



# SHREWSBURY FURNITURE SCHEME – (HOME ESSENTIALS)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Recycling furniture, electrical & household goods for re-use in the community

Helping to meet the needs of low income families in Shropshire since 1994

Reducing the amount that ends up in landfill every year.

Warehouse: Unit 9b Hartley Business Centre, Monkmoor Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 5ST

Reg Charity No: 1179323 - Tel: 01743 246668

Shop: 27/28 Castle Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BQ - Tel: 01743 236382



## OVERVIEW

The Shrewsbury Furniture Scheme is a registered charity which began in 1994. Our aim was to provide affordable, second-hand furniture to low income families in the Shrewsbury area. Since our inception, we have come a long way. We have now grown to cover a larger portion of the Shropshire area. We now supply furniture and white goods through the local council as well as through our warehouse and shop. We employ several volunteers who generously give up their time to support us in our objectives. A number of them have gone on to get jobs within the wider community and have gained confidence and skills to take with them. We are proud to have been a

part of their journey.

## THE CHARITY'S OBJECTIVES

To relieve poverty and to protect and preserve the environment, by: a) Providing assistance for those in genuine need or distressed persons resident in Shrewsbury and surrounding area, by the provision to them of essential furniture, electrical and other household items. b) Collecting donated items for checking, repairing, refurbishing, storage and subsequent supply. c) Recycling, re-using and repairing / upcycling furniture, household and electrical goods which would otherwise be disposed of in landfill. d) Empowering the unemployed and others with

additional needs, providing them with opportunities to acquire and practice skills, both to gain confidence and contribute to the community by establishing volunteer training schemes to undertake repair and refurbishment for recycling, thus providing essential training to facilitate re-entry to the workplace. e) Educating and informing the public about sustainable lifestyles and the benefits to the community of recycling, re-use and environmentally friendly waste management

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A board of trustees, elected annually at the AGM, oversees the running of the charity, which employs three full time & four part time staff. Willie Strachan (Chair), Neil Bryant (Treasurer), Mike Hall, Graham Baker, Rosi Pearson, Margaret Roberts.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In the year 2023/24 the Scheme served many more customers, proof that the well documented 'cost of living' crisis is with us in Shropshire. We continue to try and reach out to those who are less fortunate and to provide much needed help. We are aware that there are people in need in our community who may be unaware of our services and we are making ourselves and our offering better known through various media streams. This is proving successful and it is comforting to know that we have helped our communities.

Despite an increase in customers and sales, we recorded a deficit of £18,210. Costs continue to rise, and we are now more dependent on grants to support the Scheme. However, we have been successful in receiving grant support and in 2024, have received significant further funds to fund our offering.

Our grant funding in the financial year came from The National Lottery, The Albert Hunt Trust, The Sackler Trust and Veolia and we are very grateful for this assistance.

Despite the deficit, the charity has £76,150 in cash reserves, which provides a healthy buffer to allow us to plan ahead with confidence.

The shop recorded its best ever sales figure with an increase of £9,200 over last year. We have been fortunate to receive good quality furniture from our donors. The shop continues to provide financial support to the Scheme. We continue to review opportunities to grow this business. We have continued our upcycling project whereby items of furniture that may be considered 'difficult to sell' but with potential for renewal have been revived and refreshed to provide goods that are attractive and extremely

popular. These items which may have been destroyed now have a second life.

Thanks must go to our wonderful volunteers at both the warehouse and the shop who have generously given in excess of 8500 hours of their time to support the charity, and to the employees and trustees who all help to ensure that the Scheme provides essential support to those less fortunate within our community.

We must also thank the residents of Shrewsbury, Shropshire and beyond who have donated household goods. We have made over 1000 deliveries and over 1100 collections.

Our Long-serving Scheme Manager Peter Clarke left the business in August, we thank Peter for his hard work and devotion to the Scheme.

We were all saddened by the death of Les Jones. Les was a stalwart of the scheme, serving many years as a trustee and as a volunteer in the shop. He was a gentleman with several other voluntary hats, who loved meeting people and was always gracious and interesting. We will miss him.

Volunteers:

Shaun Haynes

Pete Edwards

Barrie Love

John Pritchard

Dave Parsons

Harry Bates

Owen Holtham

Donna Lindsay

Margaret Blakeley

Caroline Turner

Les Jones

Lyn Bowley

Lisbeth Jones

Toni Salema

Liz Davies

**SHREWSBURY FURNITURE SCHEME**  
**Home Essentials**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	STORE	SHOP	31.03.24	31.03.23
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Sales	65,735.47	79,925.14	145,660.61	123,716.22
Bank Interest	453.63		453.63	365.75
Donations			0.00	2.00
Delivery charges	3,597.08		3,597.08	3,393.82
Other Grants	29,835.00		29,835.00	10,000.00
Social Fund	3,464.00		3,464.00	11,429.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>103,085.18</b>	<b>79,925.14</b>	<b>183,010.32</b>	<b>148,906.79</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Purchases for Resale	3,219.08		3,219.08	0.00
Epos system	1,128.00		1,128.00	1,079.98
Rent	17,298.27	27,084.07	44,382.34	39,397.84
Service charge		1,599.72	1,599.72	2,710.65
Elec,Gas & water	33.56	7,841.18	7,874.74	7,442.69
Telephone	989.56	532.86	1,522.42	1,252.20
Premises Maint			0.00	1,638.51
Staff Wages	81,602.81	37,775.31	119,378.12	88,950.98
Volunteer expenses	245.07	48.90	293.97	241.77
Van expenses	7,803.78		7,803.78	7,400.39
Insurance	1,566.27		1,566.27	1,368.24
Workshop		386.08	386.08	1,160.29
Postage, printing and stationery		177.68	177.68	315.38
Misc	1,304.13	389.10	1,693.23	1,593.90
Professional Fees	3,227.50		3,227.50	2,426.79
Promotion/Advert	1,297.00		1,297.00	0.00
Cleaning	19.22	821.39	840.61	707.26
Repairs	2,667.91	1,391.90	4,059.81	739.29
Bank/Card Charges	594.94	732.06	1,327.00	1,243.81
VAT due			(556.61)	1,759.81
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>122,997.10</b>	<b>78,780.25</b>	<b>201,220.74</b>	<b>161,429.78</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>			<b>(18,210.42)</b>	<b>(12,522.99)</b>
<b>Total funds at 01.04.23</b>			<b>94,361.03</b>	<b>106,884.02</b>
<b>Cash funds at 31.03.24</b>			<b>76,150.61</b>	<b>94,361.03</b>

**SHREWSBURY FURNITURE SCHEME**  
**Home Essentials**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 MARCH 2024**

**CASH FUNDS**

£

Cash at Bank	75,985.35
Petty Cash	165.26
	<u>76,150.61</u>

**ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE**

Cost

Current  
Value

	£	£
Vans	43,724.68	6,647.00
Equipment	35,773.21	361.00
Racking	4,752.40	4.35
Shop fittings	3,270.59	185.25
	<u>87,520.88</u>	<u>7,197.60</u>



**Shrewsbury Furniture Scheme – Home Essentials**  
**Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Shrewsbury Furniture Scheme – Home Essentials**

I report on the attached accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider 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 commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- 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. 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 next statement.

**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 comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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 C Blofield BSc FCA  
Independent examiner  
Emstrey House  
Shrewsbury Business Park  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY2 6LG

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



Shrewsbury  
Furniture  
Scheme

Charity Number: 1179323

## 2023/2024



**Recycling furniture electrical and household goods for re-use in the community.**

**Helping to meet the needs of low-income families in Shropshire since 1994**

**Reducing the amount that ends up in landfill every year.**

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