

**COMMUNITY FOOD AND
FRIENDSHIP BLYTH CIO**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

REGISTERED NUMBER - 1191399

Essell
ACCOUNTANTS LTD

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FRIENDSHIP BLYTH CIO**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

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Legal and Administrative Information for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Constitution

Community Food and Friendship Blyth CIO is a Body Corporate under Part 11 of the Charities Act 2011 and is governed by its Constitution. It is a Registered Charity no. 1191399

Trustees

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

Jean Lillian Hayton
Richard Hayton
Alan Hall
David Cooper
Lesley Ann Correia
Rev Peter Knibbs
Andrew Tawse (appointed 01 July 2025)
John Pringle (appointed 30 September 2025)
Edward Neville Craggs (resigned 15 April 2025)
Rev Sion Awen Hughes Carew (resigned 02 December 2024)
Lynne Craggs (resigned 15 April 2025)

Registered Office

Community Centre, Claremont Terrace, NE24 2LE

Independent Examiner

Alex Robinson, Essell Accountants Limited, 29 Howard Street, North Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE30 1AR

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Objects of the Charity

The objects of the CIO are the prevention or relief of poverty for people in Blyth and the surrounding area by providing food, essential household items and toiletries to individuals in financial need. To promote social inclusion by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

Structure, Governance & Management

The Board of Trustees met 6 times plus an Annual General meeting during the year.

Financial Review

Donations have stayed roughly the same over last year, as has the income from fund raising. Grants were received for food and for the mitigation of the effects of homelessness.

Expenditure on food has doubled.

Reserves Policy

It is the aim of the charity to hold 100% of our annual non-grant income as a reserve fund. This will allow for the continuation of the delivery of breakfast provision and a safe meeting space in the event of a loss of funding from other sources. The Reserve Fund may be accessed if the projected annual income from non-grant sources falls by 10% or more below the required amount.

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**Achievements and Performance**

Once more, community Food and Friendship Blyth, has striven to serve the community in as many ways as possible. We continue to provide a warm and inviting space on a Monday morning for anyone who seeks companionship, needs breakfast, a light lunch of homemade soup and bread, or perhaps requires the use of a hot shower and clean towels. One of the volunteers also provides a hair cut if required.

The Thursday 'Butty' club continues to thrive. Our male clients enjoying food, company, and advice from outside agencies, as well as receiving a weekly food bag and a choice of donated goods from local stores. There are an average of 70 plus clients passing through the doors each week. Our chaplain (and former dentist) has organised and introduced oral health care packs for the clients, discussing how to use them and encouraging better dental care.

At Christmas, each client received a larger than usual food parcel with treats for Christmas. A voucher for Greggs was included in each Christmas card given out at the Christmas lunch. We were very grateful to our local hotel, the Commissioners Inn, who provided a hot and delicious Christmas lunch for the clients. It was very well received indeed. A really lovely atmosphere and an enjoyable event, still talked about.

Our indoor market runs on a weekly basis and has become popular. The income from the market is helping to sustain the provision of the weekly food bags. A music group has been introduced, after requests from gents who enjoy singing and the donation of a large keyboard from a local church. A light lunch is provided and the group, though small in number is growing. One young gentleman who does not usually engage with others has 'come out of his shell' in this group.

We worked with 5 schools throughout the summer holidays providing food parcels for vulnerable and needy families. Sometimes in addition to this we provided for those referred by Children's services. We also worked with the schools at Christmas to provide well over 300 parcels of toys and 80 food hampers to referred families. Café church continues each fourth Sunday of the month with music, food and fellowship. We donate nappies, wipes, sanitary items and baby food to our local family hub when our stock increases, though a few families benefitted from these goods in our hampers in the summer and at Christmas.

We continue to work with NRP and Changing Lives. We have provided many tents and equipment to those in need and who have been referred to us. It's a sad fact that the numbers are increasing. We have had regular visits from Social prescribers. We are part of the FRONTLINE platform and have received referrals through this. We are also part of 'Better together in Blyth' with an emphasis on homelessness and housing. Meetings are regularly attended and information and support shared among the attendees. This is a good networking opportunity. Trustees have also attended events throughout the year where many other organisations and charities' representatives have networked and shared information.

Public Benefit

The charity works to provide all members of the public who are in need with food, clothing and any other necessities as well as companionship.

Risk Statement

The charity takes the minimisation of risk for our clients and volunteers extremely seriously. To this end a risk assessment of all the charities activities is carried out and documented every year.

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue in business.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD :

Lesley Louisa

Trustee

Date :

7/04/26

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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TO THE TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP BLYTH CIO

I report on the accounts of the Community Food and Friendship Blyth CIO for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 6 - 9.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to :

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act).
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the trustee's and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts. The report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations 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.



Mr Alex Robinson FCCA
Essell Accountants Limited
29 Howard Street, North Shields, NE30 1AR

Date : 09/04/2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>Total 2025</u> £	<u>Total 2024</u>
<u>Income and Endowments</u>					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:					
Donations and Legacies					
Correction		24	0	24	0
Donations		1,166	8,603	9,769	9,870
Grants		0	11,500	11,500	5,580
Gift Aid Reclaimed		0	0	0	0
Refund		157	0	157	11
		<u>1,347</u>	<u>20,103</u>	<u>21,450</u>	<u>15,461</u>
Income from Investments:					
Bank Interest		0	605	605	668
		<u>1,347</u>	<u>20,709</u>	<u>22,055</u>	<u>16,130</u>
Income from Fund Raising					
		<u>0</u>	<u>8,477</u>	<u>8,477</u>	<u>9,469</u>
<u>Total Income and Endowments</u>					
		<u>1,347</u>	<u>29,185</u>	<u>30,532</u>	<u>25,599</u>
<u>Expenditure:</u>					
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	2	2,592	31,724	34,317	21,372
<u>Total Expenditure:</u>					
		<u>2,592</u>	<u>31,724</u>	<u>34,317</u>	<u>21,372</u>
<u>Net Income / (Expenditure) resources before transfers</u>					
		(1,245)	(2,539)	(3,785)	4,227
<u>Transfers between funds</u>					
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Net Movement in Funds</u>					
		(1,245)	(2,539)	(3,785)	4,227
<u>Balance as at 1st January 2025</u>					
		<u>2,877</u>	<u>31,894</u>	<u>34,771</u>	<u>30,544</u>
<u>Balance as at 31st December 2025</u>					
		<u>1,632</u>	<u>29,355</u>	<u>30,986</u>	<u>34,771</u>

The notes form part of the financial statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT
31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	<u>31,706</u>	<u>35,491</u>
CREDITORS : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	<u>720</u>	<u>720</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	30,986	34,771
NET ASSETS	<u><u>30,986</u></u>	<u><u>34,771</u></u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Unrestricted Funds (Note 4)	1,632	2,877
Restricted Funds (Note 4)	29,355	31,894
	<u><u>30,986</u></u>	<u><u>34,771</u></u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 7/4/26
and were signed on its behalf by :

Lesley Goveia

Charity registered number : 1191139

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015) and the Charities Act 2011. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Incoming Resources

Incoming Resources represents grants, sales and other work done during the year. It is prepared on an accruals basis.

Fund Accounting

Funds held by the charity are either :

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these funds are grants or donations received that require the funds to be used in a specific way or for a specific purpose.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

2 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Total</u> <u>2025</u> £	<u>Total</u> <u>2024</u> £
Governance	0	720	720	609
Food	0	12,839	12,839	6132
Rent	0	4,800	4,800	4800
Repairs and Equipment	194	1,240	1,434	1790
Sundries	1,943	1,719	3,662	950
Christmas	0	589	589	371
Training	0	0	0	1086
Membership	0	0	0	0
Insurance	0	0	0	270
Clothing and Toys	0	3,008	3,008	1713
Utilities	0	2,410	2,410	2311
Telephone and Broadband	400	0	400	619
Travel and Motor Expenses	55	0	55	0
Payroll and independent examination	0	0	0	720
Homeless	0	4,039	4,039	0
Wellbeing	0	360	360	0
	<u>2,592</u>	<u>31,724</u>	<u>34,317</u>	<u>21,372</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
The average weekly number of employees during the year was :	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

4. MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2025 £	Transfer Between Funds £	Incoming Resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 Dec 2025 £
General Funds					
Unrestricted Funds	2,877	0	1,347	2,592	1,632
Total General Funds	<u>2,877</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,347</u>	<u>2,592</u>	<u>1,632</u>
Restricted Funds					
Restricted funds	31,894	0	29,185	31,724	29,355
Total Restricted Funds	<u>31,894</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,185</u>	<u>31,724</u>	<u>29,355</u>
Total Funds	<u>34,771</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30,532</u>	<u>34,317</u>	<u>30,986</u>