

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements of Weston-super-Mare Foodbank ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Weston-super-Mare Foodbank is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission Reference Number 1177071, and is governed by a constitution dated 8th February 2018, and operates from its Registered Office of North Street, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1QF.

During the year the following were Trustees:

Felicity Wilson		
Leslie Hathaway		
Rev Julie Birkett		
William Painter		
Margaret Bailey		
Paul Salmons	Retired	31st March 2024
Clive Bodley	Retired	31st March 2024
Clive Duran	Retired	31st March 2024
John Williams	Retired	31st March 2024
Alvin Jeffs	Retired	31st March 2024
Mark Bodley	Appointed	25th April 2024
Natalie Dawn Gale-Sides	Appointed	25th April 2024
Andrew Allen	Appointed	25th April 2024

Objectives and Activities

The Charity exists for the public benefit, the relief of financial hardship amongst people in need in North Somerset and the United Kingdom by providing food and training and strengthening and empowering individuals, families and communities.

Achievements and Performance

Weston-super-Mare Foodbank is a charity that enables the community in and around Weston-super-Mare to meet the emergency food needs of those within the same community who are at a crisis point in their lives. Thousands benefit; thousands more enable this to take place. The Foodbank is simply a means of linking a generous community with those in need of support.

During the 12 months to March 2024, Weston-super-Mare Foodbank has provided emergency food for about 8,496 people, a very similar to the previous year. However we noticed an increase in the number of singles and couples as well as an increase of more than 100% in the number of over 65 year olds. 98,000kg of food has been distributed (Last year 88,300kg). In addition to providing emergency food, the Charity has supported local families with the provision of school holiday meals, gifts at Christmas, treats etc.

Due to the demand on our services, we have continued to operate a model based on localised pick up points to provide more local options and more sessions. We now have 4 local points operating across town over 5 days a week. North Street continues to offer a 'outside' service due to the space constraints while Hughenden Centre and the Bournville Centre offer a more cafe-style service with tables and refreshments as well as a selection of signposting agencies.

The footfall in the smaller outlets has increased as clients are starting to become more aware of the offering. We have been able to learn a lot from clients with dietary needs as well as hear stories of hardship and hope.

The warehouse is fully operational and providing essential support to the distribution centres. Thanks to the space available and the warehouse manager position, a whole new cohort of volunteers have been recruited and work from the warehouse 4 days a week. The 2 vans are located there and are used to collect food as well as distribute stock to the centres. The warehouse has offered a lot of space for young people with additional needs to volunteer.

Food supplies continue to be donated by people via collection points in local supermarkets, many of which have supplemented this with direct donations of food and financial gifts. In 2023-24 we have had to purchase more stock than ever before to supplement our store levels and also to offer a wider variety of products, including toiletries, pet food, toilet paper and more. Most of our toiletries are now purchased, mainly through organisations such as Inkind direct.

Financial Review

The Charity receives donations from individuals and organisations who support the work of the Foodbank. The Foodbank has also received a grant from the North Somerset Council to support the work in the area. For the full year the Charity had four part time employees and up to 50 volunteers split across our locations and teams. The majority of volunteers offer 5 hours of their time each week but a number of them volunteer across teams, up to 15 hours per week.

The financial circumstances for the year are set out in the accompanying financial statements. Thanks to the continued grant for Financial Inclusion work, we are able to host a Citizens Advice worker 3 times a week.

The accounts for the year have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

The Charity has cash reserves of £242,990 as at 31 March 2024 (Last year £237,221), most of which is held in a Co-Op Bank Account and Insignis Deposits.

The Trustees have adopted a Reserves Policy which requires 3 months' of unrestricted expenditure to be held in unrestricted reserves. This will allow the Charity to continue to operate for a minimal period of time should giving reduce. The Trustees recognise that the financial commitment relating to the warehouse lease marks an additional risk, and therefore the Charity holds reserves against this in recognition that there is no separate income stream that funds this currently. The value of the reserves will be monitored on a regular basis in the light of current giving levels, items of expenditure, and annually as part of the budget process.

At the balance sheet date, the Charity held unrestricted reserves of £192,986 (Last year £203,417). While this figure is above the required level, the Trustees believe that following a review of commitments, including the operational costs of the Warehouse, and investments in "more than initiatives", that the level of reserves is appropriate.

At the balance sheet date the organisation has restricted reserves of £50,004 (Last year £33,804). These relate to Grants and Donations relating to Additional services being offered to the clients (currently Citizens Advice North Somerset) and a Food Club Initiative currently located at Hughenden road.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity holds sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the Charity to function effectively in the coming year.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. 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 Charities SORP;
- Make judgement and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provision of the trust deed. 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.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

10/01/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Weston-super-Mare Foodbank

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Weston-super-Mare Foodbank (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect: 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or 2. the accounts do not accord with those records. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: PETER NEEDHAM

Address: 7 JUNIPER PLACE,
WESTON-SUPER-MARE, BS22 9XD

Date: 17th JANUARY 2025

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	12 Months to 31 March 2024			31 March 2023
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Receipts				
General Donations	132,290	74,606	206,896	236,948
Total Receipts	132,290	74,606	206,896	236,948
Payments				
Salaries, National Insurance & Pension costs	63,442	28,964	92,406	67,989
Premises Costs	39,164	28,614	67,778	44,059
Vehicle Costs	3,102	-	3,102	21,805
Administrative and Other Costs	37,013	829	37,842	45,053
Total Payments	142,721	58,406	201,127	178,906
Net of Receipts / (Payments)	(10,431)	16,200	5,769	58,042
Cash Funds Last Year	203,417	33,804	237,221	179,179
Cash Funds This Year End	192,986	50,004	242,989	237,221

There were no Designated Funds in either period

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Cash Funds			
Co-op Bank Account	16,252	-	16,252
Insignis Investments	176,292	50,004	226,296
Petty Cash	442	-	442
Total Cash Funds	192,986	50,004	242,990

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Cash Funds			
Co-op Bank Account	202,695	33,804	236,499
Petty Cash	722	-	722
Total Cash Funds	203,417	33,804	237,221

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

N. Gale

Trustee

10/01/2025

M. Bradley

Trustee

10/01/2025