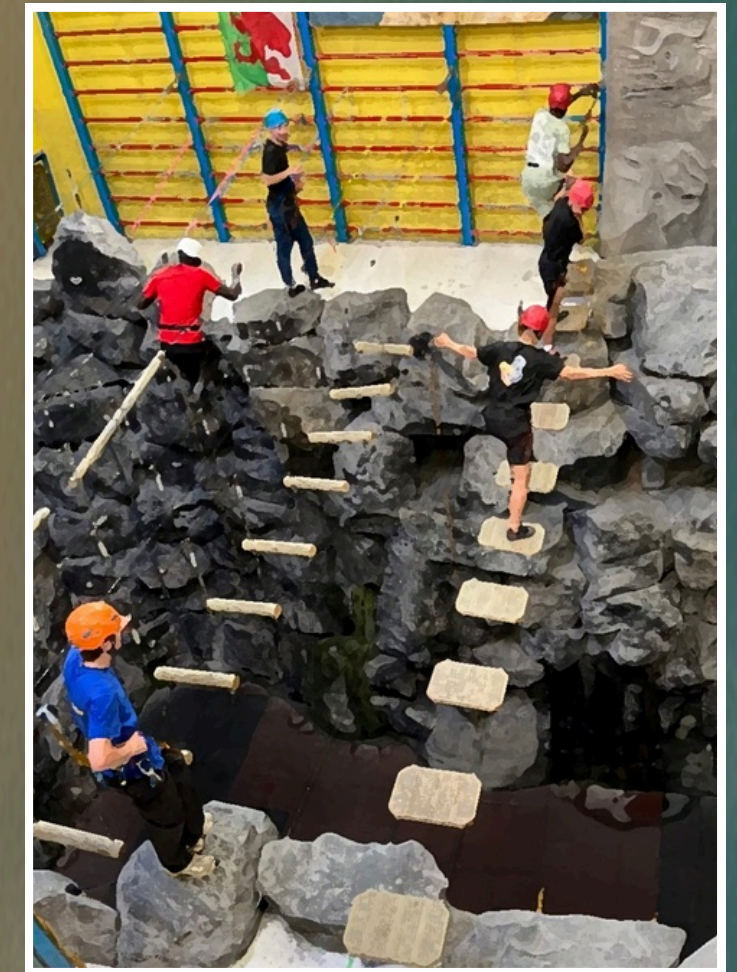
Rafting – A thrilling team challenge that strengthened communication and camaraderie.

High Ropes – Participants challenged themselves on elevated courses, building trust, courage, and teamwork in a supportive environment.

Clay Pigeon Shooting – A challenging activity fostering concentration and teamwork in a safe environment.

Archery – A fun, skill-building activity that encouraged focus, patience, and confidence.

WELL-BEING ADVENTURES



WELL-BEING ADVENTURES

PARTICIPANT QUOTES

Chepstow Castle -
“The castle is amazing. I take many photos. I feel part of the culture here.”

Brecon 4 Waterfalls Walk -
“I never see place like this before. Walking with friends make me feel free and happy.”

Rafting -
“Water was fast but we work together. I feel happy.”

Barrybados (Barry Island) -
“The sea cold but we still swim. We laugh and eat together. It was beautiful day.”

Rock Climbing -
“Climbing was hard but I don’t give up. When I reach the top, I feel very happy.”

Ice Skating at ICC -
“I fall many times but we laugh together. It was good day for me.”

Archery -
“I try archery first time. It was hard but fun. I feel proud when I hit the target.”

Picnics in the park -
“Walks in park make me feel calm. I enjoy talking with friends.”

Skirrid Mountain Walk -
“The view is beautiful. I feel peace in my heart.”

Laserquest -
“We play in a team. It was fun and help make me forget stress.”

Big Pit -
“I learn about history of Wales. It was interesting and make me understand this country more.”

High Ropes -
“I was scared at first, but my friends help me. I feel brave now.”

Clay Pigeon Shooting -
“I never do this before. It was exciting and I feel strong and confident.”

UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC)

BENEFITS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

- Creating a safe and trusted environment where young asylum seekers feel welcome, reducing isolation and anxiety.
- Facilitates early engagement by enabling social workers to connect with young people in a relaxed, non-threatening setting.

- Promotes stability and routine through regular activities and drop-ins, supporting emotional well-being and resilience.
- Encourages integration and confidence by offering opportunities for social interaction, language practice, and cultural exchange.
- Improves safeguarding and support by providing a central hub where professionals can monitor needs and respond quickly.

**Delivered in partnership with
Newport City Council -
“Ground-breaking Collaboration
for UASC Support”**

UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC)



THE GAP WALES FOOTBALL



BENEFITS OF SESSIONS

- Provides a safe, structured outlet for energy and stress relief, supporting positive mental health.
- Builds teamwork, communication, patience and discipline through play.
- Improves fitness, confidence and self-belief in a positive environment.
- Fosters friendships and cultural integration among participants.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

- Delivered in partnership with Newport Live and Newport Youth & Play Service for quality facilities and safeguarding.
- Strengthens community collaboration, ensuring consistent support for young people.
- Provides access to experienced youth workers who offer guidance and mentoring.



**Delivered in partnership with
Newport Live and Newport Youth
and Play Service**

COMMUNITY LUNCH SUPPORTED BY GAVO - WARM HUB FUNDING



BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY LUNCHES

- Reduces isolation and builds friendships by bringing people together in a welcoming, informal setting.
- Promotes cultural exchange and integration through shared meals and conversation.
- Supports families living on limited budgets by offering a warm, nutritious meal that helps stretch household resources.

- Provides volunteering opportunities for participants to cook and share dishes from their home countries, giving back to the community.
- Creates a sense of dignity and belonging through contribution, sharing, and mutual respect.
- Encourages skill development and confidence as volunteers learn new cooking, planning, and teamwork skills.



**COMMUNITY LUNCH
SUPPORTED BY GAVO - WARM
HUB FUNDING**

**PARTICIPANT
QUOTES**



"I feel happy to eat together. It is like family for me."



"I learn English when I talk at lunch. It helps me a lot."



"I like to cook sometimes and share my culture with others. It makes me proud."

"I meet new friends every week. It makes me feel less alone."

"Cooking for others is special for me. I give something back and learn new skills."

"The food is good and the people are kind. I feel welcome."

"Sharing food reminds me of home. It gives me peace."

"I feel safe here. I can relax and enjoy the time."

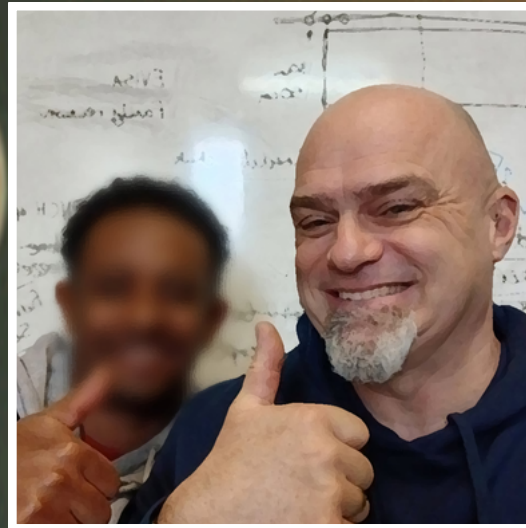


"Lunch is not only food, it is friendship and happiness."



"I live on small budget. This meal helps me and my family a lot."

CELEBRATIONS



CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR

- Granting of British Citizenship – marking a major milestone in participants’ journey to belonging.
- Refugee Status Confirmed – celebrating security and the start of a new chapter.
- Family Reunifications – joyful moments when loved ones are reunited after time apart.
- Birthdays and Cultural Festivals – recognising individuality and diverse traditions.
- Employment Success – first jobs, apprenticeships, and career progress celebrated together.

- Educational Achievements – completing ESOL courses, college enrolments, and qualifications.
- Driving Test Passes – a key step toward independence and mobility.
- Housing Stability – moving from temporary accommodation into permanent homes.
- Health Milestones – successful medical treatments or improved well-being.
- Community Contributions – volunteering and giving back through cooking, mentoring, or events.



“Today I get my refugee status. I feel safe now and can start my new life.”

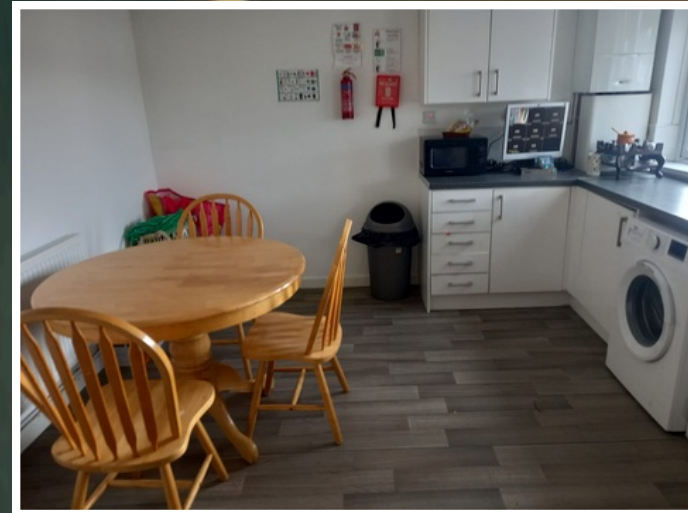
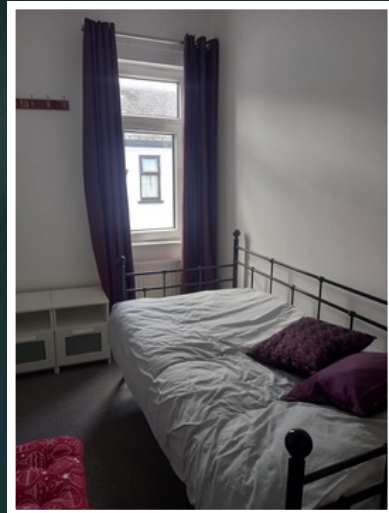


“I start my first job this month. It gives me hope for the future.”



“My children arrive in UK. We are together again after long time. I am so happy.”

THERAPEUTIC SUPPORTED HOUSING



BENEFITS OF OUR SPECIALIST SUPPORTED HOUSING

- Provides a safe, stable environment where participants can recover from trauma and feel secure.
- Delivers holistic, tailored support addressing emotional, practical, and therapeutic needs for successful integration.
- Prepares residents for independence by teaching tenancy skills, budgeting, and household management.

- Promotes community and belonging through shared living and positive relationships with support staff.
- Achieves outstanding outcomes with all move-ons now living independently and managing their own tenancies confidently.
- Reduces homelessness risk by offering structured pathways from supported housing to permanent accommodation.
- Improves mental health and well-being through stability, therapeutic input, and a sense of safety.



- **DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH POBL HOUSING ASSOCIATION**
- **SUPPORTED BY HOUSING JUSTICE CYMRU**
- **OFFERING 6 BEDS ACROSS 2 PROPERTIES**

NEWPORT CYCLE HUB



BENEFITS OF NEWPORT CYCLE HUB

- Promotes sustainable travel by enabling active cycling across the city, reducing congestion and carbon emissions.
- Provides affordable bike storage through Spokesafe from as little as £1/day, making cycling accessible and secure.
- Empowers participants with practical skills in bike repair and maintenance, supervised by a Velotech Gold certified specialist.
- Improves physical and mental well-being by encouraging outdoor activity, fitness, and stress relief.

- Strengthens community integration through volunteering, skill-sharing, and giving away 345 bikes to those in need.
- Reduces financial barriers by providing free bikes and repairs, helping families on limited budgets.
- Supports education and employment access by enabling reliable transport to college and work.
- Encourages environmental responsibility by promoting cycling as a green alternative to cars and buses.



Delivered in partnership with:

- Newport City Homes
- Spokesafe

NEWPORT CYCLE HUB



"I learn how to fix bikes. When I repair one, I feel proud and useful."



"Now I can go to college every day. Before, I walk long time and feel tired."



"Having a bike means I can go to work every day. It gives me freedom and hope."



"I receive a bike for me and my child. We could not afford it. It change our life."

"When I ride bike, I feel free and forget stress. It helps my mind and body."



"I feel proud when I fix a bike. Before I think I cannot do it, now I know I can."

"I keep my job because I have a bike now. Before, I miss work because no good buses."



BEACON BEREAVEMENT



Beacon Bereavement Is

- A compassionate support service for anyone experiencing grief and loss, regardless of background.
- Delivered by volunteers who have personally experienced bereavement and understand its emotional impact.
- Provides safe, confidential spaces for people to share feelings and navigate the pain of loss.
- Offers peer-led support grounded in empathy, lived experience, and many years of helping bereaved individuals across South Wales and the UK.
- Helps people find the right kind of support when asking for help feels overwhelming.

Benefits of Beacon Bereavement

- Normalises grief and emotions, reducing feelings of isolation and confusion.
- Builds resilience and coping strategies through empathetic listening and guidance.
- Creates a sense of community and belonging for those who feel alone in their bereavement journey.
- Supports mental health and well-being, preventing prolonged distress and crisis.
- Empowers individuals to rebuild confidence and re-engage with life after loss.
- Provides culturally sensitive and inclusive support, respecting diverse traditions and beliefs.



BEACON BEREAVEMENT

Partnerships -

The Gap Wales work closely and in collaboration with local organisations, building resilient relationships with brilliant local partner agencies who include:

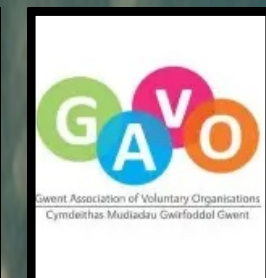
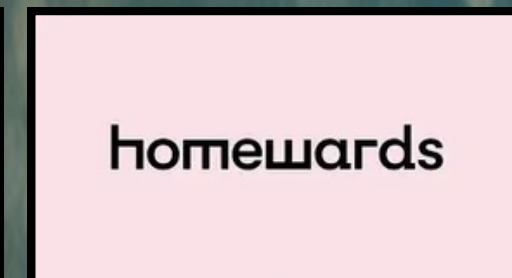
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- Welsh Government
- Newport City Council
- Social Services,
- Youth Services,
- Housing, and Active
- Travel team
- Newport Live
- Momentwm
- Positive Futures
- Newport City Homes
- POBL
- Clearsprings
- Adult Learning Wales
- ABUHB
- NHS Health
- Inclusion Service
- Gwent Police
- Probation Services
- Housing Justice (HJC)
- NACCOM
- WRC
- LTPF
- Bevan Foundation
- Homewards Coalition
- Spokesafe
- BITC
- Newport Mind
- GAVO
- WCVA
- Coleg Gwent
- Reach
- Migrant Help
- Cranfield Trust
- Lloyds Bank
- Foundation
- The House



- ## Coalitions/Memberships/Forums
- WRC - Sanctuary Coalition Cymru
 - Refugees Practitioners Forum - Newport
 - NACCOM Leadership & Members
 - Homewards - ED&I Working Group
 - Migrant Help Community Hubs
 - City of Sanctuary
 - Bevan Foundation - NRPF
 - NCH - Newport City Centre Buzz Meetings
 - Newport Active Travel Stakeholders
 - Police and Crime Commission Advisory Panel

"We are deeply grateful to all our partners for their commitment and collaboration. Together, we've made a real difference — we look forward to continuing these partnerships to create lasting change in our communities."



FUNDERS -

“We are truly grateful to our funders and supporters whose generosity makes our life-changing work possible.”



- Benefact Trust
- GAVO - Gwent Regional Integration Fund
- Hilden Charitable Fund
- Migrant Help Community Hub
- NACCOM Guardian Donations
- NCC Youth Service Fund
- Newport City Homes Community Benefits Fund
- Oakdale Trust
- Community Foundations Wales - Newport Endowment Fund
- Housing Justice Cymru - WG Funding
- GAVO - NCC Warm Hub Funding
- Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees
- WCVA Volunteering

Thanking our Individual Supporters

- We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our monthly supporters, whose regular contributions provide the stability and continuity that make our projects possible.
- We deeply appreciate our one-off donors, whose generosity enables us to respond swiftly to urgent needs and emerging challenges.
- Our heartfelt thanks go to community fundraisers, who dedicate time and energy to raise vital funds and awareness for our work.
- Your collective support has empowered us to deliver essential services and create life-changing opportunities for those most in need.
- Together, we have achieved remarkable impact—and we look forward to continuing this journey with you to make lasting change.

The Hilden Charitable Fund

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK



FUTURE PLANS STATEMENT



Future Plans

Looking ahead, The Gap Wales remains committed to delivering high-quality Advocacy and Support Services for individuals and families in need. To strengthen our ability to measure impact and improve service delivery, we will introduce a new CRM data-capturing system, enabling us to better account for outputs and outcomes across all projects.

We also aim to increase our preventative work with young people, focusing on education around crime and its consequences, helping to build safer futures. Through these initiatives, we will continue to strengthen community resilience, promote wellbeing, and create spaces where everyone feels valued and supported.

Building on this year's successes, we plan to expand our community offerings:

- Women's Relaxation and Exercise Group – continuing to provide a safe and supportive space for wellbeing.
- Tots and Toys Toddler Group – fostering inclusion and connection for families from all communities.
- Games Room Enhancement – adding a PS5, dartboard, air hockey table, football table, and shuffleboard, alongside the reintroduction of Friday Games Night to promote social engagement.
- Additional Community Lunch – creating more opportunities for shared meals and reducing isolation.



FUTURE PLANS STATEMENT

RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

The Gap Wales actively monitors and mitigates risks to ensure the continuity and quality of our services. Our approach focuses on safeguarding people, resources, and reputation while maintaining compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

Key Risks and Mitigation Strategies:

- **Financial Sustainability:** Diversifying income streams and strengthening fundraising to reduce reliance on single sources.
- **Data Protection & Compliance:** Implementing a secure CRM system and staff training to ensure GDPR compliance.
- **Safeguarding & Wellbeing:** Regular policy reviews, staff training, and clear reporting procedures to protect vulnerable individuals.
- **Operational Capacity:** Succession planning and volunteer engagement to maintain service delivery during staff changes.
- **Community Engagement:** Continuous feedback mechanisms to adapt services to evolving community needs and prevent disengagement.

CONTACT DETAILS

Contact Us

📍 Address: 42 Stow Hill, Newport, NP20 1JG

☎ Phone: 01633 221908

✉ Email: admin@thegap.wales

Support Us

💛 Donate: <https://localgiving.org/charity/the-sanctuary-newport>



Connect With Us

🌐 Website: <https://www.thegap.wales>



📘 Facebook: <https://facebook.com/groups/913662975369561>



🌟 Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegapwales>



💬 Threads: <https://threads.net/@thegapwales>



🔗 LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-gap-wales-608767269>



TRUSTEES

The Gap Wales benefits from the advice, governance and active oversight of a committed board of trustees:

- **Chair: Andrew Cleverly (appointed 26/05/2017)**
- **Treasurer: Paul Laughlin (appointed 26/05/2017)**
- **Bob Jones (appointed 26/05/2017, retired 31/03/2024)**
- **Helen Gordon (appointed 26/05/2017, retired 02/05/2023)**
- **Shaheen Dibaj (appointed 15/05/2019, retired 05/12/2024)**
- **Denebo Wario (appointed 10/12/2023)**
- **Emma Barnes-Lewis (appointed 26/02/2024, retired 07/11/2025)**
- **Ruth Carswell (appointed 05/08/2024)**





**PUBLISHED BY THE GAP WALES
(JANUARY 2026)**



ACCOUNTS

Independent Examiner

Trevor James FCA DChA FCIE
Dormer Cottage
Old Broyle Road
West Broyle
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 3PR

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Newport South Wales (309190) Branch
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Financial review

The work of the Charity is significantly financed by grants. Income from these sources for the year totalled £109,339 (63.3% of total income). Comparable income for the previous year was £144,282 (64.9% of total income).

Expenditure during the year totalled £200,771 (2024:£175,769).

The overall result was a deficit of £28,017 (2024: surplus £46,670).

Reserves*Reserves policy*

The Charity employs staff and has other ongoing core costs commitments which are fundamental to the fulfilment of its charitable objects. The continuation of grants, which are a major part of the Charity's income are not guaranteed. Furthermore substantial grants mean there are peaks and troughs in income. Should the Charity suffer a reduction in income the trustees would want to continue its activities while they endeavour to secure funding. On the basis of the above the trustees have resolved that the Charity should hold a designated operational reserve of £100,000.

Investment policy

The trustees are reviewing their investment policy in the light of the recently published Charity Investment Governance Principles Funds and in particular the specific guidance for Smaller Charities that mainly invest in cash..

Structure, governance and management*Governing document*

The Gap Wales ("the Charity") is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales on 27 March 2017. It is governed by its constitution which was last amended on 31 October 2023. The trustees are the members of the Charity. In the event of a winding up the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Recruitment, Appointment and Training of Trustees

Trustees are recruited from those who share the Charity's aims, aspirations and Christian ethos and who are able to bring a breadth and depth of experience and skills to the trustee body. Recruitment is both by word of mouth through the Charity's networks and by the use of Charity Jobs and consultants. Prior to appointment Trustees are briefed on the Charity's activities and provided with a copy of the Charity's strategic review. They take seriously the obligation to maintain their knowledge.

Pay policy and procedures

Pay levels are set in comparison to sector norms and are reviewed annually in the light of CPI movements. Professional HR consultants have been engaged to review all policies and procedures to ensure that they are sufficient and in line with current best practice.

The Trustees do not receive any payment or benefits for their work either as trustees or as volunteers.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified the major risks to which they believe the Charity is exposed and systems have been established to minimise those risks. The risks are formally reviewed quarterly at trustees' meeting. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements.

Serious incidents

In line with the Charity Commission's guidance on reporting serious incidents, the trustees declare that during the reporting period there were no serious incidents that they have failed to bring to the Commission's attention.

Governance

The overall responsibility for the Charity rests with the Trustees who meet quarterly with additional meetings when necessary.

The Charity's Christian ethos is fundamental to its governance mindful of this the trustees endeavour to apply the Charity Governance Code and the Nolan principles (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership). Furthermore believing that corruption, bribery and unfair actions hamper development and impede progress they insist on integrity in all of the Charity's activities.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are committed to supporting people of all faiths and none.

Independent Examiner

Trevor James was appointed as independent examiner on 3 June 2024 and has indicated his willingness to continue in that role.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities SORP. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included in the Charity's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 28 January 2026 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Andrew Cleverly
Chair

The Gap Wales
Statement of Financial Activities
Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Designated funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income						
Donations and grants	2	0	50,382	78,539	128,921	182,530
Legacies	3	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	4	0	42,820	1,013	43,833	39,909
Total income		<u>0</u>	<u>93,202</u>	<u>79,552</u>	<u>172,754</u>	<u>222,439</u>
Expenditure						
Raising funds		0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure on charitable activities	5	0	94,233	106,538	200,771	175,769
Total expenditure		<u>0</u>	<u>94,233</u>	<u>106,538</u>	<u>200,771</u>	<u>175,769</u>
Income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)						
		0	(1,031)	(26,986)	(28,017)	46,670
Transfers between funds	10	0	2,626	(2,626)	0	0
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investment assets		0	0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		<u>0</u>	<u>1,595</u>	<u>(29,612)</u>	<u>(28,017)</u>	<u>46,670</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		100,000	17,998	72,737	190,735	144,065
Total funds carried forward		<u>100,000</u>	<u>19,593</u>	<u>43,125</u>	<u>162,718</u>	<u>190,735</u>

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Gap Wales
Balance Sheet
31 March 2025

		2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	4,177	5,127
		<u>4,177</u>	<u>5,127</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	11	0	0
Debtors	12	232	1,513
Cash at bank and in hand		163,128	195,428
		<u>163,360</u>	<u>196,941</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	4,819	11,333
Net current assets		<u>158,541</u>	<u>185,608</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>162,718</u>	<u>190,735</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		0	0
Net assets		<u>162,718</u>	<u>190,735</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		43,125	72,737
Designated operating reserve		100,000	100,000
Unrestricted undesignated funds		19,593	17,998
Total charity funds	14	<u>162,718</u>	<u>190,735</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 28 January 2026 and are signed on its behalf by:



Paul Laughlin
Treasurer

The Gap Wales
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting Policies.

The financial statements of the Charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the Charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations, grants and legacies is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the funds, receipt is probable, and its amount can be measured reliably.
- Tax recoverable under gift aid is recognised when the relevant gift aid donation is recognised.
- Top-up payments under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme are recognised when the cash donations which form the basis of the claim are received.
- Donated facilities and services are recognised when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of volunteers.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives would be recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise the cost of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the Charity.

The Gap Wales
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2025

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Tools

A base stock of tools is valued at cost and not depreciated. Renewals are written off in the year of purchase when capitalisation is not determined to be appropriate.

Depreciation

Depreciation of tangible assets is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset.

Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the Charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs. Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from direct tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds, including designated funds, can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Pension costs

Contributions payable to the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The Gap Wales
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2025

2. Donations and grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations	11,758	1,800	13,558	31,788
Fundraising	1,949	0	1,949	2,711
Gift Aid	523	0	523	448
Grants	32,600	76,739	109,339	144,282
Monthly supporters	3,552	0	3,552	3,301
	<u>50,382</u>	<u>78,539</u>	<u>128,921</u>	<u>182,530</u>

3. Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Legacies receivable	0	0	0	0
Year ended 31 March 2024	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		

4. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Earned income	3,243	0	3,243	3,586
Housing project income	37,978	0	37,978	33,028
Other income	1,599	1,013	2,612	3,295
	<u>42,820</u>	<u>1,013</u>	<u>43,833</u>	<u>39,909</u>

5. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Salaries including NI and pension	32,760	88,605	121,365	94,867
Bike project	5,675	0	5,675	8,004
Project activity expenses	1,346	4,776	6,122	8,842
Project housing rent	10,446	0	10,446	5,850
Youth participation costs	0	0	0	591
Donations to participants	1,107	0	1,107	1,787
Rent	13,200	0	13,200	13,200
Rates	3,606	0	3,606	1,136
Housing expenses	1,688	0	1,688	8,993
Cleaning	5,072	306	5,378	6,878
Light, power and heating	3,553	2,131	5,684	5,503
Water	1,110	161	1,271	1,508
Repairs and maintenance	2,217	7,762	9,979	2,268
Insurance	1,717	0	1,717	1,455
Management fee	0	547	547	4,396
Depreciation	1,382	0	1,382	0
Other costs	9,354	2,250	11,604	10,491
	<u>94,233</u>	<u>106,538</u>	<u>200,771</u>	<u>175,769</u>

The Gap Wales
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2025

6. Net income

Net income is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Professional fees – Independent examiner's remuneration	300	395
Trustees' meeting expenses	0	0
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fees payable for the examination of the financial statements	300	395
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

8. Staff costs

Total remuneration paid including employer's pension and social security costs, was £121,365 (2024: £94,867). Many of the Charity's activities are carried out by volunteers who are unpaid and do not receive any reimbursement of expenses.

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
		
Charitable (Full time equivalent)	5	4
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

9. Trustee remuneration and expenses

None of the Trustees or persons connected with them received any remuneration, benefits or reimbursement of expenses in the year for work as a trustee (2024:None). Any claim for expenses would be subject to the Charity's normal internal control procedures.

10. Tangible fixed assets

Certain of the tangible fixed assets were purchased with restricted funds. Following investigation, it has been determined that the restrictions ended once the assets had been purchased. To recognise this all tangible fixed assets are now recorded as unrestricted and a transfer of £2,626 has been made in the Statement of Financial Activities.

	Computer Equipment £	Furniture & Fittings £	Office Equipment £	Tools £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	2,214	792	1,975	146	5,127
Additions	362	70	0	0	432
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,576</u>	<u>862</u>	<u>1,975</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>5,559</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Charge for the year	858	129	395	0	1,382
At 31 March 2025	<u>858</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,382</u>
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,718</u>	<u>733</u>	<u>1,580</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>4,177</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,214</u>	<u>792</u>	<u>1,975</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>5,127</u>

11. Stocks

The Charity holds a stock of bikes which are not valued. There is also a small incidental stock of cleaning materials, catering supplies and stationary which are not valued. The Charity holds no other stocks (2024: Nil).

The Gap Wales
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2025

12. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments	194	0
Other debtors	38	1,513
	<u>232</u>	<u>1,513</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	0	6,249
Pension contributions	1,956	2,312
PAYE and Social Security	2,510	1,671
Other creditors and accruals	353	1,101
	<u>4,819</u>	<u>11,333</u>

14. Analysis of charitable funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer	At 31 March 2025 £
Designated operating reserve	100,000	0	(0)	0	100,000
Unrestricted undesignated funds	17,998	93,202	(94,233)	2,626	19,593
Restricted	72,737	79,552	(106,538)	(2,626)	43,125
	<u>190,735</u>	<u>172,754</u>	<u>(200,771)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>162,718</u>

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Designated Funds	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Tangible assets	0	4,177	0	4,177
Current assets	100,000	20,235	43,125	163,360
Creditors less than 1 year	0	(4,819)	(0)	(4,819)
Creditors greater than 1 year	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Net assets	<u>100,000</u>	<u>19,593</u>	<u>43,125</u>	<u>162,718</u>

Prior Year

	Designated Funds	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	0	2,501	2,626	5,127
Current assets	100,000	26,830	70,111	196,941
Creditors less than 1 year	0	(11,333)	(0)	(11,333)
Creditors greater than 1 year	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Net assets	<u>100,000</u>	<u>17,998</u>	<u>72,737</u>	<u>190,735</u>

16. Operating lease commitments The Charity rents premises from Bethel Community Church. The current agreement which for a term of seven years with a year-to-year review commenced on 7 January 2025 at a rent of £1,100 per month.

The Gap Wales
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2025

17. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The employer pension contributions payable by the Charity to the fund during the year amounted to £2,249 (2024: £1,850). At 31 March 2025 employer and employee contributions totalling £1,956 (2024: £2,312) were payable to the fund.

18. Related parties

Andrew Cleverly, the chair of the Charity, is pastor of Bethel Community Church and chair of the trustees of that Church. The Gap Wales rents space from Bethel Community Church.
Ruth Carswell, a trustee, is employed by the Lloyds Bank Foundation, a charity which makes grants to The Gap Wales.

**The Gap Wales
Company Limited by Guarantee**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Gap Wales

I report on my examination of the accounts of The Gap Wales (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

This report is made solely to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the trustees as a body, for any work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). You consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 (2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T E James

Trevor James FCA DChA FCIE
Dormer Cottage
West Broyle
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 3PR

28 January 2026