



ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2024

Registered Charity Number 1185335

EDMUND CARR LLP
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146 New London Road
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ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

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ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION
CHARITY INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name	Essex Recovery Foundation	
Charity Number	1185335	
Address	Moulsham Mill Parkway Chelmsford Essex CM2 7PX	
Trustees	Dr M Roberts Mrs M Goldie Mr J Harrington Mr D Clarke Mr A Sheldon Mrs D Patel (Resigned 21/03/2025) Mrs K Mitchell (Appointed 12/01/2024) Mr J Cook Mr N Marsh	
CEO	Mr L Hickmott	
Independent Examiner	Alex Stone FCCA Edmund Carr LLP 146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW	
Banks	Lloyds Bank 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN	Virgin Money Jubilee House Gosforth Newcastle NE3 4PL

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2024.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Foundation exists to support people in Essex to build and sustain long-term recovery from addiction and for our recovery community to use their voice to influence change. Our charitable objectives are delivered through four strategic aims:

- Growing Communities
- Empowering People
- Influencing Change
- Changing Perceptions of Addiction and Recovery

Public Benefit

The directors confirm that they have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

1. Growing Communities

We have significantly expanded our network of recovery spaces and outreach activities:

- Weekly recovery spaces are now held in each quadrant of Essex, with additional “Walk & Talk” and community meet-ups in other districts.
- Two new spaces were launched in early 2024: Chelmsford (Riverside Leisure Centre) and Basildon (Towngate Theatre), both thriving with high weekly attendance.
- A pilot space was launched in Thurrock, supported by the development of a dedicated Community Engagement role.
- Over 150 people attended our space launch events across Essex, and outreach partnerships with services like Open Road, Next Chapter, and SHARP cohorts have flourished.
- We launched a new CRM system (Beacon) to streamline registration, communications, and event tracking.

2. Empowering People

This year has seen strong progress in building the capacity of people in recovery:

- Community members took part in accredited training such as Emergency First Aid and Professional Boundaries, with overwhelmingly positive feedback.
 - The “Understanding Commissioning” training day brought together over 20 individuals with lived experience to understand and engage with public health commissioning cycles.
 - A structured volunteer programme was launched, offering pathways for community members to take on Outreach Volunteer roles and support others entering recovery.
 - Five Community Researchers were recruited to support our "Community Voice" programme, which aims to amplify lived experience input into system change.
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ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

3. Influencing Change

Our commitment to system transformation through lived experience leadership has grown:

- “Community Voice” launched as a flagship programme to involve people in recovery in shaping commissioning processes across Essex.
- Strategic partnerships have been developed with Essex County Council, local authorities (e.g., Thurrock), and national recovery bodies.
- ERF is now recognised as a central partner in Essex’s recovery system and the way commissioning happens, adding real lived and living experience to contribute to key decisions.

4. Changing Perceptions of Addiction and Recovery

Public perception change remains central to our mission:

- The inaugural Essex Recovery Festival was held in August 2024, attracting over 300 attendees.
- We continued to grow our digital presence with a 220% increase in website traffic, driven by campaigns around recovery spaces, the festival, and Community Voice.
- Ongoing partnerships with schools, colleges, and community groups have ensured recovery stories are heard and stigma is challenged.

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

We received quarterly payments of £41,100 from year three of the three year National Lottery Community Fund grant (RC London and South East Region), totalling £123,300 within the financial year. The total value of the grant over three years is £366,700.

In April 2024 we received grants of £522,000 from Essex County Council which contributed to our overall operational costs, and particularly around community development and the lived experience element of commissioning drug and alcohol services in Essex.

Expenditure has increased through the year due to recruiting paid employees and subsequent elevated activity.

We have secured further funds from Essex County Council and have grant agreements in place for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.

In addition to these secure grant agreements, we are confident that we will continue to attract further funding due to our unique project with comprehensive plans for the future.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy is to hold a minimum of three months of operational costs in reserves at all times which equates to approximately £180,000. Unrestricted funds at 30 September 2024 were £14,130. The balance of restricted funds from Essex County Council held at the year end was £736,423. This included funds to cover project and core operating costs in the period 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2024 which amounted to £667,000. The National Lottery Community Fund grant fund balance of £23,055 is restricted to use on our projects.

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly review strategic and operational risks. Key areas of focus in 2023/24 included:

- Financial sustainability – mitigated by securing multi-year funding and developing earned income streams.
- Safeguarding – continued prioritisation through policy updates and team training.
- Governance of new ventures – notably Cornerstone Café and Community Voice, with appropriate legal and financial controls developed in advance of launch.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Our focus for 2024/25 and beyond includes:

- Opening Cornerstone Café – a social value speciality coffee house and co-working space in central Chelmsford, run by people in recovery.
- Diversifying income through a new commercial brochure of services offered to other locations around the UK to support them in developing similar models to ERF.
- Scaling up “Community Voice” – embedding this programme across Essex and beyond.
- Ongoing investment in workforce wellbeing and development.

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) and is governed by its constitution dated 16 September 2019. Trustees have been appointed based on their skill set, lived experience of addiction and recovery and passion for the endeavour. We have an aspiration to eventually have 100% of trustees who have lived experience. Moving forward, we will identify any skills gaps and continue to approach potential trustees from within our recovery community and where appropriate and necessary, we will advertise externally via an open and transparent recruitment process.

Essex Recovery Foundation has a core delivery team of six staff (increasing to eight), with four further team members overseeing each of the charity's strategic pillars. The organisation is overseen by three senior managers, including the Chief Executive Officer, who holds overall responsibility for day-to-day business of the charity. The CEO reports quarterly to the Board of Trustees, providing progress updates and seeking approval for key strategic and financial decisions.

The pay and remuneration of key management personnel at Essex Recovery Foundation are set by the Board of Trustees using a clear and transparent process. This includes benchmarking against comparable roles in the charity and social enterprise sectors, taking into account skills, responsibilities, and market conditions to ensure fairness, competitiveness, and value for money.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Approved by the Trustees on 28 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Nathan Marsh
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Nathan Marsh
Chair of Trustees

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024 which are set out on pages 6 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

Edmund Carr LLP provides book-keeping services to the charity and I can confirm that I have applied the provisions of the Revised Ethical Standard 2024 issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.
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.

Alex Stone

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Alex Stone FCCA

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

28 July 2025

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOME from:					
Donations and legacies	2	4,321	740,875	745,196	475,406
Charitable activities	3	7,119	-	7,119	-
Investment income	4	2,283	-	2,283	-
TOTAL INCOME		13,723	740,875	754,598	475,406
EXPENDITURE on:					
Charitable activities	5	-	631,678	631,678	322,038
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		-	631,678	631,678	322,038
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		13,723	109,197	122,920	153,368
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		13,723	109,197	122,920	153,368
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		407	650,281	650,688	497,320
Total funds carried forward	12/13	14,130	759,478	773,608	650,688

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9		8,510		7,777
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		266,547		471,751	
Debtors	10	<u>1,111,673</u>		<u>181,205</u>	
		1,378,220		652,956	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>613,122</u>		<u>10,045</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			765,098		642,911
NET ASSETS			<u>773,608</u>		<u>650,688</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted	12		14,130		407
Restricted	13		759,478		650,281
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			<u>773,608</u>		<u>650,688</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 28 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Nathan Marsh

Nathan Marsh

Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Notes	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		122,920	153,368
Adjustments for:			
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	10	(930,468)	219,991
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	11	603,077	6,503
Depreciation charge	6	2,741	1,130
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		<u>(201,730)</u>	<u>380,992</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	9	<u>(3,474)</u>	<u>(7,349)</u>
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u>(3,474)</u>	<u>(7,349)</u>
 Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		 (205,204)	 373,643
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		471,751	98,108
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u><u>266,547</u></u>	<u><u>471,751</u></u>

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Essex Recovery Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It is a registered charity and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Governance costs are associated with the governance arrangements of the charity.

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Festival Income	7,119	-	7,119	-
	<u>7,119</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,119</u>	<u>-</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	2,283	-	2,283	-
	<u>2,283</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,283</u>	<u>-</u>

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

5. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Marketing costs	-	61,892	61,892	70,905
Consultancy fees	-	10,474	10,474	48,275
Event costs	-	83,573	83,573	12,174
PHD Post	-	23,753	23,753	-
Staff costs (see note 8)	-	412,777	412,777	169,958
Support costs (see note 6)	-	39,209	39,209	20,726
	<u>-</u>	<u>631,678</u>	<u>631,678</u>	<u>322,038</u>

6. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£
Rent and rates	3,139	1,094
Insurance	1,425	1,016
Printing, postage, and stationery	709	352
Sundry and admin costs	2,735	331
IT and other computer costs	9,420	4,274
Staff training	2,584	1,202
Legal and professional	2,883	5,783
Travel	2,737	-
Governance costs (see note 7)	10,836	5,544
Depreciation	2,741	1,130
	<u>39,209</u>	<u>20,726</u>

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£
Accountancy and examination fees	5,310	5,400
Other financial service fees payable to independent examiner	5,526	144
Total fees payable to independent examiner	<u>10,836</u>	<u>5,544</u>

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024****8. ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	362,520	156,704
Social security costs	30,770	11,144
Pension costs	5,609	1,572
Staff and volunteer expenses	13,878	538
	<u>412,777</u>	<u>169,958</u>

Staff costs are allocated between funds based upon the time spent by staff members on restricted charitable activities and administration

One employee received remuneration benefits of between £60k and £70k.

None of the trustees or persons connected with them received any remuneration for their services.

The average number of employees during the year, by head count, was 15 (2023: 4).

The remuneration benefits of key management personnel totalled £68,713 (2023: £56,674)

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 October 2023	9,249	9,249
Additions	3,474	3,474
At 30 September 2024	<u>12,723</u>	<u>12,723</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 October 2023	1,472	1,472
Charge for the year	2,741	2,741
At 30 September 2024	<u>4,213</u>	<u>4,213</u>
Carrying amount		
At 30 September 2024	<u>8,510</u>	<u>8,510</u>
At 30 September 2023	<u>7,777</u>	<u>7,777</u>

10. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants receivable	1,068,587	-
Prepayments and accrued income	30,415	168,534
Taxation and social security	12,527	12,527
Other debtors	144	144
	<u>1,111,673</u>	<u>181,205</u>

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

11. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,279	4,070
Accruals and deferred income	604,572	5,400
Other creditors	1,271	575
	<u>613,122</u>	<u>10,045</u>

Accruals and deferred income includes deferred income of £522,000 all of which arose in the year (2023 - deferred income of £Nil). Deferred income relates to grants awarded to the charity for which the conditions for income recognition have not yet been met.

12. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at	Movement in funds		Balance at
	01/10/2023	Income	Expenditure	30/09/2024
	£	£	£	£
General Fund				
General unrestricted funds	<u>407</u>	<u>13,723</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,130</u>

Comparative

	Balance at	Movement in funds		Balance at
	01/10/2022	Income	Expenditure	30/09/2023
	£	£	£	£
General Fund				
General unrestricted funds	<u>1</u>	<u>406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>407</u>

13. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at	Movement in funds		Balance at
	01/10/2023	Income	Expenditure	30/09/2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
1 National Lottery Community Fund	163,080	19,375	159,400	23,055
2 Essex County Council Grants	487,201	667,000	417,778	736,423
3 Thurrock Council	-	49,500	49,500	-
4 Essex Community Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	-
	<u>650,281</u>	<u>740,875</u>	<u>631,678</u>	<u>759,478</u>

Comparative

	Balance at	Movement in funds		Balance at
	01/10/2022	Income	Expenditure	30/09/2023
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
1 National Lottery Community Fund	292,180	-	129,100	163,080
2 Essex County Council Grants	205,139	475,000	192,938	487,201
	<u>497,320</u>	<u>475,000</u>	<u>322,038</u>	<u>650,281</u>

ESSEX RECOVERY FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

13. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

- 1 The National Lottery Community Fund grant was awarded under the RC London and South East programme towards the costs of setting up and running the charity's projects.
- 2 Essex County Council has provided grants in 2022/23 and 2023/24 to enable the charity to support the local drug and alcohol recovery system and recovery community.
- 3 Thurrock Council has provided a grant towards a meeting space, courses, volunteer support and development support for the recovery community in Thurrock and Essex.
- 4 Essex Community Foundation awarded a grant from the Thriving Third Sector Fund to support the development of a web-based referral system.

14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

	Tangible fixed assets	Other net assets	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	-	14,130	14,130
Restricted	8,510	750,968	759,478
	<u>8,510</u>	<u>765,098</u>	<u>773,608</u>

	Tangible fixed assets	Other net assets	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	-	407	407
Restricted	7,777	642,504	650,281
	<u>7,777</u>	<u>642,911</u>	<u>650,688</u>

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions for the year end 30 September 2024 (2023: Nil).