

Chair of Trustees report to AGM Friday 21st March 2025

Welcome everyone to our AGM for the past year. I apologise for reading this report rather than just speaking but after this meeting it will be uploaded to the Charity Commission website, along with the accounts for the financial year ending 31/08/24, where any member of the public can access it, so I have to be word perfect. Some of what I say will be duplicating our manager Briony's report but I will try to minimise that.

As we approach the fifth anniversary tomorrow of the first covid lockdown I would like to look back over those five years and share the huge progress we have made together in our aim to end hunger now. Firstly though, let me set the scene for how we were operating in March 2020. I started as a volunteer at Morecambe Bay Foodbank in about 2012, a year or so after it opened. Many of the volunteers here will remember that time in the Gym Church. Ever growing demand led to the move away from the church in 2017, the change of structure to become a registered charity and the formation of the Trustee Board. A number of trustees here, including me, were founder members of that first board.

Our foodbank has always looked to signpost people to additional support to help them with the problems that led them to need the foodbank in the first place. This was done through our volunteer listeners chatting with clients and signposting them to agencies where this support was available. Sadly however by the end of 2019 we were so busy that this became impossible. I well remember a two hour session on a Friday afternoon before Christmas that year when we had clients queuing out of the building and down the road as far as the bus stop. We distributed food parcels as fast as we could, but there was virtually no listening, no signposting and certainly no dignity.

When covid struck in March 2020 it was clear that different emergency arrangements would be needed. In liaison with Lancaster District Council Morecambe Bay Foodbank took responsibility for emergency food distribution throughout the area covered by the Council, and the number of households we served increased more than ten fold to over 800 some weeks, using first Salt Ayre Sports Centre and then The Platform as a base. I pay tribute to the work of our then Manager and Logistics Manager, together with other staff and volunteers, for rising to this enormous challenge.

In summer 2021 we moved to these premises, and later that year had a significant change in staffing. Thanks in particular to John Entwistle for his work in negotiating the lease on this building. It is wonderful for us to have so much space to do our work, warehouse space, office space and this open space for meetings (when it isn't full of the terracotta warriors like racks of school uniform!). Under Briony's leadership, our magnificent staff and volunteers have developed a very smooth delivery only operation. A decision was taken at our Trustee Strategy day last September to continue for the foreseeable future as a delivery only service. We are one of only three Trussell Foodbanks out of over four hundred who still use this model. So, the key question then became how do we support our clients with their wider problems and work towards ending hunger and the need for foodbanks.

The Trustee Board and Briony worked on this and through a successful bid to Trussell for Pathfinder funding we commissioned our first Citizens Advice worker for the schools project starting in April 2023. We also used our own financial resources to commission a second Citizens Advice worker to work directly with our clients, especially those who were relatively new to needing to use the foodbank (and now supported by some volunteers as well). These projects were so successful that we commissioned another CA worker to widen the schools project from August 2024. The impact of these workers and the support they have given to our local community has been amazing. I will give some figures shortly. Consequently, despite the Pathfinder funding finishing at the end of this month the Trustee Board have agreed to extend all these CA contracts

Page 1

RJH 21/03/25

until the end of March 2026. For the next twelve months we will be using our own financial reserves to fund these staff whilst we look for alternative sources of funding for future years after that.

We have been helped with Pathfinder Funding from Trussell for two other areas of our operation. Hannah was appointed in February 2024 to work with our referral agency partners to improve the quality of the information they give us and between us to work together to provide better all round support. She made a huge impact in a short time but sadly personal circumstances forced her to leave last November. We wish her well for the future. Now that we are delivery only it is very hard to find out the views of our clients and how we can improve our services for them. Natasha also started part-time in February 2024 and did some magnificent work producing a survey of clients' views that has had a big impact on how we operate. She is currently on maternity leave and we look forward to welcoming her back some time later this year.

There is one other area of our operation that has grown hugely in the past year, namely the uniform project. You can all see in this room and the rooms at the far end how large this project has grown. The scale of the operation and its almost military precision are a wonder to behold.

Whilst the Treasurer John will go through the accounts in more details shortly I will give some explanation now about our reserves. I have already mentioned our plans to allocate a considerable amount of them in the next twelve months. They are also artificially boosted this year by the inclusion of a notional value of over £66000 for stock as recommended by our accountant (although as we give our stock away free this value is not really there) and also £64000 received in advance for future Pathfinder expenditure. This actually means that our income has fallen slightly and our expenditure increased as we use some of our reserves to fulfil our charitable objectives.

We continue to be highly regarded by the local population, both individuals and businesses. This is the basis of our good financial position. We have significant income from regular standing orders from hundreds of individuals. Several people also make one off or regular donations. Local businesses also make a considerable contribution. I would just like to pick out a couple now, although our sincere thanks go to all donors. Infinis Energy gave us £5000 this year, as they have done each year for many years. Last summer Briony asked me to come and join her showing round a representative of a local business we had never heard of who wanted to make a donation. At the end of the tour we were gobsmacked when he presented us with a cheque for £10000, and also offered to help change our signs to the new Trussell logo. Many many thanks to Metamark for their generosity. Thanks to all our donors, including all those unknown people who put food in our donation bins, contribute to school and church food collections, and donate in other ways.

Finally I would like to turn to the impact of what we do. The provision of emergency food to people in need is the gateway to our services, but as described above we now provide much more than that. Briony will go through more details but I would like to give an overview. I think that the clearest way to do this is through looking at the value of the resources we have put into the local community. Every tin of food we give out, every item of school uniform we distribute, every new benefit gain we help people obtain, every debt we help get written off and many other examples contribute to the local economy and more importantly help people get through difficult times and make their lives better than they would otherwise be. The total of all these gains this year is a staggering £1.5 million. This is made up of approximately £200,000 of food, approximately £200,000 of school uniform, and an incredible £1.1 million from our commissioned CA advisors. We should all be really really proud of what we have achieved together.

Thank you to all our donors. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, including the trustees, and thank you to our wonderful staff, especially to Briony for her magnificent leadership. The support

Page 2

RJF 21/03/25

we give to our local community changes lives for the better. In these really difficult times it sometimes seems that we are like Sisyphus trying to push a stone uphill, but all I can say is that even though we cannot help everyone, every single person we help is better off because of our efforts. Thanks and well done to all of us.

Page 3

AGH 21/03/25

MORECAMBE BAY FOODBANK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Date : 12th February 2025

relating to 1st Sept 2023 –31st August 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £	Previous Year £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS					
Donations/ Legacies by Standing Order	97,866.12			97,866.12	96,864.89
Donations/Legacies GIFTS	142,339.92	109,804.99		252,144.91	288,418.93
CJRS Grant					
Bank Interest	19,994.60			19,994.60	5,665.74
Income from Activities	0			0	0
Total Income & Endowments	260,200.64	109,804.99		370,005.63	390,949.56
EXPENDITURE					
Raising Funds					
Charitable Activities	180,199.13	89,043.93		269,243.06	266,064.23
Total Expenditure	180,199.13	89,043.93		269,243.06	266,064.23
Net Gains/(losses) on investments					
Net Income / (Expenditure)	80,001.51	20761.06		100,762.57	124,885.33
Transfers between funds				0	0
Other recognised gains /(losses)					
Gains/ (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets					
Actuarial gains /(losses)					
Other gains/(losses)					
Net movement in funds	80,001.51	20,761.06		100,762.57	124,885.33
Reconciliation of funds					
Total Funds brought forward	546,082.94	43,641.42		589,724.36	464,839.03
Total funds carried forward	626,084.45	64,402.48		690,486.93	589,724.36

Page 1

[Signature]
Treasurer
21/03/25

[Signature]
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
21/03/25

MORECAMBE BAY FOOD BANK

BALANCE SHEET

DATE : 31st August 2024

	TOTAL FUNDS	PREVIOUS YEAR'S TOTALS
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS :		
Intangible Assets	0	0
Tangible Assets : Computers 4,920.00 Vehicles 303.02 Equipment 2,151.76 Fixtures & Fittings 5,484.55	12,859.33	15,200.48
Heritage Assets	0	0
Investments	0	0
TOTAL FIXED ASSET	12,859.33	15,200.48
CURRENT ASSETS :		
Stocks	66,427.86	
Debtors and Prepayments	97,588.96	59,979.80
Loans	118.25	1,118.99
Investments	0	
Cash at Bank and in Hand : Main Account 450.97 Community Account 1701.46 Savings Account 46,495.53 Charity Bank 102,662.36 Flagstone 363,775.21 Paypal 2.25 Cash 578.81 Food Vouchers 234.70	515,901.29	608,532.29
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	680,036.36	669,631.08
LIABILITIES :		
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	2,408.76	95,107.20
Net Current assets or Liabilities	677,627.60	574,523.88
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	690,486.93	589,724.36
Creditors : Amounts falling due after more than one year	0	0
Provision for Liabilities		
Net Assets or Liabilities excluding pension assets or liabilities	690,486.93	589,724.36
Defined benefit pension scheme asset or liability	0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS OR LIABILITIES	690,486.93	589,724.36
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY :		
Endowment Funds		
Restricted Funds	64,402.48	43,641.42
Unrestricted Funds	626,084.45	546,082.94
Revaluation Reserve		
Pension Reserve		
Total Unrestricted Funds	626,084.45	546,082.94
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	690,486.93	589,724.36

Page 2

[Signature]
TREASURER
21/03/25

[Signature]
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
21/03/25

Notes to the accounts

1) Debtors & Prepayments

The amount of £97,588.96 in the debtors and prepayments is made up of the following:

Prepayments - £32,711.03

Accrued Income (restricted) - £64,383.27

Lancaster City Council – dated 01/08/24 – £494.66

2) Creditors

The amount of £2,408.76 in the creditors is made up of the following expenses:

Castlegate Security Services – dated 31/08/24 - £74.40

Everclean – dated 28/08/24 - £170.00

Infinity Print Solutions – dated 29/08/24 - £25.55

Johnsons Workwear – dated 25/08/24 - £2.10

JSH Plumbing & Heating – dated 31/08/24 - £125.00

The Uniform & Leisurewear Company – dated 28/08/24 - £58.50

WCF Fuels – various August 2024 - £125.98

Westgate Tyres – dated 05/09/23 – (£183.80)

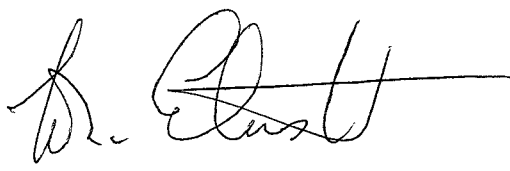
VAT Liability - £303.79


Pension contributions for August 2024 (paid in Sept 24) - £716.23

Accountancy accrual - £300.00

Other accruals - £691.00

Page 3

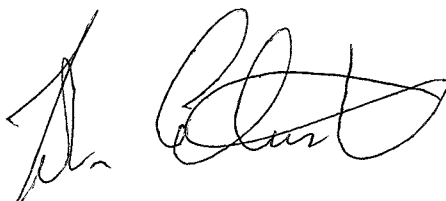

TREASURER
21/03/25



CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
21/03/25

3) Expenditure Analysis

Type	Amount
Client purchases	31,022.63
Outreach work	90,826.71
Local projects	300.00
Closing Stock	(66,427.86)
Wages and Salaries	111,342.76
Employers National Insurance	2,303.14
Pension Contributions	5,988.60
Rent	18,328.20
Rates, Heat & Light	18,075.68
Phone & Internet	1,955.95
Equipment Hire	416.10
Insurance	3,990.10
Subscriptions	357.80
Advert	70.96
Printing, Postage and Stationery	1,119.95
Cleaning & Waste Disposal	2,950.80
Motor	16,130.57
Travel	2,200.26
Office Costs	4,727.99
Repairs	9,170.23
Refurbishment Expenses	4,033.06
Legal and professional fees	2,594.81
Accountancy	654.00
Miscellaneous expenses	1,637.47
Bank Charges	1,335.20
Depreciation of assets	4,004.08
Loss on disposal of asset	133.87
Total	269,243.06

Page 4


Treasurer
21/03/25


CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
21/03/25

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of
Morecambe Bay Foodbank
Charity No. 1176579

Report on the Accounts for the year ended
31 August 2024

Respective responsibilities of the trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and 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 explanation from the 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 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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

D Naylor
Dawn Naylor FCA
BJM Group
Riverway House
Morecambe Road
Lancaster
LA1 2RX

Dated: 24/2/2025

[Signature]
TREASURER
21/03/25

[Signature]
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
21/03/25

Pages