

Stobhill Link

Managed by: Northumberland Community Enterprise Limited
Trustees Annual Report and Accounts April 2023- March 2024



Aim and Purposes

NCEL operates various initiatives and projects to better the lives of disadvantaged people living within neighbourhoods of Southeast Northumberland which are identified to be deprived (by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation) with poor statistics on crime, education, skills, health and household income. Primarily targeting the centre's immediate community of Stobhill. Known locally by our centre name 'The Stobhill Link' our services are open to all age ranges and run from our Community Hub. We offer volunteer opportunities and address local issues aiming to relieve unemployment, promote social inclusion amongst the elderly and/disabled, relieve financial hardship, develop capacity and skills and to help young people develop their capacity through leisure time activities.

Objectives and Activities

NCEL is committed to engaging with as many people as possible effected by deprivation to offer means and opportunities to overcome barriers in their lives. We encourage participation by our service users in the design and planning of our work, offer volunteer opportunities across all of our projects and encourage leadership, ownership and passion for the work required to meet our goals.

In planning our work for the year, we have considered the Commissions guidance on public benefit and have ensured that our services be available to all people attempting to access them.

The objects of NCEL are:

- (1) the relief of unemployment for the benefit of the public in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment;
- (2) to promote social inclusion for the public benefit among elderly persons who are socially excluded from society, or parts of society as a result of their age, relieving the needs of those people and assisting them to integrate into society;
- (3) the relief of financial hardship among people living or working in South East Northumberland but also wherever our services are requested through Northumberland and Tyneside, by providing such persons with services and advice which they could not otherwise afford through lack of means or that are not otherwise available to them through lack of opportunity;
- (4) to develop the capacity and skills of the members of socially, economically and disadvantaged communities of South East Northumberland but also wherever our services are requested through Northumberland and Tyneside in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet their needs and to participate more fully in society;
- (5) to help young people, especially but not exclusively through leisure time activities, so as to develop their capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

During the course of our work no harm has arose from the purposes. Our beneficiaries are the general public and locally-based community and voluntary organisations. No private benefit arises from these purposes.

Achievements and Performance



During the 2023-2024 year we have continued to offer a wide variety of services which are outlined in this report. We have included in these services wrap around support tackling food and fuel poverty, low household incomes, debt, unemployment, energy efficiency and awareness, social isolation and health and wellbeing. Our network of professional contacts continues to grow due to the variety of issues we have endeavoured to tackle, and this has helped to support our volunteers and staff with project delivery. Our team collaborates with local charities, services and stakeholders such as youth and community groups, Stobhill and Morpeth churches and voluntary sector organisations to make opportunities and services available to our beneficiaries.

We have continued to work with Fare Share to secure surplus food waste from supermarkets and businesses which is re-distributed through our community fridge and Lunch Club. We have also continued our work with Community Repaint, a National charity acting as an umbrella body to ensure the redistribution of thousands of litres of household paint to individuals and charitable groups. Much of our work was designed through established need amongst our beneficiaries, it was developed and intended to help many people in need unable to afford not only luxuries but basic provisions to get by. We have continually increased our customer base and recognise the large impact much of the re-distribution has had by helping to sustain the environment for future generations. We have noted the stigma that food poverty can carry and encourage our team to focus on the message of preventing food waste which relieves apprehension/stigma beneficiaries may have when accessing our centre to request support.



Community Food Pantry – Community Fridge

(In Strategic Partnership with Northumberland County Council), Working With FareShare, The Bread and Butter Thing and local Food Distributors.

Our team has developed a community food pantry into a community fridge model. We have moved forward from emergency food support to a model designed by the cooperative partnership which we are witnessing to support long term sustainability, reduce stigma and promote choice whilst offering more nutrient dense options and being accessible to all of our beneficiaries. We continue to refer to the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank for access in an emergency for

individuals in crisis, however these referrals are greatly reduced owing to our ability to provide and other, more local and sustainable solutions to food needs. Our network in Morpeth focuses on sustainable food solutions and innovative projects offering food, growing, cooking etc. We collaborate with local voluntary groups to initiate likeminded projects, promote the community fridge model and develop strategy towards access to food and food waste. We have supported The Morpeth and Bedlington Community Allotments to improve upon their food models and address food insecurity with their own participants.

2023 - 2024

- 15 referrals to Foodbanks
- provided 895 food parcels to beneficiaries
- are currently saving 140kg of food waste per week (at our current rate we estimate to total 7 tonnes annually).

Lunch Club – Social Support Group

Our team has developed a Lunch Club which acts as a social support group, a frontline response to safeguarding in the community and a food insecurity prevention programme. A team of dedicated volunteers cook hearty, healthy meals for members whilst our staff and social support volunteers network and discuss solutions to social issues. They provide 1:1 advice and support, highlight common themes and issues around food and fuel poverty and accommodate speakers from professional organisations which initiates the creation of referral processes. Many volunteers are also older people who benefit from the advice, information and hearty meal on a weekly basis. On several occasions our team have been able to safeguard members of the public, access services on their behalf and initiate care plans. This project has the potential to develop further in the future.

Free School Uniform Bank (Regional Partnership)

Partnered with Northumberland County Council's Regional Network of School Uniform Banks. We built one of the first school uniform banks in the North East and are part of a regional network of seven distributors of School Uniform. We share clothing, learning and experiences within our network to achieve best practice. Stocking branded uniform for 5 local schools, we see on average 40 service users per week (2000+ families per year), recycling an estimated 6-7 tonnes of clothing annually.



Summer holidays 2023 activities



Paint Recycling (Partnered with Community Repaint)

Surplus household paint is donated to NCEL from retailers, manufacturers and local traders. This is stored and resold to the public at £1 per litre. Priority is reserved for low-income families, social services and voluntary organisations. We recycled more than 3000 litres in 2023-2024.

Pre- Employment Support

Work experience can be gained at NCEL through volunteering. Volunteer programmes are tailor made to suit everyone, work references are provided, support with CV's, applications and interview techniques, we also provide suits and workwear for interviews.

Hardship Support

(In collaboration with Northumberland County Council – Communities Together Hubs)

Referrals to professional bodies can be made both formally and informally for people in financial crisis as well as for those at risk of harm. Hardship grant applications for individuals are made to a wide array of charitable trusts and local giving groups. We secure household furniture, clothing, warm coats, toys, baby equipment both physically and in the form of grants towards purchase. Links are available through our vast network to charities such as Talking Matters, Domestic Abuse Services, Women's Aid and The Northumberland Recovery Partnership. We make approximately 55 referrals annually of this kind.

Community Garden

Development of our Stobhill Community Garden led to the creation of the Stobhill Gardening Club. This group offers social opportunities, learning, knowledge transfer, shared skills, plot to plate cooking, Spring Summer activities and events and allows for visits to the garden from external groups. Autumn and Winter involve planning, crafts and indoor activities as well as day trips. The Garden is currently supported by a core group of 12 volunteers, Gardening Club currently has 10 members and the garden welcomes an estimated 300 visitors per year.

Community Allotments

Allotment sites are held in Bedlington and Morpeth. Each are supported by Core Groups of volunteers. Visitors are welcomed throughout Spring and Summer, these range from Care Homes, the general public, Sensory Gardening Groups and Mind Active.

Social Groups

NCEL offer a friendly weekly cuppa club to all service users. Coffee, cakes and a friendly welcome bring people into the centre where staff and volunteers engage, signpost and enjoy some social time with others. Often the group enjoy a quiz, armchair yoga, board games and puzzles. This first contact provides an opportunity for effective engagement, building trusted professional relationships and information signposting, information sharing and a route through to our other projects.

Reserves Policy

It is NCEL policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments, equivalent to £15,000, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make the Stobhill Link the lively and vibrant hub that it is. We wish to mention our Core Volunteers who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf to prop up the services, as well as all the other members of our organisation for their valuable contribution to our charity and for keeping the organisation running.

Structure Governance and Management

The board of NCEL consists of five trustees responsible for making collective decisions, managing NCEL, managing risks and finances. The board members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the charity including on how the funds are to be spent in line with the terms and conditions of all grant funding. The board are too responsible for strategy and future planning. A Managing Director is employed to oversee the day-to-day running of NCEL. The Manager communicates between Project staff and the board on general issues, reporting to and updating the board regularly. The Manager sets and delegates duties, identifies problems or concerns, suggests problem solving strategies and operates on the direction of the board. The Managing Director networks within the voluntary sector, identifies social need in the community, collects statistical information and presents to the board. Project staff deliver projects, monitor and record statistics, keep and update administrative files, report directly to the Managing Director. Project Staff work closely with volunteers delegating work and planning future work with volunteers.

During 2023-2024 there were two project staff employed by NCEL as well as one manager. We enrolled 18 new volunteers in various roles.

Financial Review

The charity is still recovering from the downturn of Covid, but the shoots of recovery are starting to emerge. We made a loss in the financial year of £5797 but with promises of new financial backing, things are improving.

Administrative Information

The full board of trustees of NCEL meet bi-monthly six times per year with an average level of attendance of 80%. It is the board's role to ensure that decisions are made collectively and that there are named people working together to manage the organisation, manage risk, finances and future plans so that the charity may meet its objectives. Our trustees bring with them a mix of skills and expertise that complement the charity and ensure its objects are met for public benefit.

List of Trustees:

David Weatherhead – Chairman

Ann Purvis – Secretary

Derek Thompson

John Beynon Northumberland County Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees/ members of Northumberland Community Enterprise Limited

I report on the accounts for the year end 31st March 2023 set out within this document.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act),

to follow the procedures laid down in General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act), and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 your 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 the course of 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 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act; have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name

David Weatherhead

Address

37 Shields Rd, Morpeth, NE61 2SA

Date

28/01/2025

Registered number
6537591

Charity number
1174831

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd

Reports and Accounts

31st March 2024

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd
Report and accounts as t 31st March 2024
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Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd
Company Information
At 31 March 2024

Directors

J Beyon
M Haswell
A Purvis
D Thompson
D Weatherhead

Registered office

37 Shields Road
Stobhill
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2SA

Registered number

6537591

Charity number

1174831

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd

Registered number:

6537591

Charity number

1174831

Directors' report

For the year ended 31st March 2024

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

Principal activities

The company's principal activity during the year continued to be that of an enterprise concern. The main aim of the company is to improve the life style of the disabled and disadvantaged people living in the area.

Directors

The following persons served as directors during the year:

J Beyon
M Haswell
A Purvis
D Thompson
D Weatherhead

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on the 2nd December 2024



D Weatherhead
Director

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd
Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31st March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources	70,689	76,567
	<u>70,689</u>	<u>76,567</u>
Resources expended	-76,486	-88,331
Net incoming resources before transfers	<u>-5,797</u>	<u>-11,764</u>
Adjustments	0	0
Profit or loss for the financial	<u>-5,797</u>	<u>-11,764</u>
Total funds b/fwd	19,956	31,720
	<u>14,159</u>	<u>19,956</u>

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd
Balance sheet
at 31st March 2023

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	1	11,006	2,946
Current assets			
Debtors		317	554
Others		1,622	7,519
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>10,898</u>	<u>15,581</u>
		12,837	23,654
Total current assets;		23,843	26,600
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	2	-2,317	-2,209
Loan -PSA		-2,243	-3,239
Other creditors		-5,124	-9,684
		-9,684	-1,196
Total assets less current liabilities		14,159	19,956
Net assets		14,159	19,956
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	3	19,945	31,709
Profit and loss account		-5,797	-11,764
Shareholder's funds		11	11
	4	14,159	19,956

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The member has not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

M Haswell

M Haswell

Director

Approved by the board

02.12.2024

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31st March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for smaller Entities (effective June 2002) and follow the recommendations in "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended practice" issued in October 2000.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at cost value to the company where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of the services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for partifulare purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific funds. The aim and use of each fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constittional and statutory requirements.

2 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,317	2,209
Other creditors	5,124	1,196
	7,441	3,405

3 Share capital

	Nominal	2024	2023
	value	£	£
	Number		
Allotted, called up and fully paid			
Ordinary shares	£1 each	11	11

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd
Notes to the accounts continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

4 Analysis of net assets between funds	2024	2023
	£	£
Fund balances		
Fixed assets	11,006	2,946
Current assets	12,837	23,654
Current liabilities	-9,684	-6,644
	14,159	19,956

5 Tangible assets	2024		2024
		£	£
	Building	Furniture & Fittings	Total
Cost			
	5,250	6,882	12,132
Additions	10,000	0	10,000
Disposal			
	15,250	6,882	22,132
Depreciation	-4290	-4,890	-9,180
Charge for year	-1784	-162	-1,946
At the 31 March 2024	-6,074	-5,052	-11,126
Net book value as at the 31 March 2024	9,176	1,830	11,006

Northumberland community Enterprise Ltd
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31st March 2023

8 Unrestricted funds	01-Apr-23	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31-Mar-24
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	7,641	32,960	-37,473	0	3,128

Purposes of unrestricted fund

The purpose of the general fund is to further the aims and objectives of the charity

9 Restricted funds	01-Apr-23	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31-Mar-24
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted fund	12,315	37,729	-39,013	0	11,031

Purposes of restricted funds

The aim of the charity funds is to provide training for staff and volunteers and manage other services to benefit the local community.

	£	£	£	£	£
Total	19,956	70,689	-76,486	0	14,159

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd
Profit and Loss account
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Sales	903	663
Donations	315	1,166
Grants	66,557	73,907
Other incoming resources	<u>2,914</u>	<u>831</u>
	70,689	76,567
 Resources expended	 -76,486	 -88,331
Net resources	<u>-5,797</u>	<u>-11,764</u>

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd
Detailed profit and loss account
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Sales	904		904	663
Donations	314		314	1,166
Grants	28,828	37,729	66,557	73,907
Other incoming resources	2,914		2,914	831
	32,960	37,729	70,689	76,567
	£	£	£	£
Resources expended				
Materials	379		379	129
Advertising	0	0	0	42
Wages and national insurance	20,603	27,311	47,914	42,855
Rent and rates	211	279	490	586
Utilities	807	1,070	1,877	1,615
Vehicle costs	937	0	937	999
Travel expenses	2,996	0	2,996	2,415
Computer costs	824	1,090	1,914	1,958
Telephone and internet	841	1,115	1,956	1,475
Printing, postage and stationery	170	224	394	603
Leasing	1,662	2,204	3,866	7,015
Repairs, renewals and cleaning	1,442	0	1,442	1,595
Interest and bank charges	246	0	246	399
Administration costs	0	0	0	17,250
Accountancy costs	2,580	3,420	6,000	6,100
Depreciation	836	1,110	1,946	940
Insurance	875	1,160	2,035	1,911
Refreshments	60	0	60	39
Donations	1,037	0	1,037	125
Sundry expenses	944	0	944	224
Professional fees	23	30	53	56
	37,473	39,013	76,486	88,331
Profit or loss for current year	-4513	-1284	-5797	-11764

Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd
Appendix to the accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2024

2024**Grants and donations received**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	
AbbVie	2,000		2,000
Awards For All	3,751	7,129	10,880
Ballinger		12,500	12,500
The Barbour Foundation		1,000	1,000
Barchester Health	500		500
The Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust	500		500
Co-operative	1,038		1,038
WG Edwards		1,200	1,200
Ford British Trust	248		248
Hubbub Foundation	1,000		1,000
Inner Wheel Club Morpeth	200		200
Karbon Homes	1,624		500
J Knott	500		1,624
Lidl Community Fund	500		500
Magic Little Grants	500		500
RW Mann Trust	1,400		500
Microgrants	500		500
Morpeth Rotary Club	500		1,400
Morpeth Town Council	4,628		4,628
Nineveh Trust		2,600	2,600
Northumberland County Council		2,000	2,000
Northumberland Estates	2,439		2,439
Rothley Trust	1,000		1,000
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust		2,000	2,000
Ridley Family Charity	5,000		5,000
Warburtons	400		400
Wellbank Foundation		9,300	9,300
Woodward Trust	600		600
Cash donations	315		315
Sales etc	3,817		3,817
	32,960	37,729	70,689