



The
McCARTHY-DIXON
Foundation

COMMUNITY SUPPORT CHANGING LIVES FOR THE BETTER

Annual Review 2025

Annual Review & Financial Statements

For the Financial Year: 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025



The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation
Registered Charity 1190255

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General Information

Charity Information

Full Charity Name

The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation

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Governance

The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation is a registered charity, governed by a constitution, operating as a CIO. The charity was registered on 6th July 2020, under Charity Number 1190255, and prepared its first set of accounts to 31st March 2021 on 26th January 2022. The charity started operating with effect from 30th March 2020.

Trustees

Stephen Summers (Chair)
Marie Lally (Secretary)
Jackie O'Connell (Treasurer)
Mabule Sekanaisha Caswel Tema
Pamela Law
Vincent Doherty
Michael Donnelly
Graham Trotter



About our Organisation

Background

The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation (TMDF) was established in March of 2020, in direct response to the first COVID-19 lockdown. Due to the pandemic, many households across Northamptonshire were facing unprecedented challenges, financial hardship and crisis. Our organisation initially began work as an emergency food bank, providing essential supplies to households in need. While running this service, our organisation became acutely aware that there were innumerable further challenges afflicting local people, significantly impacting their emotional and physical wellbeing. Since then, the charity has continued to grow, adapting to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Our Aims, Objectives and Who we Support

Poverty and Material Disadvantage: We strive to combat poverty and disadvantage through the direct provision of essential items and material goods, alongside long-term interventions and sustainable solutions through our wider services. We support people experiencing unexpected crises and prolonged poverty or difficulty. Factors affecting these groups include but are not limited to: sudden job termination, temporary lack of access or total loss of state financial support (universal credit or benefits), sudden additional financial burdens, and long-term difficulty due to ill-health, disability, mental health issues, childcaring burdens and the Cost-of-Living Crisis. This list is not comprehensive, and we aim to aid support any household identified as in need.

Social Isolation and Emotional Wellbeing: We strive to support people experiencing social isolation and mental health issues. This ranges from individuals suffering bereavement or poor access to social spaces and networks, to people experiencing long-term mental health conditions, particularly anxiety and depression. We operate regular social activities, complimented by a dedicated transport service, for these individuals to build their social support networks and develop friendships. We also provide personalised, 1-1 support for those unable to leave their homes through our home visiting service.

Community Wellbeing and Outreach: We strive to deliver a comprehensive network of wrap-around care services, which meet the diverse needs of vulnerable people across Northamptonshire and enhance their daily lives. We aim to improve living spaces, build and develop essential life skills, and support people through challenging circumstances to move beyond disadvantage. Our broad range of integrated community wellbeing services strive towards a comprehensive and multifaceted approach, addressing various aspects of daily life, and enriching our community.



Annual Review: Our Services

Overview

The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation (TMDF) provides a broad range of services, supporting Northamptonshire people on a daily basis by meeting their needs across varying aspects of their lives.

In 2025, we streamlined and rebranded these services into four key focus areas - ensuring that everything we deliver remains clearly aligned with our mission, and easier for both our community and partners to navigate within reporting and communications.

The following review details our impact and progress across each of these focus areas during the 2024-25 Financial Year. However, to summarise, between the 1st of April 2024, and the 31st of March 2025, TMDF provided the following:



Food & Essentials Hub

Providing consistent distributions of high-quality, basic daily items, critical for physical health, emotional wellbeing, and lasting positive change.



Social Clubs & Outreach

Offering regular and welcoming opportunities for local people to develop and strengthen their social networks, preventing isolation.



Schools Support Program

Tailored provision for schools, their pupils and families, supporting those in crisis and disadvantage to ensure every child can fulfil their potential.



Community Wellbeing

Practical and direct services, connecting people with the resources, skills, and guidance needed for lasting stability and a better quality of life.

Big Hearts, Big Impact

We rely on the big hearts and amazing community spirit of Northampton volunteers, fundraisers and donors. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your support.



The Food & Essentials Hub

We work alongside our network of community partners to distribute thousands of regular and emergency food parcels to individuals and families facing financial hardship or crisis - ensuring continued access to basic daily essentials delivered with dignity and efficiency.

During this reporting period, we also expanded our offer through the introduction of our new Essentials Hub. This service provides a range of homeware and essential household items, helping people in crisis to rebuild stability, and move beyond disadvantage sustainably. This support has been delivered through a combination of direct product delivery from TMDF, and the distribution of Huggg vouchers, which allow clients to choose and purchase items directly. Through this work, we have helped thousands of vulnerable people access essential items crucial for daily comfort and functioning - including kitchen appliances, clothing, bedding, and furniture. This reduces stress, improves emotional wellbeing, and ensures improved long-term outcomes for these households.

Impact

Within the 2024-25 Financial Year, TMDF supported households experiencing crisis and financial disadvantage with:



31,985
Food Parcels



38,146
Homeware Items

Sustainability

TMDF understands that, while our Food & Essentials Hub undoubtedly serves as a vital lifeline for thousands of people experiencing unexpected financial difficulty each year, true long-term progress for vulnerable individuals begins with addressing the root causes of hardship. As an organisation, we are committed to delivering lasting solutions and driving sustainable change for those we support.

For this reason, we operate a wide range of complementary services and support programs that aim to enrich and empower our beneficiaries across multiple aspects of their lives. Every individual we support is given access to this wrap-around offer, designed to provide the necessary knowledge, practical assistance, and community support that enable long-term resilience and independence.

Schools Partnership Program

Our Schools Partnership Program seeks to build a supportive, collaborative relationship with Northamptonshire schools, offering essential resources to help students and families facing financial hardship. By working closely with schools, we aim to address both immediate and ongoing needs of their families. Through our services, we hope to alleviate daily challenges for families, ensuring that every child has access to food, technology, basic necessities, and a positive learning experience.

Food Parcels

We provide regular and emergency food parcels to families experiencing sudden financial hardship, ensuring every child and their family can enjoy a healthy, filling meal. Each parcel contains 13–15kg of essential items such as pasta, rice, sauces, tinned goods, cereal, and snacks. We aim to provide a discreet service, that alleviates possible anxiety or shame families may feel is associated with receiving food bank support. Our food parcels look like an ordinary bag of food shopping and can be given to families at a time and place they are most comfortable with.



Breakfast Boxes

Our Breakfast Box Project ensures that every child we support has the opportunity to receive a nutritious start to their school day, boosting their concentration, energy, and physical health. Each month, we provide our partner schools with supplies of nutritious breakfast items such as dried fruit, snack bars, fruit juices. These items are small enough to be kept in the classroom and discreetly given out by the teachers to those children who missed breakfast at home, helping them to engage fully and thrive at school.

Tech 4 Kids

Many children may be required to learn from home, due to physical or mental health issues, behavioural challenges or exclusions. There are also many children unable to access online homeworking activities on a regular basis, due to limited technology at home. We distribute laptops, tablets and other tech items to children and families who are unable to access home learning technology.

School Shoes: Stepping Out of Poverty

For families facing financial hardship, the cost of new school uniforms, especially shoes, can be a significant burden at the start of a new school year. We believe every child deserves the dignity and comfort of suitable footwear to support their learning and confidence. Through our school partners, we provide vouchers that enable families to choose high-quality, school-appropriate shoes for their children. This approach ensures children get the footwear they need while giving families both dignity and choice.

Household Essentials

We support families in accessing essential household items during times of unexpected need or crisis. This may include families moving into emergency accommodation with few belongings or households unable to replace a broken appliance. Our support covers a wide range of essentials, including home appliances, furniture, bedding, and clothing, ensuring families have the practical resources they need to maintain a safe, comfortable, and stable home environment.

Additional Seasonal Support

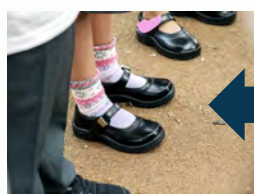
During festive periods such as Christmas and Easter, we provide additional support to families experiencing financial hardship through donations of children's toys, games, festive food items, and seasonal treats. At Christmas, we also offer toy store vouchers, enabling parents to choose specific items from their child's Christmas wish-list. This support plays a vital role in protecting families' wellbeing, helping to reduce feelings of isolation, shame, and exclusion that can arise when households are unable to fully participate in cultural celebrations. By easing financial pressure and removing the need for high-interest seasonal loans, this support ensures that families can enjoy the festive periods without facing further hardship.

Impact

In the last financial year, we continued to expand our schools network. As of the 31st of March 2025, we supported over **90** Northamptonshire Primary, Secondary and Alternate Provision Schools. Through these schools, we were able to distribute:



359
Breakfast
Boxes



632
School Shoes
& Coats



105
Laptops &
Tablets



829
Christmas
Toys & Gifts



843
Easter Eggs
and Treats



329
Christmas
Turkeys



Schools Partnership Program | Testimonials

While our impact figures demonstrate the significant scale of our work, true impact is often best reflected in the voices of those directly affected. The following testimonials represent a small sample of the feedback TMDF has received in the last financial year, from our school partners and their families:



Paula Irwin

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead at St Lukes CEVA Primary School:

TMDF have supported families in our school by donating food parcels, they have provided vouchers shoes, they have even renovated a families garden so that the children could access the garden and much, much more. Without them our families would struggle far more than they are. The hard work and dedication they show is amazing and they are always ready to support our families in need. "



Graham Trotter

Deputy Headteacher at Stimpson Avenue Academy:

The family had been moved from emergency accommodation and into a permanent home. The new home had no furnishings. After the recent death of her husband, mum was bereft. Our pastoral teams' first response was to make contact with TMDF. Within an hour, TMDF had responded and the response was supportive.

The family were provided with an oven, washing machine, sofa, microwave oven, toaster, double bed and enough food to last a week. Families in crisis are an increasingly common experience for schools, and to have an emergency support that can respond appropriately, in an age of bureaucracy and red tape, is priceless. "



Cheryl

A Parent from The Gateway School:

The food parcel in the May half term helped the family so much and meant that I had the basic cupboard items so I could get the children fresh vegetables and fruit which they wouldn't have got if I hadn't received the bag. "



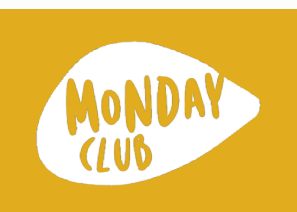
Social Clubs & Outreach

TMDF runs three weekly social clubs, each designed to reduce social isolation and improve people's wellbeing by providing safe, welcoming spaces for connection and support. Our clubs offer an inclusive environment, where members can build friendships, enjoy shared activities, and access services that support both their mental and physical health.

Many of our clients are vulnerable, facing barriers like social isolation, physical or mental health conditions, disabilities, old age, and limited financial resources. These circumstances often place them at heightened risk of related difficulties, such as housing instability, legal challenges, or unmet care needs. Our social clubs play a critical role as an early point of intervention for these individuals, providing a supportive environment where our team can consistently identify any unmet needs, and connect our clients with the appropriate services and support they need.

The Monday Club

Our Monday Club runs every Monday from 12:00 to 4:00 PM at The Swan and Helmet Pub in Northampton, offering a safe, friendly, and inclusive environment for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect and build friendships. Our clients enjoy unlimited hot drinks, a full lunch, dessert, live entertainment and music, a bingo, a raffle and fun seasonal activities. The Monday Club is an accessible, light-hearted space for local people to socialise and build networks of friendship. For our clients, it provides a vital opportunity to combat social isolation and stay connected with others, ensuring they remain an active part of their community.



226
Regular
Attendees



Cheers for Tuesdays

Cheers for Tuesdays is a social club open to Northamptonshire men of all backgrounds. It was developed in partnership with Local Social Prescribers, in response to a recognised need for further dedicated social spaces for men in the area. The club meets every Tuesday from 2.00–4.00pm at The Swan and Helmet, and provides a welcoming and relaxed environment where our clients can build friendships, and enjoy a range of activities, including darts, pool, cards, and indoor golf, or simply spend time chatting over a hot drink with fellow members and our volunteers.



64
Regular
Attendees



Stay Well Wednesdays

Stay Well Wednesdays is our wellbeing-focused social club, held every Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at The Swan and Helmet. The club offers a wide range of activities and support, all designed to promote both emotional and physical wellbeing. Our clients can enjoy a hot lunch and refreshments, fun wellbeing games, and introductory sessions to develop their mental health awareness. We also run a beginner-friendly keep-fit session each week to help our clients stay active and maintain their physical health. These sessions include seated versions of each exercise, ensuring all activities remain fully accessible. Clients can also access low-cost, professional hair and nail care every week at the club, ensuring they can receive essential and dignified self-care services, regardless of any financial barriers they may be facing.



81
Regular
Attendees



Social Clubs | Testimonials

The following quotes highlight just a few of the many meaningful ways our social clubs benefit our clients every week (*their names have been altered to maintain their privacy*).



Elsie - Regular Attendee at The Monday Club:

I look forward to the Monday Club every week. It gets me out of the house, I see friendly faces, and there's always a laugh. It might seem like a small thing, but it's made a big difference to me. "



Peter - Regular Attendee at Cheers for Tuesdays:

I'd been feeling quite isolated before I joined, especially after retiring. Having Cheers for Tuesdays has been a lifeline. It's not just a social club, it feels like a group of mates who really look out for each other. That bit of company, the joking, playing games, it all adds up and it's helped me more than I realised."



Jasmin - Regular Attendee at Stay Well Wednesdays:

I've always tried to stay social, but it's easy to neglect your health especially as you get older. Coming here every week means I can stay active, enjoy a delicious hot meal, and have some fun with my friends at the same time. It's fantastic. "

Collection & Drop-Off Service

To ensure every client we work with can access our clubs, TMDF provides a collection and drop-off service operating every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Clients are collected directly from their homes and transported safely in TMDF's minibus to our venue on Grove Road, before being returned home at the end of each session.

For many of those we support, additional barriers can significantly limit their ability to attend our clubs each week. In particular, individuals living in areas with limited or no access to public transport, as well as those managing physical or mental health conditions or disabilities, may otherwise be unable to attend at all. In some cases, travelling independently can be distressing, uncomfortable, or may place individuals at increased risk of worsening physical or mental health.



85
Transport
Service Users



Quote from Joseph - A Weekly Service User:

"I live in a village and the buses are never on time, so it was always really difficult. It's very cold, especially in the winter, and I don't stay warm like I used to. It's not good with my health. To be honest I used to dread getting [to The Monday Club].

The minibus has been a huge help. It means I can get here without any hassle, or walking and waiting in the cold, which never does me any good. Everyone is so kind on there. The driver is always smiling, and everyone has a great laugh chatting and talking when we're driving. I'm very grateful for this service and to this caring organisation."

Trips & Days Out

Alongside weekly transport to our social clubs, TMDF provides a range of affordable trips throughout the year, open to both our social club clients and members of the wider community. These range from visits to local destinations like Market Harborough and Rushden Lakes, to national cultural and heritage sites such as museums, National Trust sites, and country parks. For many people we support, limited access to transportation can make experiences like these otherwise impossible. However, through these inclusive and accessible outings, our charity helps to remove these barriers; providing valuable opportunities for our clients to create memories and experience something new.

428
Affordable Trip
Tickets Distributed



Doorstep Buddies Program

Our Doorstep Buddies program provides regular home visits to socially isolated individuals. Whether a client is homebound due to physical health issues such as injury or chronic illness; experiencing mental health challenges such as depression or agoraphobia; or navigating a difficult period following a bereavement; our Doorstep Buddies play an essential role. TMDF's trained volunteers offer companionship, a listening ear, and support with everyday tasks when needed. Visits can take place inside the client's home, on their doorstep, or in public, meaning the service is always tailored to individual needs. Our team also offers regular telephone check-in calls for individuals who may be shielding or self-isolating due to health risks, ensuring they remain connected and supported even when in-person visits are not possible.

315
Doorsteps
Visited



Liz Chapman (Left) and Tish Cumiskey (Right) are two of TMDF's Core Doorstep Buddy Volunteers.



Many of those we work with have limited or no family or friendship networks, and may otherwise go weeks without meaningful social interaction. This program serves as a vital gateway back into the community for these people, improving their emotional wellbeing and reducing the isolation that often has serious impacts on quality of life.



Quote from Michael - *A Regular Recipient of This Service:*

When my wife passed away, I really withdrew from my social life. I ended up not going out much at all, and stopped seeing people and getting out and about. These visits are so brilliant, because I've been able to socialise again from the comfort of my own home, and talk through how I'm feeling with someone who's there to listen without judgement. [The Doorstep Buddy] has encouraged me to try new things, and get back into meeting up with people again, all at my own pace. "



Quote from Andrew - *A Regular Recipient of This Service:*

Because of my health conditions I am not able to leave the house to come to The Monday Club anymore, which I was very down about at first. With these visits, I can still get the interaction and conversation, and it's always such a friendly and open chat. I feel if I was ever worried about anything I could tell Tish and she'd comfort me or let me know who to talk to. "

Wrap-Around Support

As with all aspects of our work, every client supported through our Social Clubs and Outreach services has access to TMDF's broader range of community wellbeing services. Whether they need emergency food or household essentials, or a referral to another local care provider, our priority is always to offer comprehensive support that meets the diverse and evolving needs of our beneficiaries.

Community Wellbeing Services

TMDF provides a comprehensive network of Community Wellbeing Services designed to address gaps in support and respond to the diverse needs of the Northamptonshire community. These services touch many aspects of daily life, ranging from practical and hands-on support, to educational sessions, and guidance that helps people access the resources and services they need. Across all of these services, our goal is to help vulnerable individuals to achieve lasting stability and an improved quality of life, enabling them to move forward and overcome disadvantage or difficulty.

Gardening Service

TMDF offers free gardening services to individuals who may be unable to maintain their outdoor spaces independently. Whether due to financial constraints, health challenges, or other circumstances, we provide support to help clients keep their gardens safe, accessible, and enjoyable. We believe that everyone deserves a comfortable and welcoming space to connect with the natural environment, regardless of the challenges they may face.

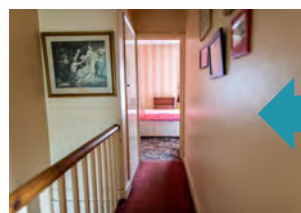
Home Improvements

Our Home Improvements Service is available to Northamptonshire residents who have experienced significant life challenges, such as a recent bereavement or bout of ill-health. We also support those who have fled domestic violence, and are in the process of transitioning from temporary or emergency accommodation into permanent homes. Often, they may reach their new home with little or no furniture, bedding, or personal belongings, which can create immense practical and emotional challenges.

We provide basic cosmetic improvements like fresh paint, new curtains or simple decorations, as well as furniture and bedding. This service is designed to ensure those facing significant challenges in life have a comfortable, functional space which supports them as they move forward.



168
Gardens
Serviced



154
Homes
Supported



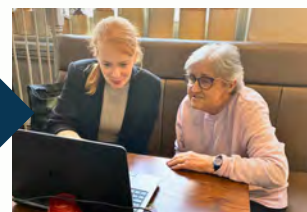
Information, Signposting & Support

TMDF provides one-to-one sessions to help people access the essential services and support they need. During these sessions, we listen to clients' concerns, assess any additional needs, and offer a trusted space where they feel understood and valued. We assist clients in navigating applications for vital services, including benefits, council tax exemptions, and disability aids. Our team works closely with each individual to identify their needs, gather necessary information or documentation, and complete any forms or applications required. Where appropriate, we also arrange referrals to additional services such as GPs, mental health organisations, or Community Law, ensuring beneficiaries receive comprehensive care beyond our immediate support.

For individuals with low confidence or limited digital skills, these processes can be challenging to navigate alone. Many clients are initially unaware of the support available to them or have struggled to access it independently. With our guidance, we ensure they can access the resources they need to improve their wellbeing, overcome life challenges, and achieve sustainable positive change.



189
Clients
Supported



Cookery Classes

TMDF's cookery classes provide a welcoming and inclusive environment where people of all backgrounds and abilities can develop essential cooking skills, vital for living independently and maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. Through these free sessions, our clients build foundational skills such as knife technique, food hygiene, and safety practices, while also developing their knowledge on practical topics such as shopping on a budget, cooking in season, and sustainable meal preparation. Our classes focus on simple and adaptable techniques which build transferable skills. These skills create long-term resilience, providing people the tools and confidence to maintain their wellbeing sustainably in future.

Though these sessions are open to all, priority is given to those with little or no cooking experience, including individuals with learning disabilities or ongoing mental health challenges who are often referred to TMDF via local social care services and similar community partners.



30
Clients
Supported



Digital Inclusion Sessions

TMDF's Digital Inclusion Sessions empower individuals, particularly older adults with limited digital literacy, to navigate technology and the internet confidently and safely. Held alongside our social clubs, these hands-on sessions build essential skills, from setting up emails and social media accounts to online shopping, online banking, and using platforms such as Livvi and NHS Online Services. Participants also learn about internet security, scams, and safe online practices, helping to protect them from risks while increasing their independence. Beyond practical skills, the sessions open new ways for clients to connect with friends and family and explore social media, helping to reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing for those who may otherwise feel disconnected.



48
Clients
Supported



Community Wellbeing Services | Testimonials

TMDF's cookery classes provide a welcoming, inclusive environment where people of all backgrounds and abilities can develop essential cooking skills, empowering them to lead



Quote from Richard - *Supported through Cookery Classes:*

The lessons were a huge help. Everyone was so kind and understanding, I never felt judged even when I didn't know things that seem so obvious now. The team taught me so much about how to feed my children properly in a way that worked for us, and it's meant I've been able to take over the responsibility since we lost their mum."



Quote from Sylvia - *Supported through Home Improvement:*

Everything that was done for me has lifted me spiritually and mentally. I spend a lot of time at home, and when your home looks nice, especially the walls and floors, it really changes how you feel. I'd definitely tell them to reach out if they truly need it. TMDF is a great, very generous foundation. "



Quote from Jack - *Supported through Information, Signposting & Support:*

I didn't realise I was entitled to any extra support and was really struggling to cope on my state pension alone. With [TMDF Volunteer]'s help, I was able to apply for other benefits I didn't even know about before. It's been a massive help and made me feel more secure and less worried about my finances. I cannot thank him enough."

New Projects

In the last financial year, TMDF has introduced several new initiatives to respond to emerging community needs and create additional opportunities to enrich the lives of local people across Northamptonshire.

Intergenerational Stories Program

In early 2025, we launched The Intergenerational Stories Program which aims to connect Northamptonshire's young people with older members of our community.

This year, we worked with Northampton International Academy, and Northampton School for Boys. The student participants were paired with an older individual under our charity's care. The program involves one to two supervised sessions, where both the young person and the older participant meet and discuss the older person's life. Following the sessions, each young person produces a written piece capturing their partner's story. These stories, alongside photographs of both the young person and the older participant, as well as key moments from the older individual's life, are displayed at a special exhibition event at the end of the programme. The exhibition celebrates the students' work, and the histories they have preserved, engaging students, families, and members of the local community.

This program offers valuable life experience and insight for the younger participants, while also strengthening intergenerational connections and a stronger sense of inclusion within the Northamptonshire community. For our older participants, the initiative created a meaningful opportunity to share and preserve their personal histories, that may otherwise remain untold.



Community Allotment

Our Community Allotment is an ongoing project that began development last year, with the long-term aim of creating a welcoming and accessible space where clients can connect with nature and learn how to grow their own produce. During the last financial year, we made significant progress by installing raised beds and vegetable boxes, refurbishing the shed, and improving the site's borders, with development continuing since. Weekly visits now give clients the opportunity to plant, maintain, and harvest produce in a friendly, supportive environment, helping them build new skills, boost confidence, and benefit from time spent outdoors.



Community Engagement

Engaging meaningfully with our community is a core priority for TMDF. We believe that collaboration, listening, and shared learning are essential to achieving long-term success and delivering sustained, positive impact. Our approach is rooted in responding to the evolving needs of the people and communities we serve, and we know that the most effective way to do this is through consistent, open, and inclusive engagement with those directly affected by the issues our charity seeks to address.

Community Partners

We work closely with a wide range of local groups, service providers, and organisations, that all have a deep understanding of their clients' needs. By accepting referrals through our trusted partner network, we ensure that our services reach those who will benefit most. This collaborative approach allows us to provide targeted assistance efficiently, ensuring help goes directly to the most vulnerable.

Through our Food & Essentials Hub, we collaborate with partner organisations to provide essential supplies to their clients, while across our Social Clubs, Outreach, and Community Wellbeing Services, we accept referrals to ensure individuals can access the broader support they need. We also work in partnership with Social Prescribers to deliver our weekly men's social club, Cheers for Tuesdays, and through our Schools Support System we work alongside more than 90 Primary, Secondary, and Alternative Provision schools to support students and families experiencing hardship.

In addition, TMDF is an active partner within the Food Aid Alliance for West Northamptonshire (FAAWN), a network of food banks and community larders across the county. Through this alliance, we offer mutual aid, share resources where possible, and collaborate on joint campaigns, strengthening the collective response to food insecurity across Northamptonshire.

Our Referral Partners:



Volunteers

The work of The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation would not be possible without the dedication, compassion, and commitment of our incredible volunteers. From corporate volunteer groups to our local, regular, and core volunteer team, every individual plays a vital role in delivering our mission and making a meaningful difference across Northamptonshire. Volunteers truly are the backbone of our charity, contributing their time, skills, and energy across all areas of our work.



Our volunteers engage in a wide range of activities, from stocking shelves and packing food parcels to maintaining community gardens, helping others build essential life skills, and supporting our social clubs. We strive to offer volunteer roles that align with each person's skills and experience, creating diverse opportunities for meaningful involvement in our work.

Throughout the year, The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation provides essential training to equip and support our volunteers, giving everyone the chance to grow and develop, regardless of their role. Training has included Safeguarding, Food Hygiene, Manual Handling, and Mental Health First Aid, among others. This training not only strengthens our team but also empowers our volunteers with valuable skills and knowledge they can apply throughout their lives. We are committed to nurturing the potential of each volunteer, ensuring that everyone can contribute in ways that are both fulfilling and aligned with their personal goals. We also encourage many of our clients to take on volunteer roles, as this can have profoundly positive impacts for building their confidence and ties to the local community.

In recognition of the extraordinary contribution of our volunteers, The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation was honoured to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2024. This prestigious award celebrates the exceptional impact our volunteers have made and highlights their vital role in supporting individuals and families in need.



Our heartfelt thanks go to each and every volunteer who supports our charity. Their compassion, commitment, and generosity are at the heart of our charity's success. Without them, the essential work we do across Northamptonshire would not be possible.



Feedback & Evaluation

Feedback from those involved in and affected by our work is central to how TMDF operates, and we place significant value on listening to the voices of our beneficiaries, partners, and volunteers. TMDF recognises that, those with lived experience of hardship and the issues our organisation tackles, often have the most meaningful insight into what works, what doesn't, and where change is needed. This feedback helps ensure our services remain relevant and responsive to the groups we support.

Case Study | Social Clubs & Outreach Surveys:

During the last financial year, we gathered extensive qualitative feedback from clients accessing our Social Clubs & Outreach Services. We aimed to gain a deeper insight into the experience of those using these services, and identify any areas for improvement. We also sought to develop further understanding of the broader challenges these clients face, including financial pressures, emotional and social wellbeing, health concerns, transport barriers, and accessibility needs within our venues and beyond.

We encountered several initial challenges in gathering this feedback. For some participants, the online platform used to conduct the survey was difficult to access and navigate, particularly for many of our older clients and those with limited digital skills. Similarly, several clients with learning disabilities, visual impairments or cognitive differences struggled to read or understand the questions. The initial questionnaire was also quite lengthy, which led some clients to feel overwhelmed or disengaged. In response, we adapted our approach in close consultation with clients. We introduced shorter versions of the questionnaire, provided paper-based alternatives, and offered additional support (through volunteers who would read questions aloud and provide clarification where needed). These adaptations significantly improved accessibility and engagement, allowing us to gather feedback from an additional 122 clients by the end of the survey period.

248

Service Users Consulted
in Total



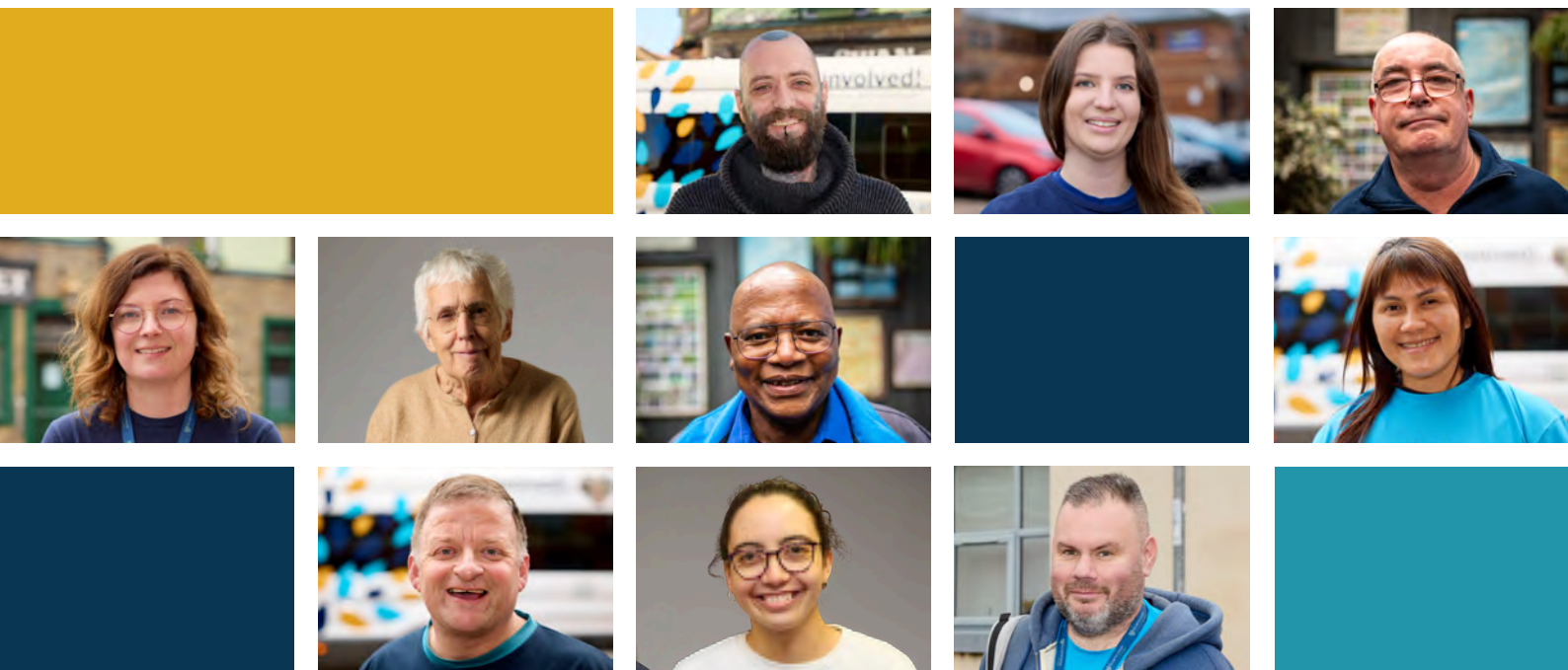
This feedback has since been instrumental in shaping our work. It has informed changes to our social club timings and the types of activities we provide, and has influenced adjustments in how we run entertainment and wellbeing activities. Equally, this feedback has also supported the development of new ideas for future services. Notably, insights from clients helped shape the initial plans for a new, quieter social club, which TMDF hopes to introduce in the next financial year. This service will be designed to more effectively meet the needs of those with sensory sensitivities, anxiety, neurodivergence, and similar conditions. We hope to provide a calmer space, offering tailored activities such as board games and reading sessions, creating an inclusive alternative for those who may find our existing social clubs unsuitable to their needs.

Ongoing Engagement:

TMDF understands that meaningful community engagement is not a one-off activity, but an ongoing commitment. As our services continue to evolve, we maintain close involvement with the people who use them, and the partners who support them. This ensures our approach remains consistently responsive to real and changing needs. By regularly gathering feedback and reviewing our impact, we are able to refine and strengthen our work on a continual basis.

Lived Experience at Every Level:

Beyond service delivery, TMDF is also proud to embed lived experience throughout all levels of our organisation and management. From volunteers and staff, to our Board of Trustees, we are privileged to work alongside individuals who bring first-hand experience of social disadvantage and the very issues we address. Our diverse and committed team come from a broad variety of backgrounds, from teachers and community advocates, to those with lived experience of homelessness, disability, growing up in the care system, and even serving in the armed forces. These varying perspectives bring invaluable insight, empathy, and strength to our decision-making and overall strategic direction as a charity.



Financial Review

Income Summary

During the financial year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation was privileged to receive significant financial support from diverse sources, including one-off donations and ongoing contributions from local businesses and individuals, and grants from both local and national bodies.

The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation secured several major grants throughout the year. A significant source of funding was awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund, specifically from its Reaching Communities and Awards for All Programmes. We also received valuable support from West Northamptonshire Council through their Discretionary Community Fund, the Warm Welcoming Spaces fund, and the Household Support Fund (Tranche 6). Further grants were provided by the Northamptonshire Community Foundation, including the Compton Fund and the Queens Institute Fund. Additionally, The Foundation received funds from The Grocers Charity and The Clothworkers Foundation.

The Foundation benefited from other vital contributions, including support from local councillors, businesses, community groups, and individual donors. We are especially grateful for the continued monthly contributions from OCM Wealth Management, who remain a steady partner in supporting our mission. Further income was generated through our community awareness and fundraising stalls and The Foundation's weekly social clubs.

Our charity's work is only made possible by the generous contributions of our supporters. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has enabled us to sustain and expand these vital services, allowing us to enhance the lives of those in need across so many communities in Northamptonshire.

Staff & Trustees

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000. There is currently a pension scheme in place for Charity employees. None of the trustees received any fees for their services as Trustees.

Approval of Accounts

The accounts were approved on behalf of the Trustees by the Chair on:



Stephen Summers
Chairperson

Date:
07/01/2026



Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation for the year ended 31st March 2025 set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners:

- The Foundation Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.
- The Foundation Committee consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts:
- To follow the procedures required by the constitution and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiners statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the constitution. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the group and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- Proper accounting records are kept in accordance with the constitution; and
- Accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the constitution; have not been met or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Karen M Matthews
Chartered Accountant

Date:
03/12/2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

		Restricted		Unrestricted		Total		Year to 31.03.24
Income From								
Donations & Grants	2	£ 312,549	£	18,000	£	330,549	£	195,930
Other Activities	3		£	161,474	£	161,474	£	35,176
Total Income		£ 312,549	£	179,474	£	492,023		231,106
Expenditure on								
Charitable Activities	4	£ 202,100	£	89,311	£	291,411	£	100,308
Raising Funds	5		£	31,925	£	31,925	£	10,539
Overheads	6	£ 67,864	£	33,467	£	101,331	£	54,423
Other Expenditure	7	£ 7,245	£	23,289	£	30,534	£	10,436
Total Expenditure		£ 277,209	£	177,992	£	455,201	£	175,706
Surplus/ Deficit		£ 35,340	£	1,481	£	36,821	£	55,400



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

		Year to 31.03.2024
Fixed Assets (after dep'n)	£ 23,867.00	£ 5,800.00
Current Assets - Cash at bank/JustGiving	£ 83,211.00	£ 64,456.00
Current Liabilities - HMRC	-£ 269.00	-£ 268.00
	<u>£ 106,809.00</u>	<u>£ 69,988.00</u>
Financed by:		
Opening balance	£ 69,988.78	£ 14,589.00
Surplus/Deficit for year	<u>£ 36,820.22</u>	<u>£ 55,399.00</u>
	<u>£ 106,809.00</u>	<u>£ 69,988.00</u>
* of which amount is restricted	£ 32,502.38	£ 34,359.00

FIXED ASSET REGISTER FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2025

Fixed Asset Register	Fixtures & Fittings	Vehicle	Computers	Total
Cost				
As at 01.04.2024	£ 4,800		£ 1,000	£ 5,800
Additions	£ 20,000		£	£ 20,000
As at 31.03.2025	£ 4,800	£ 20,000	£ 1,000	£ 25,800
Depreciation				£ -
As at 01.04.2024	£ 1,592	£ -	£ 341	£ 1,933
Depreciation charged in the year			£	£ -
As at 31.03.2025	£ 1,592	£ -	£ 341	£ 1,933
Balance Carried forward				£ -
As at 31.03.2025	£ 3,208	£ 20,000	£ 659	£ 23,867

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1. Basis Of Preparation

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The accounts 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 1st October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 Donations & Grants

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Grants	£ 309,789		£ 309,789
Donations	£ 2,760	£ 18,000	£ 20,760
	£ 312,549	£ 18,000	£ 330,549

3 Income from other activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Sponsorship/stalls		£ 155,153	£ 155,153
Social Club		£ 6,321	£ 6,321
	£ -	£ 161,474	£ 161,474



4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Community Support/Food Bank	£ 202,100	£ 89,311	£ 291,411
	£ 202,100	£ 89,311	£ 291,411

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Pre pay of sponsored events		£ 31,925	£ 31,925
	£ -	£ 31,925	£ 31,925

6 Expenditure on Overheads

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Salaries/Labour	£ 65,369	£ 10,249	£ 75,618
Office/admin/general/warehouse	£ 2,496	£ 23,218	£ 25,714
	£ 67,865	£ 33,467	£ 101,332

7 Other expenditure

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Social Clubs	£ 7,245	£ 6,052	£ 13,297
Vehicle Expenses		£ 5,064	£ 5,064
General expenses		£ 11,744	£ 11,744
Bank Charges		£ 429	£ 429
	£ 7,245	£ 23,289	£ 30,534

8 Capital Expenditure

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Purchase of Vehicle	£ 15,000	£ 5,000	£ 20,000
	£ 15,000	£ 5,000	£ 20,000



9 Employees

The average number of employees during the year was 5 (incl Self Employed)

Employed	1
Sub Contractor	4
Total	5

Employment Costs

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Wages & Salaries	£ 63,965	£ 10,249	£ 74,214
NI/Pension	£ 1,404		£ 1,404
	£ 65,369	£ 10,249	£ 75,618

There were no employees whose annual remuneration exceeded £60,000

10 Grants Received

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
WNC HSF6 Household Support Fund	£ 200,000		£ 200,000
WNC - Discretionary Community Funding	£ 10,500		£ 10,500
WNC - Warm Welcoming Spaces	£ 1,497		£ 1,497
Reaching Communities (Salaries)	£ 59,797		£ 59,797
Reaching Communities (other)	£ 10,032		£ 10,032
NCF - The Compton Award	£ 3,023		£ 3,023
NCF - Queens Institute Fund - Driver	£ 5,000		£ 5,000
Grocers Charity - Salary	£ 4,940		£ 4,940
ClothworkerS Foundation - Minibus	£ 15,000		£ 15,000
	£ 309,789	£ -	£ 309,789