



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2024 To 31 March 2025

Charity name: Mersey Care NHS FT Charitable Fund

Charity registration number: 1191576

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Charitable purposes relating to the general or specific purposes, including population health, mental health and suicide prevention, of Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust for the benefit of users of services managed by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and staff involved in the provision of those services, for all or any charitable purpose or purposes relating to the National Health Service
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide amenities to service users and carers of Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust• To provide amenities to staff of Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust• To provide amenities to volunteers of Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust• To provide support to the promotion of suicide prevention• General Charitable Purposes
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Corporate Trustee has had regard to the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by	Para 1.38	N/A

volunteers		
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>During 2024/25, the Charity consolidated it's position in the second year of active fundraising, organising various events whilst increasing awareness of the Charity and it's aims both internally and to the wider public.</p> <p>The final tranches of NHS Charities Together Stage 3 Covid-19 Recovery Funding grant totalling £79,276 were received in 2024/25.</p> <p>An updated Charity Fundraising Strategy was produced for 2024/25 and an Operational Plan developed to support the delivery of the Charity's objectives.</p> <p>Part of this strategy was to work with Trust operational colleagues to identify how various legacy funds could be utilised and to then rationalise the number and value of unspent funds to ensure these funds could be more appropriately utilised going forward rather than being allowed to accumulate.</p> <p>Following discussions with Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust it was agreed the Charity would cease acting as an umbrella charity for Bridgewater at the end of March 2025.</p> <p>Total cash receipts were £122,948, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Charities Together Stage 3 Covid-19 Recovery Grants - £79,276 • Pilkington Charity Grant - £4,000 • Income from Events - £20,684 • Donations - £17,252 • Dividends & Interest - £1,736 <p>Total cash payments were £370,630 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charitable Activities - £136,246 • Fundraising - £14,307 • Governance - £14,777

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity Team - £105,737 • Charitable Activities (23/24) - £99,563
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	The investment policy requires that all monies, apart from working capital, be invested in securities to maximise the overall return consistent with an acceptable level of risk. The performance of the investments is continually monitored and reported on an annual basis in relationship to other common investment funds.
Other		N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of the reporting period the Charity held total funds of £80,530 of which £19,179 was classed as unrestricted and £61,351 was restricted as per the wishes of the donors or as per grant awards.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, the Corporate Trustee ("the Trustee") has developed a reserves policy to establish the level of reserves that is appropriate to the Charity and ensure compliance with the Trustee's legal duty to apply charity funds within a reasonable time of receiving them.</p> <p>It is the Trustee's determination to demonstrate prudent stewardship of the Charity and to ensure that the level of reserves is appropriate to the Charity's circumstances.</p> <p>From experience the Trustee would expect to spend at the same level as income is received taking one year with another. However, it is intended to establish and maintain reserves (namely the "Unrestricted funds") to ensure current or anticipated expenses are met from the funds should there be any major adverse fluctuations in income received.</p> <p>Reserves will be identified to a maximum</p>

		<p>level equivalent to approximately 6 months expenditure. Should the amount rise beyond this level action will be taken to expend funds in accordance with the charity's objects.</p> <p>Reserves will not be permitted to fall below a level equivalent to three months expenditure. However, in the unlikely event of this happening the Trustee may withhold from distribution such amounts of income and credit them to the reserve funds.</p> <p>Unrealised gains on investments will not be included in income to be distributed to unrestricted funds.</p> <p>The level of reserves will be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure compliance with the above limits.</p> <p>The Trustee will formally review this policy every two years.</p>
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Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The £19,179 unrestricted funds held as at 31 March 2025 are held in reserves.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The Charity's principal sources of income are grants awarded by NHS Charities Together, grants from other bodies, fundraising events and activities and general donations.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The Charity's main source of income to in 2024/25 was once again NHS Charities Together Covid-19 grants, however the final tranche of this funding was received in March 2025. Grant applications from other sources form a significant part of the Charity's Fundraising Strategy going forward, however these are not

		<p>guaranteed. The Charity will continue to be dependent upon the goodwill of service users and members of the public for donations and engagement with fundraising activities, however it is recognised we are a relatively new charity entering a very competitive area with many established charities. The unique nature of our Zero Suicide Awareness (ZSA) programme along with our position as one of the largest mental health trusts is one of the key strengths of the Charity in attracting support.</p>
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	NHS Trust Body
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Mersey Care NHS FT Board of Directors acting as Corporate Trustee

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Mersey Care NHS FT's Board of Directors, acting as Corporate Trustee, has formally constituted a Charitable Funds Committee consisting of Executive and Non-Executive Directors. The Charitable Funds Committee has delegated powers to oversee the management and operation of charitable funds.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	During 2024/25, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust utilised the remaining balance of their funds. The Mersey Care Charity ceased to manage funds on behalf of Bridgewater on 31 March 2025.
Other		N/A

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust Charitable Fund
Other name the charity uses	Mersey Cares, Zero Suicide Alliance, Life Rooms
Registered charity number	1191576
Charity's principal address	Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust Trust Headquarters V7 Building Kings Business Park Prescot Merseyside L34 1PJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1 Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust (as Corporate Trustee)			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
Rosie Cooper	Non-Executive Chair	
Gerry O'Keeffe	Non-Executive Director	To 30 April 2025
Nick Williams	Non-Executive Director	To 30 April 2025
Scott Etherington	Non-Executive Director	
Iain Buchan	Non-Executive Director	
Nicola Haywood-Cleverly	Non-Executive Director	
Maureen Whilby	Non-Executive Director	
Liz Roden	Non-Executive Director	From 9 May 2024
Debora McLaughlin	Non-Executive Director	From 13 September 2024
Marie Boles	Non-Executive Director	
Michael Parkin	Non-Executive Director	From 18 June 2025
Joe Rafferty	Chief Executive Officer	To 31 October 2024
Trish Bennett	Chief Executive (Designate)	From 1 November 2024
Elaine Darbyshire	Chief Communication, Inclusion and Estates Officer	To 30 September 2024
Louise Edwards	Chief Strategy, Commissioning and Partnerships Officer	To 28 June 2024
Amanda Oates	Chief People and Culture Officer	To 20 May 2025
Rob Collins	Chief Finance Officer	
Noir Thomas	Chief Medical Officer	
Jenny Hurst	Chief Nurse	From 1 March 2025
Sean Leahy	Interim Chief People and Culture Officer	From 1 May 2025
Lee Taylor	Chief Delivery Officer	From 1 January 2025
Steven Christian	Chief Strategy, Planning and Partnerships Officer	From 13 September 2025

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Investment Fund Manager	BlackRock Fund Managers Limited	PO Box 545 Darlington DL1 9TQ

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information


N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Rob Collins

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chief Finance Officer	
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Date	22/1/2026
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust Charity

1191576

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

Period start date
4/1/2024


To

Period end date
3/31/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts	19,731	18,205	-	37,936	19,307
Grants Received	-	83,276	-	83,276	175,723
Dividends & Interest Received	1,736	-	-	1,736	3,195
Transfer from NWB Charity	-	-	-	-	37,301
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	21,467	101,481	-	122,948	235,526
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	21,467	101,481	-	122,948	235,526
A3 Payments					
Charitable Activities		136,246	-	136,246	47,102
Raising Funds	14,307	-	-	14,307	21,374
Governance Costs	14,777	-	-	14,777	1,107
Charity Team	72,493	33,243	-	105,736	-
Transfer to MC Trust (23/24 Creditor)	-	99,564	-	99,564	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	101,577	269,053	-	370,630	69,583
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	101,577	269,053	-	370,630	69,583
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 80,110	- 167,572	-	- 247,682	165,943
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	99,289	228,923	-	328,212	162,269
Cash funds this year end	19,179	61,351	-	80,530	328,212

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	Mersey Care Bank Account	19,179	61,351	-
	NWB Bank Account	-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	19,179	61,351	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	BLK Charities UK Equity Fund A Inc	Unrestricted	-	61,042
	BLK Charities UK Bond Fund A Inc	Unrestricted	-	7,225
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Owed to Charity in respect of donations banked in Mersey Care NHS FT bank account, to be transferred.	U/R	4,065	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Owed to Mersey Care NHS FT in respect of goods & services purchased for the Charity via the Trust	U/R	23,794	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Rob Collins	1/22/2026



KM
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustee of Merseycare NHS FT Charitable Trust

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (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.

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.

Mark Heaton FCCA FCIE
KM
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor, Block C, The Wharf,
Manchester Road,
Burnley
BB11 1JG

22nd January 2026