

Empowering Futures – Annual Trustees Report – 4/1/24

Empowering Futures is registered as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Registered with the Charities Commission Number 1182139 on 19 February 2019.

The first Trustees are;

Sarah Harper

Maria Needs

Susan Farthing

The board of Trustees will be required to serve for a minimum of one year and those named above served throughout this period.

Aims and Objectives

"To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society by providing therapeutic gardening activities within a community garden and outdoors.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society)."

Empowering Futures has maintained its aims and objectives of supporting people who are socially excluded from Society. Individuals who need support and cannot access support or independently tackle the issues and barriers presented. Those most vulnerable, disadvantaged and/or disabled are our primary participants.

For the public benefit

In constituting the charity and conducting the activities throughout the year, the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit. Examples of our delivery for the public benefit can be found in the subsequent paragraphs, which give specific examples of activity and those supported. The charity is committed to supporting people who are otherwise

excluded and isolated from Society for varying reasons. Some are deemed too expensive to support, some written off, others because of incorrect assumptions made. We believe everyone can achieve, given the right opportunity, encouragement, time and belief. Our successes evidence our achievements and our aims, both with people and in society.

The Setbacks

This was a tough year for Empowering Futures. The building we have been fundraising for over many years was finally built, only for us to discover the builders did not follow or meet Building Regs and then took no responsibility to address the issue or reimburse us.

After many frantic phone calls to both the NFU and McClarron we discovered the legal route to pursuing a case would be economical or fully covered by our insurances. Despite carrying out due diligence checks, nothing could have prepared us for this outcome.

The whole team set about fundraising to enable a new building to be constructed and gathered extensive advice from a surveyor, an architect and a builder to avoid any future mishaps. These extra precautions were essential to ensure there could be no repeat of the original fiasco. The original building was mostly paid for by team members and the charity as the Trustees have a passion to expand and support more people. The new build was reliant on Empowering Futures accessing funds.

The original building was dismantled until 2023, when it was envisaged a new building would be possible!

Throughout the latter of 2022 and beginning of 2023, the team worked long hours to create new income streams, embarked on a journey of applying for several funding grants and worked tirelessly to 'right' the wrong.

Unfortunately, we were met with continual barriers by the planning department which all proved costly and were in our opinion, unjustified. However, the Trustees and the staff, with volunteers from lots of Corporate organisations held on. The planning was finally approved, the Local Authority received unprecedented support for Empowering Futures from local people and its community. This supported us when we most needed help. It also showed the local need was recognised by the community of South Glos and Bristol.

The Impacts and Achievements

During the year, we struggled to deliver sessions, as the building was unsafe. However, we made full use of the stable and a gazebo to facilitate sessions for the vulnerable. Social Care sessions continued to be delivered and people continued to grow in confidence and ability. We dramatically

increased our public profile, which triggered multiple new contacts we were unable to meet, which seems to be growing by the month.

However, sessions continued to be delivered to the local primary school twice a week and the whole of Yr 6 continued to attend every Friday afternoon to learn new work skills. Many of whom offered additional weekend help.

We commenced a new contract with Pathways, supporting young people who are particularly vulnerable and out of the education system.

Three young people achieved their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We facilitated 4 traineeships and all 4 went into employment. Each young person had disabilities and showed tremendous resilience working on the farm to gain their qualification. Each of the trainees came from a background of isolation and have turned their lives around.

4 young people qualified as First Aiders with their first Level 3 First Aid qualification.

2 more staff achieved their qualification in Forestry School Leading Level 3.

We were chosen as one of the organisations to deliver Social Prescribing and delivered over 600 sessions in willow craft. This was a new skill for many of the attendees who formed from a diverse community. We delivered Willow Craft sessions to the NHS Brain Injury Unit in Frenchay whilst supporting their Eco Therapy garden as the group had difficulties with transport. The Wesport grant allowed us to buy a polytunnel which has been amazing for early plants.

Over 10 young people completed a week's work experience at the farm and all thoroughly enjoyed their time. One headmistress commented that she had never witnessed one of the students smile as they did on their return to school.

We received tremendous support from Wessex Water Company and together with Network Plus and Bristol Water Company, they set about helping us install a water treatment plant and harvesting system which will allow us to collect rainwater and use it for watering our plants and flushing our toilets. Ultimately it will mean our mains water bill will be minuscule. Donations and a successful Crowdfunder have allowed this work to be progressed.

Volunteers from Aviva, Virgin, Network Plus all visited us multiple times throughout the year and gave Empowering Futures 100's of hours in voluntary hours which we were extremely grateful for.

We increased our fundraising events in the Community, thereby creating more opportunities for our attendees to integrate with the community whilst improving their confidence, social skills and handling money. Between events multiple new creations were made to sell at the events.

Our successes with people moving into work has now exceeded 54. With 15 people moving into permanent jobs during the tax year. Each has significant health issues and disabilities and they have all triumphed. Most of these individuals did not feel they would ever work. One with a severe long term condition has commenced working from home and is delighted, as is her family.

Restricted Funds

22/4/22	Wesport	£7000
May 2022	Crowdfunder	£9884
30/5/22	Boshier Hinton	£2000
7/6/22	Express Grant	£5000
7/6/22	National Lottery	£10,000
23/6/2022	Edward Gosling	£10,000
3/8/22	Quartet - Megawatt	£4000
Sept 2022	Crowdfunder	£14,855
3/10/22	Clothmakers	£35,000
6/11/22	Garfield	£10,000
6/11/22	Nineveh	£5000
15/11/22	Quartet – Stoke Pk	£3000
15/11/22	CLA	£5000
21/12/22	Leonard Laity	£2000
12/22	Wesport (Happy Days)	£225
1/23	Pebbles	£3500
Total Restricted Funds		£126,464

During this year, we purchased 2 valais blacknose sheep to keep the grass in check. Valais blacknose need shearing twice yearly so we will get more produce to use from their old coats.

Much of the fencing around the boundary was installed. Multiple trees were planted to enhance the biodiversity. A book was produced by people with disabilities in partnership with volunteers from Organic Blooms to demonstrate the steps taken to mitigate climate change and we also began identifying new species on the farm.

Outdoor Cooking was established using the outdoor kitchen and new pizza oven courtesy of Boshier Hinton.

Forestry School began with children who have additional needs. The parents watched their children participating and were amazed to see the steps they took. One child with attachment issues engaged in a way she never had before, the parent was in tears. The impact for children with additional need in a green space is particularly significant and address the parity of access between those with and without disability.

Looking Ahead

All in all, a fantastic year despite the setbacks. The next year looks promising with lots of new contacts and networking opportunities, our new building will be erected and the old one dismantled. We hope to use this to make other products at the farm.

New sessions are constantly created to ensure we stay innovative and all of our activities remain meaningful and purposeful. Ultimately Empowering Futures is enabled to deliver more support to more people to improve their lives.

A consultant contacted us to prepare a social impact report which will collect our impact from July 22 to July 23, free of charge. This is of the utmost interest to us as we know we must have a huge impact but do not have the expertise or time to evaluate this. Our work with people and nature improvements will all be evaluated and evidenced, this will raise awareness of the impact the smaller voluntary organisations and charities have. The results won't be available until around Oct 2023 so the detail will be included in the next annual report.

N. Needs
10/1/24



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	Period end date
	6/4/2022	5/4/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Sales	1,316	-	-	1,316	1,676
Supported Employment	27,815	-	-	27,815	37,114
Fundraising Activity	8,226	-	-	8,226	1,982
Donations	58,150	-	-	58,150	25,856
Restricted Funds		126,464	-	126,464	-
Gift Aid	14,618	-	-	14,618	6,390
BRIGHTSIDE	-	-	-	-	500
CROWDFUNDER	-	-	-	-	6,373
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	110,125	126,464	-	236,589	79,891
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	110,125	126,464	-	236,589	79,891
A3 Payments					
Fixtures	1,817	-	-	1,817	-
Trading Activity	404	-	-	404	-
Equipment	1,403	-	-	1,403	2,892

HMRC	586			586	1,182
BANK CHARGES	90			90	90
PLANNING	3,421			3,421	
INSURANCE	305			305	
PPE	394	-	-	394	-
Charitable Activities	5,768	-	-	5,768	4,509
Staff Costs	66,696	-	-	66,696	61,316
Admin	6,265	-	-	6,265	285
Running costs	6,708	-	-	6,708	7,111
RESTRICTED		76,832		76,832	
TRAINING	1,758	-	-	1,758	2,073
Sub total	95,614	76,832	-	172,446	79,458
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	95,614	76,832	-	172,446	79,458
Net of receipts/(payments)	14,511	49,632	-	64,143	433
A5 Transfers between funds	- 532	532	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,596		-	16,596	16,162
Cash funds this year end	30,575	50,164		80,739	16,595

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds				
	SANTANDER	85		-
	NAT WEST	30,490	50,164	-

		-	-
Total cash funds	30,575	50,164	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Carried Forward from 21/22	-	6,873	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Empowering Futures

On accounts for the year
ended

5 April 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1182139

Set out on pages

CC16a 1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 5 April 2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

26/01/2024

Name:

Susan Rickerby

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ICAEW

Address:

118 High Street

Staple Hill

Bristol BS16 5HH

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.