

Charity number: 1180283

Ashford Together CIO

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Ashford Together CIO
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Ashford Together CIO
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Ashford Together is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) set up by Churches Together in Ashford to establish a co-operative partnership between local statutory services, the faith community and the Ashford voluntary sector.

The charity's objects are to facilitate or run projects and programmes which address a variety of pressing social and welfare needs in the Ashford community, including:

- the relief of poverty
- the relief of unemployment
- the advancement and preservation of health

To achieve these objects, Ashford Together aims to act as a single point of contact, with churches as the principal locality agents, to offer the following:

- a) Greater access to harder to reach people.
- b) Supply of more spaces (venues) and volunteers).
- c) Create more meaningful relationships with the community.
- d) Facilitate bespoke projects and programmes that benefit community members.

As a CIO we seek to raise funding for churches social action and to employ staff to support this.

Statement on public benefit

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Volunteers

Ashford Together CIO is grateful to the individuals and organisations who have contributed to the overall income and success of projects undertaken.

Ashford Together CIO
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Significant activities

MakerLife: We were successful in getting ongoing funding for MakerLife from The National Lottery allowing us to continue to support our members in having access to life and work skills workshops including cookery skills; money management; personal wellbeing; IT skills; job searches and CV writing, as well as other creative skills. Members also have access to assessment tools that help to support their wellbeing and career development. The aim is to upskill and connect members with training, jobs and work experience opportunities. However, less individuals attended the second cycle of MakerLife. This seemed to be due to the relaxing of Covid restrictions and other options opening up for them. We therefore focused more on our other activities as follows.

Family, Food and Fun: This programme was borne out of the MakerLife project and continues to be a success. The primary aim is to feed and give children meaningful activities during school holiday, and also acts as a link for the MakerLife project. The number of venues grew from three to five; a total of 522 attended (250 adults and 273 children) at one of the 18 school holiday events throughout the year; all received a hot meal at each event and 184 food parcels were given out. In the Summer we also put a Big Day Out to the Rare Breeds Centre for 27 adults and 34 children.

Renew Wellbeing: at the beginning of the year we received a Micro Grant from Cinnamon Network to support introducing the Renew Wellbeing programme. This is a form of mental health support by creating quiet shared spaces where it's OK not to be OK. One of our team was trained and applied the learning within MakerLife and supported our partner churches in creating Renew Wellbeing spaces.

Signposting Hubs: linked to the partnerships set up through MakerLife, we placed information boards and literature in each of our Family, Food and Fun partner locations and with other community serving church partners. Team members also supported these with guidance and signposting.

Serving Together: in November 2023 we ran an event for all of our partners to share vision, map local needs, identify programmes that were already running and create partnerships. This resulted in a directory of services and establishing working groups to focus on specific areas of work such as food provision, work with children and families, refugees, homelessness and mental health. An Ashford Together trustee has been appointed to oversee and coordinate each of these areas.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves

The result for the period was a deficit of £1,515, compared to a deficit £6,725 in the previous year. This was in line with expectations as projects continued through their lifecycle. Total income amounted to £22,449 and expenses were £23,964. This compares to the previous year's results of income of £12,018 and expenses of £18,792. Reserves at the end of the financial year amounted to £11,128, compared to £17,902 last year.

The trustees aim for the charity to hold sufficient cash reserves to operate for six months with no income and this is estimated to be around £17,000 in usual times. However, there was a seasonal drop in funding over the second half of the financial year which meant that operations, and in particular staff costs, were pared back. The trustees are satisfied an appropriate level of reserves will be maintained for the following 12 months taking into account all foreseeable spending and income resources after the financial year has ended, and the intention is to build up the company's reserves in the coming year.

Total cash held at 31 March 2025 amounted to £9,690, compared to £5,600 in the previous year.

Going concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The Trustees are of the view that the level of reserves will support the charity going forward.

Funds in deficit

No funds were in deficit during the year. The trustees use their discretion to make transfers from unrestricted funds to support projects that are ringfenced in their own restricted fund.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Ashford Together CIO is a registered charity, number 1180283, and is constituted under a trust deed.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

There are no provisions within the constitution for selection of Trustees other than by existing trustees.

Ashford Together CIO
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Charity	Ashford Together CIO
Charity registration number	1180283
Principal address	The Beacon Centre 28 Bank Street Ashford Kent TN23 1BA

Trustees

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Ian Patrick Fowkes
Mark Stephen Hirst
Richard Mark Lloyd Eason
Richard Finlinson MBE
Matthew John Eason
Jeremy Worthen
(Appointed: 05 September 2021)

Independent examiners

Swift Accountancy
Swift Farm, Sandy Lane
Ashford
Kent
TN26 1JN

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by

.....	31 July 2025
Richard Mark Lloyd Eason	

Ashford Together CIO
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's 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 examiners statement

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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

.....
Adam Clegg FCCA MAAT BSc (Hons)

Swift Accountancy
Swift Farm, Sandy Lane
Ashford
Kent
TN26 1JN

31 July 2025

Ashford Together CIO
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	16,406	6,043	22,449	12,018
Total		16,406	6,043	22,449	12,018
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities					
General activities		(12,575)	-	(12,575)	(5,957)
Makerlife		-	(6,644)	(6,644)	(7,469)
Family food and fun		-	(4,745)	(4,745)	(5,366)
Total		(12,575)	(11,389)	(23,964)	(18,792)
Transfers between funds	3	(702)	702	-	-
Net movement in funds		3,129	(4,644)	(1,515)	(6,774)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		6,484	4,644	11,128	17,902
Total funds carried forward			-	9,613	11,128

Ashford Together CIO
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	-	5,444
		-	5,444
Current assets			
Debtors	9	643	684
Cash at bank and in hand		9,690	5,600
		10,333	6,284
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(720)	(600)
Net current assets		9,613	5,684
Total assets less current liabilities		9,613	11,128
Net assets		9,613	11,128
The funds of the charity			
Restricted income funds	11	-	4,644
Unrestricted income funds	11	9,613	6,484
Total funds		9,613	11,128

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Richard Mark Lloyd Eason
Trustee
31 July 2025

Ashford Together CIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

Ashford Together CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Going concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The Trustees are of the view that the level of reserves will support the charity going forward.

Statement of cash flows

The Trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in SORP FRS 102 from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure:

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Land and Buildings	20% Straight line
Computer Equipment	33% Straight line

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Ashford Together CIO
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations received	1,406	-	1,406	5,157
Grants received	15,000	6,043	21,043	6,861
	16,406	6,043	22,449	12,018

Analysis of grants received

	2025	2024
	£	£
Ashford Borough Council	-	3,671
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust	15,000	-
Kent Community Foundation	2,000	-
Meals and More	4,043	3,190
	21,043	6,861

4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	5,444	5,444
Accountancy fees	720	612
Staff pension contributions	14	-

5. Staff costs and emoluments

Total staff costs for the year ended 31 March 2025 were:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	7,536	2,570
Pension costs	14	-
	7,550	2,570

	2025	2024
	£	£
Employees	1	1
	1	1

Ashford Together CIO
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Comparative for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	8,828	3,190	12,018
Total	8,828	3,190	12,018
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	(5,957)	(12,835)	(18,792)
Total	(5,957)	(12,835)	(18,792)
Transfers between funds	381	(381)	-
Net movement in funds	3,252	(10,026)	(6,774)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	3,232	14,670	17,902
Total funds carried forward	6,484	4,644	11,128

8. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Land and Buildings £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
At 01 April 2024	27,220	2,801	30,021
At 31 March 2025	27,220	2,801	30,021
Depreciation			
At 01 April 2024	21,776	2,801	24,577
Charge for year	5,444	-	5,444
At 31 March 2025	27,220	2,801	30,021
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	5,444	-	5,444

9. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	607	684
Other debtors	36	-
	643	684

Ashford Together CIO
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	720	600
	<u>720</u>	<u>600</u>

11. Movement in funds

Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>General</i>					
General			(12,575)	(702)	9,613
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>(12,575)</u>	<u>(702)</u>	<u>9,613</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Unrestricted Funds - Previous year

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>General</i>					
General	3,232	8,828	(5,957)	381	6,484
	<u>3,232</u>	<u>8,828</u>	<u>(5,957)</u>	<u>381</u>	<u>6,484</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Purpose of unrestricted Funds

General

General funds are unrestricted amounts received to fulfill the charity's aims.

Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Family food and fun	-	4,043	(4,745)	702	-
MakerLife	4,644	2,000	(6,644)	-	-
	<u>4,644</u>	<u>6,043</u>	<u>(11,389)</u>	<u>702</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Ashford Together CIO
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Restricted Funds - Previous year

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Family food and fun	4,704	2,160	(5,366)	(1,498)	-
MakerLife	9,966	1,030	(7,469)	1,117	4,644
	<u>14,670</u>	<u>3,190</u>	<u>(12,835)</u>	<u>(381)</u>	<u>4,644</u>

Purpose of restricted funds

MakerLife

MakerLife Ashford's Co-Learning: Life and Work Skills programme launched in January 2021. On this programme our members have access to life and work skills workshops including cookery skills; money management; personal wellbeing; IT skills; job searches and CV writing, as well as other creative skills. Members also have access to assessment tools that help to support their wellbeing and career development. The aim is to upskill and connect members with training, jobs and work experience opportunities.

Family food and fun

Family Food & Fun is a holiday club for families with primary school aged children (5-11), where the whole family can come and enjoy food, crafts and a whole lot of fun. The objective is to create a safe and fun environment to meet that need for the families in Ashford.

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets / (liabilities)	Net Assets
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
<i>General</i>			
General	-	9,613	9,613
Restricted funds			
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,613</u>	<u>9,613</u>

Ashford Together CIO
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Previous year

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets / (liabilities)	Net Assets
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
<i>General</i>			
General	800	5,684	6,484
Restricted funds			
MakerLife	4,644	-	4,644
	<u>5,444</u>	<u>5,684</u>	<u>11,128</u>

Ashford Together CIO
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENT		
Donations and legacies		
Donations Received	1,406	5,157
Grants Receivable	21,043	6,861
	22,449	12,018
Total incoming resources	22,449	12,018
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Cost Of Direct Charitable Activity (General Activities)	(11,658)	(5,345)
Cost Of Direct Charitable Activity (Makerlife)	(6,644)	(7,469)
Cost Of Direct Charitable Activity (Family Food And Fun)	(4,745)	(5,366)
	(23,047)	(18,180)
SUPPORT COSTS		
Governance costs		
Governance Costs (General Activities)	(917)	(612)
	(917)	(612)
Total resources expended	(23,964)	(18,792)
Net Expenditure	(1,515)	(6,774)