
CARRIERS OF HOPE, COVENTRY CIO

Registered Charity **1180105**

A charitable incorporated organisation

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ending 31 December 2024



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**



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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ending 31st December 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

In 2024 Carriers of Hope faced a bigger task than ever, but the mission remained the same – to welcome, support and empower people coming to Coventry as asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

To face the challenges, we had to increase the size and the complexity of our organisation; we have taken on more staff and increased our use of information technology. While doing this we have constantly reminded ourselves of our underlying values. We are only getting bigger and more organised so that we can continue to offer friendship and compassion to more people. We must always treat the people we support with respect, and we must befriend the people we are seeking to empower.

Crucial to keeping us focussed on our basic mission and our core values are the many people who first came to know us as clients and who are now supporters, volunteers and even members of staff. Their experiences of coming to Coventry seeking refuge and asylum underpin all the work that we do.

Because the focus of our activities is so grounded and so practical, many organisations have trusted us with their support again in 2024. We are grateful for the grants we receive from Coventry City Council, the National Lottery Community Fund, the West Midlands Development Agency and others.

We are also grateful to large numbers of people in and around Coventry who continue to support us, especially with donations of food, furniture and household equipment.

Getting through the Covid years has been a challenge for us. Reaching a stage where we are confident that our services are thriving has not been simple. Many people have been important in this, but I would like to mention three. Sue Sampson, our founder, gave us a clear vision and a strong set of principles; Andrew Sayers stepped in to give us wise leadership – on a voluntary basis – at a time of huge change and uncertainty; Steffi Price, our new Operations Director coming to us from outside Coventry, has embraced our values and invigorated the whole organisation. We are very appreciative of all they have done.

This Annual Report will give you a lot of detail about what we have been doing over the past year. May I just add one personal observation; being part of the Carriers of Hope family is a joyful and life-enhancing experience!

Peter O'Brien (Chair of Trustees)

Report of the trustees continued

OBJECTS

The objects of the charity as set out in the constitution are:

To promote any charitable purpose, primarily for the benefit of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and New Migrants living in Coventry, in particular but not exclusively the advancement of education, the protection of health and relief of poverty and to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by the accounting standard FRS 102.

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Charity meets its public benefit obligations by responding to requests from refugees, asylum seekers and migrants for support for themselves and their families. The support is provided either financially, in foodstuffs, household requirements, baby requirements, education or support advice.

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

OUR VISION

That Coventry is a place where Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrant Families are welcomed and inspired to rebuild their lives for a better future.

OUR MISSION

To provide a warm welcome, practical support and care to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrant families in need. To befriend and empower individuals to be active citizens. To engage in Coventry's vision to become a Migrant Friendly City by working in partnership with other organisations.

OUR VALUES

Carriers of Hope offers: Friendship and Acceptance and treats everyone with: Respect and Dignity, Love and Compassion, Honesty and Integrity, carried out in a spirit of Peace and Harmony.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A Year of Growth and Progression

In 2024, we proudly marked the 15th anniversary of Carriers of Hope Coventry, reflecting on our incredible journey from a humble nappy drive to a vital lifeline supporting thousands of families with their practical needs.

We welcomed our new Director of Operations, Steffi Price, who succeeded Interim CEO, Andrew in leading and taking Carriers of Hope forward. Our new Food Hub Leader, Dani,

Report of the trustees continued

implemented significant changes to our membership strategy, while our new Child Well-Being Worker, Liz, elevated the *Let's Play* program, providing even greater support to young families. Carriers of Hope has grown and expanded not just as a team but in our focus.

This year, our focus has been on growth and progression — both in empowering our clients to achieve independence and in strengthening our organisation to meet rising demand and evolving needs with agility.

We also refined our approach to data collection, ensuring the information we gather from clients is both relevant and comprehensive. This has enabled us to make more evidence-based decisions regarding project eligibility, helping us navigate increasing demand effectively and work more successfully with partner organisations to support our clients ever increasingly complex needs.

In 2024, one of our biggest challenges was the sharp rise in demand for our services. This surge was driven by the government's accelerated processing of asylum applications and the growing number of people choosing to stay in Coventry, drawn by the city's exceptional support services.

As a result, our client base expanded significantly. We received 378 referrals from professionals—an increase of 24% compared to 2023—and registered 600 more client families than the previous year. This rapid growth underscored the increasing need for our support and the vital role we play in helping families settle and thrive in their new community.

Securing funds has also been a major challenge in 2024. With the conclusion of EU funding for other organisations, more groups are now competing for a shrinking pool of available grants. Meanwhile, the cost-of-living crisis has placed greater strain on our clients while also reducing charitable donations from our community.

Client Facing Events 2024:

In 2024, we continued to host three weekly client-facing community events, each designed to meet a specific need. These events were developed with a focus on progression, bringing in more professionals to support clients in a safe environment. With the added benefit of volunteer translators, we improved communication and removed barriers to access. This was made possible by our continued work on partnership that began in 2023. Beyond providing essential support, our events also fostered a sense of community, giving clients the opportunity to build social networks and enhance their well-being.

Our Weekly events:

Community Drop In:

During 2024 we transitioned our drop-in sessions to a fortnightly system, alternating between two distinct services. One week, we offer stalls and collections of essential household and children's items, while the following week focuses on community, connection, and registration.

Report of the trustees continued

Our community registration sessions provide clients with social activities, time to register for our services, and direct access to our team. Partner organisations also attend with their own stalls, offering essential support. These organisations are supported by volunteer translators, who are available to help bridge language and cultural gaps, ensuring meaningful engagement. This approach improves accessibility, removes barriers such as transportation challenges, and provides direct support—going beyond simple signposting, which is often ineffective due to the challenges mentioned above. In 2024, our Community Drop-In was visited 2,334 times, distributing 1,739 crates of essential items to our clients—helping to alleviate the effects of poverty and isolation.

World Foods Food Hub:

The cost-of-living crisis in 2024 led to an increasing demand for food support. In response, we adapted our membership structure, introducing three levels: weekly support (for those with no income), fortnightly support and monthly support.

To further empower our clients, we partnered with Mosaic Hope Centre to offer budgeting and cooking courses, helping individuals prepare nutritious meals. Additionally, through our collaboration with the Household Support Fund, we provided clients with access to public funds for ad-hoc support during difficult times.

We also strengthened partnerships with local charities and shops, rescuing perfectly edible food from Coventry's landfill. This initiative not only reduced food waste but also enabled us to offer high-quality fresh food to all our members and grow our membership to 150 families.

In 2024, our Food Hub was visited 1902 times providing a week's worth of food to 5,924 individuals. Through the Food Hub we also delivered to our clients, 52 rails of clothes, 670 dental packs, 210 blankets, 648 packs of cleaning wipes, 2,440 toilet rolls, 3,000 soaps and shampoos, 400 toys and 368 Sim Cards supporting digital inclusion.

Like all our client events, partner organisations attend with their own advice stations supported by our client volunteers; these include Watch Digital Inclusion, Citizens Advice, St Francis Employability and others.

Let's Play:

With the introduction of our new Children's Wellbeing Worker, *Let's Play* has flourished, with attendance increasing by 170%. We now offer specialised education sessions on key topics such as potty training and collaborate with family support organisations, including Women's Law specialists, Family Hubs, libraries, and health professionals. These partnerships help break down barriers our clients face, empowering families to build brighter futures for their children.

We have also developed a singing program that encourages both mothers and children to learn English, alongside craft sessions designed to introduce essential classroom skills from an early age

Report of the trustees continued

PROJECTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2024:

Furniture Project:

House to Home, our furniture project, focuses on repurposing high-quality furniture, appliances, and household items to support clients as they move into their first homes in the UK.

Our dedicated team of volunteers and drivers collects large items from the local community, while donors also deliver goods directly to our warehouse. In 2024, we furnished 304 homes, delivering 2,551 items to families in need.

To help clients settle in quickly, we provide emergency packs containing essential items:

- Something to sleep on
- Something to sit on
- Something to cook on
- Bedding and a kitchen pack with pots, pans, plates, and cutlery

Through this initiative, we ensure that every household starts with the comfort and dignity they deserve.

Baby Project:

Our Baby Project supports mums and babies from pregnancy through to toddlerhood, providing seamless care in collaboration with our *Let's Play* event. As children grow, we connect families with *Let's Play* to ensure ongoing support and engagement.

We provide our well-known *yellow bag*, packed with everything a mum might need for giving birth in the hospital. Beyond that, we supply essential equipment for every stage of early childhood, including cots, highchairs, baby baths, bottles, and nappies.

Working closely with the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Midwife, we ensure that every mum has a safe car seat to bring her baby home for the first time.

In 2024, our project helped welcome 141 newborns and supported an additional 157 families, delivering a total of 864 essential items.

School Uniform Project:

This year we used the detail on our database to ensure we invited the parents of every child changing schools for our uniform support. 215 families in total were invited and 102 families collected. We distributed £2,705 to enable pupils to attend school with pride and build a bright future.

Christmas Project:

This year, we reimagined our Christmas project as two separate events—a festive party and a dedicated toy collection—creating an even stronger sense of community during the Christmas season.

Report of the trustees continued

The party was a tremendous success, bringing families together with multicultural food, Santa's grotto, games, live entertainment, and engaging children's activities, all fostering the warmth of one big family celebration.

Using our database, we carefully identified families in need with children aged 0-18 and reached out directly, ensuring that support went to those who needed it most and that no child went without a gift. In total, we supported 396 children from 173 families.

This was all made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of *Mission Christmas*, which supplied 600 gifts for our young clients. Additionally, extra gifts for teenagers were donated to the *Positive Youth Foundation*, ensuring their clients also felt the generosity of the season.

Community Allotment:

Our community allotment continues to offer volunteering and wellbeing opportunities for our clients and food for our World Foods Food Hub.

HARP:

This year, we proudly took part in the citywide *Health Access for Refugees Programme*, a vital initiative designed to connect our clients with GPs — the essential gateway to the NHS— by breaking down the barriers they face in accessing healthcare.

Through this project, we provided hands-on support, helping families understand medical letters, register with GP practices, navigate the NHS app, and book appointments. Our work extended beyond one-on-one assistance, as we also offered guidance through a dedicated help desk and by being present at *Let's Play* and *Baby Massage* sessions for young mothers.

In total, this initiative made a meaningful impact on 212 families, ensuring they could access the healthcare they need with confidence.

OTHER WORK / ACTIVITIES:

Client Connection Team:

This year, we expanded our client connection work, focusing on ensuring we collect meaningful data to better support and empower our clients as they build bright, independent futures in their new home.

Collaborating with partners across the city, we developed clear referral pathways to essential services, ensuring families could access support for legal, educational, financial, and health-related challenges.

We registered over 1,700 families, representing more than 4,500 individuals, strengthening our ability to connect them with the resources they need to thrive.

Report of the trustees continued

Volunteers:

In 2024, we strengthened our volunteer training programs, equipping our team with essential employability skills. This included a five-week, in-person volunteer training program and access to *Flick Training*, an online platform offering accredited workplace courses. These courses provided foundational English support through both written content and narrated guidance, ensuring accessibility for all.

We also enhanced our induction process by introducing structured sessions and one-on-one buddy support, fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for new volunteers. Additionally, through our membership of the *Voluntary Action Coventry* network, we expanded our reach, creating a more inclusive and diverse volunteer team that brings a wealth of skills and knowledge to support one another.

By the end of 2024, we proudly had 128 dedicated volunteers, including 90 client-volunteers, all playing a crucial role in our mission.

Circular Economy:

We actively participated in the *WMCA Circular Economy* project, aligning with Coventry's environmental goals to reduce waste through our *House to Home* project, *Baby Project*, *World Foods Food Hub*, and *Drop-In* events.

A standout achievement was our collaboration with *Warwick University*, where we repurposed kitchenware, food, and household items from outgoing international students. This initiative led to a *Pay-What-You-Feel* sale for incoming students, raising £6,000 for our services, diverting 8.5 tonnes of waste from landfill, and ensuring surplus items were distributed to our clients.

This partnership has now evolved into a year-round initiative, with Warwick University donating useful but unneeded items to *Carriers of Hope*, further supporting our families while promoting sustainability.

Partnerships:

In 2024, we proudly joined the *Our Coventry* project, a new initiative bringing together key support services for refugees and asylum seekers across the city. By streamlining our support, we are ensuring that clients have greater opportunities to progress and build bright, independent futures.

We also remained active in the *Migration Network* and *Coventry Food Network*, strengthening partnerships with like-minded organisations. Through networking and outreach, we extended our reach to engage additional services eager to connect with our client base. This collaboration has also provided opportunities for agencies to benefit from our dedicated volunteer translators, further enhancing support for those who will benefit.

Accommodation:

Our main premises remain at Unit 4B, Lythalls Lane Industrial Estate, Lythalls Lane, Coventry CV6 6FL. This site serves as our central hub, providing storage for food and

Report of the trustees continued

essential items for our clients, as well as housing our offices. In 2024, funding for this site utilised all our designated premises reserves; however, moving into 2025, we have secured grants that will cover the full costs for the next 18 months, allowing us to rebuild these reserves.

Our responsibility for Clothing Coventry's Warehouse at 19 Napier Street continued in 2024 and the lease was formally transferred on October 26th, 2024.

We continue to host *Let's Play* and the *Community Drop-In* at Hillfields Church, Waterloo Street. Our partnership with St Mark's Church and YWAM also continues, where we deliver the *World Foods Food Hub* at St Mark's Church, Bird Street. Thanks to the generous provision of these spaces by the churches, we can offer support to our clients right in the heart of their community, making our services highly accessible across the city.

Leadership and governance:

In 2024, we appointed a new Director of Operations and Partnerships, along with a Client Response & Warehouse Manager and a Food Project Leader, in line with the plans we set out in 2023. We also recruited a new Child Wellbeing Worker following the resignations of our Children's Team Leader, Alysia Cannock, and our Education, Training, and Employment Worker, Dr Lin Armstrong.

Andrew, our interim CEO, stepped back to allow the Director of Operations to take on full leadership. Additionally, Sue Sampson, who founded *Carriers of Hope* 15 years ago, retired from the organisation.

By the end of 2024, our team had included 14 paid staff members. The structure of our team at the close of the year is outlined below, their employment accounts for 6.2 FTE:

OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The needs of our client base and the environment in which we operate continue to evolve rapidly. In 2025, our focus will be on strengthening the organisation through enhanced financial, physical, and human resources; while building greater agility to ensure we can quickly respond to changes and better support our clients.

Money and Funds:

Our Director of Operations continues to actively identify and secure large grants and will begin a community fundraising focus in 2025.

Strengthening our Team and Leadership:

In 2025 we will undergo a full strategic restructure of our team, ensuring all our roles still actively support our mission and current client needs. We will look to place our current staff in positions where their skills will be most valuable to the organisation and recruit new skills. We will place an active preference on our client volunteers and lived experience when recruiting for new roles improving progression opportunities within Carriers of Hope.

Report of the trustees continued

Pathways to Progression:

With the successful allocation of a 3-year grant from the National Lottery's *Reach Communities Fund*, we will place greater emphasis on our pathways to progression work. This will involve strengthening our client connection team, incorporating a focus on progression into the design of all our projects, developing stronger partnerships, and inviting more relevant organisations to our client-facing events to provide additional support.

Client Volunteers:

We will continue to enhance our volunteer programme for our clients, incorporating employability skills to support them in securing paid employment and achieving greater independence.

Database of Local Support Services:

We will centralise the information our team members gather through individual networking, sharing our knowledge clearly and simply, allowing each client to get the best support available in Coventry, whatever their issues and whichever team member they approach.

Active donor funding agreements: receipts during the period.

Fund	Amount	Purpose
National Lottery – Community Fund (Cost of Living Fund)	£75,000	Grant to support families with Food
Coventry Food Network	£26,854	Food at World Foods Food Hub
WMCA Environmental Fund	£25,000	Circular Economy Project
Alan Higgs Fund	£15,000	Children's Well Being Worker
Coventry City Council HARP	£15,000	Health services access for our clients
St Marks Church	£5,750	General project support
Coventry Building Society	£5,000	Food at World Foods Food Hub
Coventry City Council	£3,333	Our Coventry Migration Project
Voluntary Action Coventry	£3,000	Volunteering fairs and events
Soothern & Cranor	£2,500	School Uniforms project for girls
Balsall Common Lions	£650	World Foods Food Hub Support

APPRECIATION

The trustees wish to record their very grateful thanks to all our staff and volunteers, our partners, our business supporters, the City Council, the funders and the regular donors, without whom we couldn't do this work. These people make the charity the success that it is.

The trustees are also indebted to all the volunteers who have generously given their time to carry out the charity's activities.

Report of the trustees continued

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Comparative data for the previous year are (bracketed)

The result for the year was net expenditure £132,812 (net expenditure £5,232) Although income was around £183,000 lower than the previous year, we managed to cushion the effect on charitable expenditure which fell by around £65,000. The overall net expenditure of £132,812 was largely attributable to costs which, in the absence of specific funding receipts during the year, had to be covered by reserves brought forward, namely salaries £107,100 (50% of total salaries) of which 29% was covered by specific restricted funds brought forward, and warehouse rent £32,686. This is the first year for which warehousing costs were not funded by specific restricted donations.

Total Income was made up of cash-based sources £263,308 (£443,819) supplemented by receipts of donations-in-kind, both of used household items £53,074 (£52,525) and foodstuffs received under an arrangement with FareShare £29,050 (£31,904). Note that the receipts-in-kind are in turn expensed in the accounts at the same value.

The majority of the cash income was donations £235,500 (£422,038), of which £165,241 (£297,232) was restricted. The remaining cash income comprised £10,232 (£17,017) arising from voluntary nominal contributions made by beneficiaries for food donated to them, trading income £11,729 (explained in note 3 to the accounts) and investment income £5,847.

Total expenditure was £478,244 (£533,480) of which cash spend accounted for £384,261 (£449,051). The remaining expenditure comprised donations of amounts-in-kind described earlier, depreciation £3,535 (£12,227) plus fund-raising costs of £131 (£2,348) borne by being netted off the income received. The overall expenditure on charitable activities was £466,385 (£531,132).

Closing funds totalled £270,051 (£402,863), of which bank and cash balances amounted to £239,973 (£339,263).

Risks

The trustees have examined the major risks which the charity faces and confirm that through a combination of public liability insurance, the development of internal policies especially on child protection and health and safety, internal financial controls and prudent investment policy, exposure to those risks is minimised.

Reserves Policy: The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees (FRA) keeps the reserves policy under review to ensure it meets the charity's changing needs. The breakdown of funds can be found in note 11 to the accounts on pages 23 and 24.

Restricted funds: Almost half the funds carried forward are restricted, therefore obliging trustees to apply them only to specific purposes. Much of the remainder is designated by the trustees in recognition of the need to protect the ongoing capability of the charity against a background of uncertain income streams.

Report of the trustees continued

Designated reserves: Only 5% or so of monetary income is on a structured, recurrent basis. The remaining 95% arises from trustees/staff making opportunistic applications for funding, and general appeals for donations, plus the spontaneous initiative of generous donors who support the charity. The consequence is that the financial structure is not as robust as we would like for a charity on which so many people are dependent.

Most of the charity's beneficiaries are critically dependent on its ongoing support, so the charity feels vulnerable to the unpredictability of its sources of income. It aims to safeguard its ability to meet critical spend by designating certain reserves. Given the central role of staff, we wish to protect our ability to meet payroll costs, which amount to £220,000 annually. In addition, our storage premises, with annual overheads of over £58,000, are also critical to our operations. Whilst restricted donations do cover some of these costs, we have therefore designated reserves to protect our ability to meet six months of that amount to allow a measured approach to identifying a means of recovery. To that end the designated reserves fund at the end of 2024 was £90,000. This will be reviewed and topped up from general unrestricted funds during 2025 if needed.

New funds: In the face of the risks and challenges described above to maintain the existing level of operations, trustees need to seek new sources of significantly incremental income. In late 2024 a three-year funding arrangement was secured with The National Lottery starting in 2025.

Going Concern: The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue to meet its financial obligations during the 2025 financial year through to the issue of the next Annual Report in 2026. The comments above under *Reserves Policy* explain the trustees' concern over the risk associated with the charity's dependence on uncertain income streams and includes an explanation of how they manage that risk.

INVESTMENT POLICY

There are no restrictions on the trustees' powers to invest. The investment strategy is prudent. Other than working capital requirements, funds are placed on interest-earning deposit.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Carriers of Hope, Coventry CIO is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation under the Charities Act 2011 and a registered charity, number 1180105. The charity originally commenced its activities in 2011 as a charitable trust, which continued until the end of 2019 after which the CIO, newly created for the purpose, assumed all its activities, assets and liabilities.

The charity was created by Mrs S M Sampson, now retired; to assist asylum seekers and in its re-constituted form it also embraced the needs of refugees and new migrants living in Coventry with a primary aim of improving their conditions of life through donations of household requisites, furniture and equipment. More recently those aims have been supplemented by helping families based on home visits to assess their needs. In the 15 years since its formation it has steadily grown, enabling it to support more and more refugees and asylum seekers.

Report of the trustees continued

The trustees are co-opted and serve for a term of 3 years after which period they may put themselves forward for re-appointment. Newly appointed trustees undertake induction and are familiarised with trustee responsibilities by reference to the publications of the Charity Commission and to the latest Annual Report of the Trust.

The full board of trustees meet at least four times each year and determine the broad strategy and areas of activity of the charity. They approve all expenditure except that spent for one off items by the Treasurer under delegated authority up to £500. In addition, sub-committees of the board exist for both HR and Finance Risk & Audit and each of them meet quarterly ahead of the board meetings. Operational activities such as fundraising and charitable activities are performed by voluntary helpers who themselves include beneficiaries of the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefit from the charity.

REFERENCE and ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registration details

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission under the name of Carriers of Hope, Coventry, registration number 1180105.

Trustees who served during 2024

Name of Trustee	Date of appointment	Current Term expires
Elizabeth Ann Thomson	6 September 2023	6 September 2026
Val Lewis	29 September 2021	11 September 2027
Dillion Duma	29 September 2021	11 September 2027
Peter O'Brien	29 September 2021	11 September 2027
Andrew Sayers	29 September 2021	11 September 2027
Lucinda Croft	19 September 2022	09 September 2025
Hava Foric	21 February 2024	21 February 2027
Patricia Towner	21 February 2024	21 February 2027
Gloria Adusu	4 March 2024	4 March 2027
Guteh Blandine Babey	21 February 2024	21 February 2027
Alvaro Grana	27 September 2021	Resigned September 2024
Kirsty Mabbott	29 September 2021	Resigned September 2024

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report and statement of financial activities have been prepared on an accruals basis and satisfy the requirements of the *Charities SORP 2015, Accounting and Reporting by charities in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102*.

The trustees

- have selected suitable accounting policies and intend to apply them consistently
- have made judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent
- confirm that the attached statement of accounts has been prepared on a going concern basis and complies with applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended accounting practice

The financial statements have been independently examined; they have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud or other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

.....  Date..... 31st May 2025

Andrew Sayers, trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CARRIERS OF HOPE, COVENTRY CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the 12 months ending 31 December 2024 on pages 17 to 24 following, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the CIO are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the CIO's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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 

Date 31 May 2025

Michael Perry BA Hons, FCA, Chartered Accountant,
1 Beechwood Croft, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1GX

CARRIERS OF HOPE, COVENTRY CIO

Registered Charity No. 1180105

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
12 months ending 31st December 2024

31 December 2023

31 December 2024

£	£	£		Note	£	£	£
Unrestricted	Restricted	Total			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
			INCOME from:				
124,806	297,232	422,038	Monetary donations		70,259	165,241	235,500
			Non-monetary donations:				
52,525	-	52,525	-used goods	1c	53,074	-	53,074
31,904	-	31,904	-foodstuffs (FareShare)		29,050	-	29,050
-	17,017	17,017	Other Charitable Activities		-	10,232	10,232
324	-	324	Trading income	3	11,729	-	11,729
4,440	-	4,440	Investment Income:		5,847	-	5,847
213,999	314,249	528,248	Total Income		169,958	175,473	345,432
			EXPENDITURE on:				
188,642	342,490	531,132	Charitable activities	2	235,635	230,750	466,385
2,348	-	2,348	Fund raising costs		131	-	131
			Trading costs	3	11,729	-	11,729
19,990	342,490	533,480	Total Expenditure		247,494	230,750	478,244
£23,009	(£28,241)	(£5,232)	Net (expenditure) / income during the year		(77,535)	(55,277)	(132,812)
-	131,666	131,666	Add: Release of income deferred from 2022	5	-	-	-
-£23,009	£103,425	£126,434	Total (decrease) / increase in funds during the year		(77,535)	(55,277)	(132,812)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

31 December 2023

31 December 2024

Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
£	£	£		£	£	£
23,009	103,425	126,434	Net (decrease) / increase in funds reported above	(77,535)	(55,277)	(132,812)
146,933	129,496	276,429	Add total Funds brought forward at beginning of the year	169,942	232,921	402,863
£169,942	£232,921	£402,863	Total Funds carried forward at end of the year	£92,407	£177,644	£270,051

(minor discrepancies in additions are due to rounding)

CARRIERS OF HOPE, COVENTRY CIO

Registered Charity No. 1180105

**BALANCE SHEET
at 31st December 2024**

31 December 2023		Note	31 December 2024
£			£
4,129	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	10	593
	Current assets		
67,067	Prepayments & Debtors	4	40,859
		10.5	
103,325	Redwood Bank deposit account		116,136
104,267	NatWest Bank Current Account		47,279
81,415	Reliance Bank Current Account		52,151
49,876	Cash in Hand		24,351
379			56
339,263	Total Bank and Cash		239,973
406,330	Total current assets		280,833
(7,596)	Current liabilities: creditors	6	(11,375)
398,734	Net current assets		269,458
£402,863	TOTAL ASSETS		£270,051
	FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	11	
276,429	Balance at beginning of the year		402,863
131,666	Release of deferred income	5	-
(5,232)	Net (decrease) in funds during the year: -		(132,812)
£402,863	TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUND CARRIED FORWARD		£270,051

Approved on behalf of the trustees, signed



 Andrew Sayers, trustee

Date 31st MAY 2025

CARRIERS OF HOPE, COVENTRY CIO

Registered Charity No. 1180105

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
12 months ending 31 December 2024

31 December 2023	Cash provided by Operating Activities	31 December 2024
£		£
(5,232)	Net (expenditure) during the year as reported in the Statement of Financial Activities	(132,812)
	Adjustments to eliminate non-operating activities from the above result:	
(4,440)	Investment activity: bank interest	(5,847)
(8,894)	Change in debtors	26,208
(6,596)	Change in creditors	3,779
12,227	Non-cash transactions: fixed assets, depreciation	3,535
(12,935)	Net cash (consumed) / provided by Operating Activities	(105,137)

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from all activities

31 December 2023	Cash flows arising from all activities	31 December 2024
£		£
(12,935)	Net cash (consumed) by operating activities (as above)	(105,137)
	Additional cash flows during the year:	
4,440	- from investing activities: bank interest income	5,847
(8,495)	(Decrease) in cash during the period	(99,290)
347,758	Add cash brought forward from previous year	339,263
£339,263	Total cash at the end of the year	£239,973

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Principal accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historic cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) effective January 2019, the Charities Act 2011 and with the charity's founding constitution.

b) Resources received and expended

Income and expenditure are included on an accruals basis except for voluntary donations income which is accounted for only when received or pledged / contractually owed to the charity at the end of the financial year and is known to have been received subsequently.

c) Donated Goods

Used furniture, equipment and other household goods received from donors for onward distribution to beneficiaries are in the accounts as both income and expenditure at an estimate of their open market purchase cost.

Donations received of bags of foodstuffs, toiletries and other personal requirements for onward distribution are likewise included in the accounts, at an estimated replacement cost of £15.

Income from the above donations is recognised in the accounts at the time of onward distribution, so there is no carrying value for goods still on hand at the balance sheet date.

d) Resources Expended

Expenditure is included on an accrual's basis inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises costs incurred in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

e) Governance and support costs

These costs are apportioned to charitable expenditure proportionate to expenditure on each charitable activity.

f) Fixed assets

Capital items costing £1,000 or over are written off over 4 years.

Notes forming part of the financial statements

2. Charitable Expenditure

31 December 2023	Charitable Activity	Total	Support Costs *	Donations				Staff Costs	Storage costs		Venue Hire	Volunteer Costs	Other Costs
				Bought Goods	Food-stuffs	Cash	Used House-Hold Goods		Rent & Assoc. costs	Depreciation			
£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
182,998	Furniture Project	188,328	29,360	1,937	-	-	53,074	40,356	45,396	3,535	-	1,071	13,598
178,237	Food Hub & Assoc. costs	131,002	20,423	52,529	29,050	-	-	22,002	2,488	-	-	1,672	2,839
66,683	Client Contact /Home Visits	105,825	16,498	3,406	-	2,770	-	74,128	-	-	5,600	2,018	1,405
51,638	Children's Work	38,803	6,049	6,803	-	-	-	25,831	-	-	-	-	119
46,012	Clothing Coventry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
847	Learning / Training	2,427	378	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	1,998
4,260	Other Cash Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
457	City Arcade meeting centre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
531,132	TOTAL	466,385	72,709*	64,676	29,050	2,770	53,074	162,317	47,884	3,535	5,600	4,811	19,960

Minor discrepancies in additions are due to rounding

* Analysis of support costs	£
Salaries: Management & Administration	56,873
Other costs	15,836
TOTAL	72,709

3. Trading

A payroll service is provided to a local charity and is invoiced at cost. The charity was created in 2021 to carry out clothing collection and distribution activities originally performed by Carriers of Hope CIO. The charity is otherwise totally independent of Carriers of Hope CIO and does not share trustees.

4. Prepayments & Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued income (received January/March 2025)	35,298	55,271
HMRC Gift Aid	3,916	4,678
Prepayments- insurances	1,645	2,118
Reimbursement	-	5,000
TOTAL	£40,859	£67,067

Notes forming part of the financial statements

5. Deferred income: release in prior year (2023)

A new office of paid Chief Executive was created in 2022. The role was funded by a specific donation, received in 2022, which was restricted to the purpose of covering approximately the first three years' costs of the incumbent. The position was taken up by a probationary appointee but was vacant at the end of 2022. With no prospective candidate in sight the amount of unspent funding at the end of 2022, £131,666, was deferred in the 2022 accounts until such time as the fund could be capable of being spent in accordance with the terms of the restriction.

With the appointment of a new Chief Executive in 2023 the deferred balance was released to that year's income, but on a separate line to enable the underlying net income for that year to be distinguished.

6. Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
HMRC NI & Smart Pensions: December 2024 payroll	5,477	3,851
Clothing Coventry Charity: clothing supplies	3,000	
St Marks Church: cleaning	1,237	
M Perry: Independent Examination fee	950	950
Daisy Communications Ltd: mobile phone	356	
Mosaic Brew Café: catering	275	
Tom White Waste Ltd: skip service	80	
Coventry City Council: rent		2,795
	<u>£11,375</u>	<u>£7,596</u>

7. Remuneration, Independent Examiner fee and staff costs

The Charity employed an average full-time equivalent headcount of 6.2 (2023: 5.1) during the period for a total cost, including employer costs, of £219,190 (2023: £223,287). All individuals worked in supporting the charitable activities of the Trust. No other salaries and no employee benefits were paid in either period. The independent examiner's fee was £950.

8. Payments to trustees

Three trustees claimed reimbursements of expenses totalling £935 (2023: 4 trustees £1,996) which were incurred in the performance of the charity's charitable activities. The amounts were reimbursed for purchases of goods on behalf of the charity and for travel costs.

Notes forming part of the financial statements

9. Volunteers

The Charity has a pool of approximately 128 volunteers (2023: 153) whose role is fully described on page 9.

10. Fixed Assets

COST

Fixed Assets at beginning and end of the year

DEPRECIATION

Provisions at beginning of the year

Additions to provisions during the year

Total provisions at end of the year

Net Book Value 31 December 2023

Net Book Value 31 December 2024

Total	Motor Vehicles	Ware-house Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Office Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Food Hub Equipment
£	£	£	£	£
48,914	21,054	24,502	2,219	1,140
(44,786)	(20,700)	(20,729)	(2,218)	(1,139)
(3,535)	(352)	(3,183)	-	-
(48,321)	(21,053)	(23,912)	(2,218)	(1,139)
4,129	353	3,774	1	1
593	1	590	1	1

FUNDING OF FIXED ASSETS

	Total	Motor Vehicles	Ware-house Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Office Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Food Hub Equipment
	£	£	£	£	£
NET BOOK VALUE					
Restricted Funds	296	-	295	-	1
Unrestricted Funds	297	1	295	1	-
Total 31 December 2024	593	1	590	1	1

11. Funds

The reserves policy of the charity and explanation of the designated fund is set out above on pages 12 and 13.

Funds b/f 1 January 2024
Net (expenditure) during the year
Transfers
Subtotals Unrestricted funds
Funds c/f 31 December 2024

Unrestricted		Restricted	TOTAL
General	Designated		
£	£	£	£
56,011	124,000	222,852	402,863
(77,535)		(55,277)	(132,812)
34,000	(34,000)	-	-
12,477	90,000		
102,477		167,574	270,051

Notes forming part of the financial statements

Summary by fund

FUND	Opening balance 1 January 2024	Net Income (Expenditure) in 2024	Capital : Depreciation charge	Transfers In (Out)	Funds c/fwd 31 December 2024
Unrestricted Funds	£	£	£	£	£
General	56,011	(75,062)	(2,473)	34,000	12,477
Designated	124,000			(34,000)	90,000
Subtotal: unrestricted funds	180,011	(75,062)	(2,473)	-	102,477
Restricted Funds					
A E Higgs		4,689			4,689
ARM Trust	100,593	(31,966)	(590)		68,037
Benefactor: Warehouse/Shop costs	9,163	(9,163)			0
Baby Bags appeal	6,167	(1,116)			5,051
Big Lottery Community Fund	321	(321)			0
Carriers Befriending	11,226	(9,252)			1,974
Christmas Appeal	5,285	(1,931)			3,354
Cost of Living Community	377	2,319			2,696
Coventry City Council HARP	3,680	2,518			6,198
Coventry City Council Our Coventry	-	27,123			27,123
Clothing Coventry	354	(354)			0
Eveson Trust	5,001	(5,001)			0
Food Hub	66,886	(26,286)	(150)		40,450
National Grid - Fuel Poverty	8,690	(8,690)			0
Start for Life (Car seat project)	2,598	(595)			2,003
Travel Support Fund	422	525			947
Uniforms appeal	2,088	(1,400)			688
WMCA Circular Economy Project	-	4,365			4,365
Subtotal restricted funds	222,852	(54,536)	(740)	0	167,574
Memo: net expenditure, restricted funds		(55,277)			
TOTAL FUNDS	402,863	(129,598)	(3,213)	0	270,051
Memo: net income restricted funds		(132,812)			

Minor discrepancies in additions are due to rounding