

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE029684 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1199622**

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Unaudited Financial Statements**  
**for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023**  
**for**  
**Pepper's- A Safe Place**

Hardings  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Marsh Parade  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 1DU

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023**

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## **Pepper's- A Safe Place**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **Incorporation**

The charitable company was incorporated on 11th July 2022 and commenced trading on the same date.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### **Objectives and aims**

As stated in the charity's constitution, Pepper's- A Safe Place aims to support the mental health and wellbeing of locals in Rutland and Melton Mowbray, bridging the gap between no support and clinical support.

The charity aims to achieve its objectives by:

- Providing two safe venues for adults to connect with one another during drop-in sessions in Melton Mowbray and Rutland.
- Staffing sessions with empathetic and welcoming volunteers, on hand to listen to those in need of support.
- Hosting a range of therapeutic activities including Tai Chi, meditation, gardening and art.
- Keeping our service as accessible as possible, without the need to join waiting lists or pass screening.
- Signposting adults to additional health and community services where needed.
- Listening to the community's feedback.

Our charity is staffed by a team of two staff members, a Development Manager and Melton Centre Manager. Our staff work to support local residents, promoting our service to the most isolated in our communities, building connections with other local groups, developing activities and listening to the needs of the resident population.

Our team of thirty volunteers ensure the smooth running of sessions, providing a listening ear to members, supporting with promotion and fundraising.

Pepper's- A Safe Place continually reviews its objectives and activities with focused attention given to this at trustee meetings every four months. Our trustees assess whether new activities fall in line with objectives and if current sessions are continuing on the right path.

Our trustees pay due regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

## **Pepper's- A Safe Place**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023**

#### **Achievement and performance**

Pepper's- A Safe Place continues to deliver a successful and well received support to locals.

Our main achievements for the public benefit for the period of 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023 were:

- Supporting local residents with their mental health through the provision of social sessions, therapeutic activities and volunteers on hand to listen.

Across Melton and Rutland we have had over 80 individual residents visit our centres, with many coming to regular sessions, finding signposts to support them further and building friendships and support networks.

Our charity runs four drop-in sessions a week, providing a safe hub for locals to share their experiences, meet other locals and to take some time out to de-stress.

Our craft and art sessions have proved popular with sessions running on paper making, felting, weaving, sewing, painting and more. These creative sessions can leave members with a sense of achievement and pride in what they have made. The sessions have boosted members morale, their self-confidence and given many a creative outlet to the emotions they may be battling.

We run Tai Chi sessions in Oakham and meditation at both centres. These offer members an hour to de-compress, calm their minds and the skills to carry this on at home.

The charity also runs gardening sessions. 'Green prescribing' is becoming a popular phenomenon in the world of mental healthcare. We have seen the great benefits being surrounded by nature, planting seeds to look forward to in the future and creating beautiful spaces can have. Many members who haven't had an interest in gardening previously have taken their new skills home to start their own projects and we have been able to develop a vibrant, sensory space to enjoy each week. Pepper's- A Safe Place is very grateful to the team at Oakham Fire Station for allowing us to use their garden and for making our groups feel so welcome.

We are thankful to several private donors and the Community Foundation for the support in funding many of these sessions.

- Having a presence in the local area at events to reach those in need and to encourage locals to talk about their mental health.

We have witnessed a real decline in the mental health of residents since the Covid pandemic began. Many adults seem to be more isolated from their communities and feelings of anxiety have increased. However, we have also seen more locals willing to share their journeys, open up about their struggles and stigma reduced. We hope our community will continue to share and support one another.

- In June 2023 we were awarded an NHS grant to run the Rutland Neighbourhood Mental Health Café. This has allowed us to offer further support in the form of one to one's with trained staff, immediate intervention and action planning with clients. We are grateful to be able to offer this service in Rutland

- Strengthening links with local community groups. Building our network ensures members needing additional support are given useful signposts and the charity is able to better reach those most isolated and offer support.

Pepper's- A Safe Place has expressed its thanks to many organisations, locals and grant bodies for supporting us this year. Our largest grant has been a three year fund from the Lottery of between £40-50,000 annually, a contribution that has greatly aided us in expanding and working towards our objectives.

Recent testimonies from two members:

"It's somewhere I go to weekly. It has become a part of my weekly regime. It's a place to be social, to relax, to be myself. No one judges me for what I am or who I want to be. There is a friendly, almost a family atmosphere but it's kept low key. I have gained some DIY and social skills whilst at Pepper's. I have also been offered volunteer positions through Pepper's amazing contacts in the local community. Pepper's is the one thing that Rutland has lacked for so long so please do support Pepper's. It's a way of securing a safe place to go for those who have troubled times."

## **Pepper's- A Safe Place**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023**

"Pepper's- A Safe Place is a bunch of like-minded, friendly people. It is where you can rest/ chat and just feel good... Coming to Pepper's is what keeps me going and helps me get through the week."

#### **Financial review**

##### **Principal funding sources**

At the end of our financial period up to 30th September 2023 we have total funds of £147,453. £71,506 has been awarded by grant bodies and remains restricted to designated running costs.

Pepper's- A Safe Place provides a reliable and valued service to our local residents. We feel that keeping our doors open, offering consistency, has been vital to our success when many of our service users face long waiting lists, unpredictable, short or infrequent support elsewhere.

Reserves are that part of a charity's unrestricted funds that is freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. We feel it is prudent to keep a maximum of one year and a minimum of six months of our annual budget in reserves. As of 30th September 2023, we have £75,947 in unrestricted funds. £50,000 of these funds have been allocated to running costs from 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024 in the rare event that no additional grants are secured.

Our policy reflects our commitments to run a sustainable and resilient charity. Our charity has a high level of fixed costs with unpredictable funding streams. Based on our own experience we are aware that funding bodies may change their priorities and remit and there are no guarantees for continued support. We are committed to supporting our staff, keeping mission critical work on the road and honouring any contractual agreements, such as leases. Therefore, it is important to us to have appropriate reserves in place to cover any shortfalls and gaps in funding.

We feel this level of reserves will ensure that we can plan and make provision as appropriate to our mission, and that we can continue to honour our commitments to lease agreements, staff and commissioning bodies.

Our reserves are only to be used to cover shortfalls in restricted funding, for essential and unplanned works and emergencies.

Pepper's board of trustees will regularly review this policy and our reserves to ensure proper financial management.

#### **Our vision**

Our charity works with members of our community with a wide range of backgrounds. Some may be battling with ongoing and serious mental health conditions, for example, schizophrenia, paranoia or depression, others may not have a diagnosed mental illness and are reaching out solely for connection with others and to combat loneliness. Pepper's- A Safe Place aims to continue supporting residents, reaching those who are isolated and improving mental health where we can.

Our sessions provide locals with a sense of community, empowerment through newfound skills and an escape from whatever struggles they may experience outside of our centre.

We will continue offering quality activities and will look to increase the number of sessions we offer. As a member led organisation we will listen to feedback at sessions and from events around the community. We will trial sessions and those that are successful and provide a benefit to the public we will endeavour to source funding to cover long term. We are looking at running, music, chair yoga and Melton gardening in the near future.

We will continue to develop our connections with fellow community groups by attending networking events, steering groups and inviting support services into our centres. For example, MADMAC to run money advice sessions and the RCC to run energy bill advice drop-ins.

We hope to continue successfully sourcing funds to run our centres, regularly assessing our future and ensuring our charity's sustainability.

To manage the increase in workloads we will lean on volunteer support and hire additional staff as the need arises. Our Board is made up of members of the community with diverse backgrounds, skills and connections. We will continue to ensure the sustainability of this board, recruiting new trustees to fill skills gap where required.

We are looking forward to the next chapter of Pepper's- A Safe Place and the support we may be able to bring to our communities.

## **Pepper's- A Safe Place**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023**

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Reference and administrative details**

##### **Registered Company number**

CE029684 (England and Wales)

##### **Registered Charity number**

1199622

##### **Registered office**

2A High Street  
Oakham  
LE15 6AL

##### **Trustees**

D Garrity (appointed 11/7/2022)  
M A Miles (appointed 11/7/2022)  
R D Wood (appointed 11/7/2022)  
J E Gilboy (appointed 11/7/2022)  
S C Watts (appointed 11/7/2022)  
L E Jones (appointed 11/7/2022)  
R H C White (appointed 11/7/2022)  
I C McKenzie (appointed 12/5/2023)  
L A Chaplar (appointed 12/5/2023)

##### **Company Secretary**

##### **Independent Examiner**

Timothy McNeal FCA  
Hardings  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Marsh Parade  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 1DU

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
R H C White - Trustee

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Pepper's- A Safe Place**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Pepper's- A Safe Place ('the Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.


#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



Timothy McNeal FCA

Hardings  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Marsh Parade  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 1DU

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

**Pepper's- A Safe Place****Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023**

		<b>Unrestricted fund £</b>	<b>Restricted fund £</b>	<b>Total funds £</b>
<b>Income and endowments from</b>	<b>Notes</b>			
Donations and legacies		106,753	-	106,753
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Grants received		<u>-</u>	<u>152,892</u>	<u>152,892</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>106,753</u>	<u>152,892</u>	<u>259,645</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2</b>	<u>30,806</u>	<u>81,386</u>	<u>112,192</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<u>75,947</u>	<u>71,506</u>	<u>147,453</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>75,947</u>	<u>71,506</u>	<u>147,453</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements



## Pepper's- A Safe Place

### Balance Sheet 30th September 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets	5	2,486	-	2,486
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash at bank		78,280	71,506	149,786
<b>Creditors</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(4,819)	-	(4,819)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>73,461</u>	<u>71,506</u>	<u>144,967</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>75,947</u>	<u>71,506</u>	<u>147,453</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>75,947</u>	<u>71,506</u>	<u>147,453</u>
<b>Funds</b>	7			
Unrestricted funds				75,947
Restricted funds				<u>71,506</u>
<b>Total funds</b>				<u>147,453</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 30th September 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period ended 30th September 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....  
R H C White - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023**

**1. Accounting policies**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

## Pepper's- A Safe Place

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023

#### 2. Raising funds

##### Raising donations and legacies

Support costs

£  
45,263

#### 3. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

Depreciation - owned assets

£  
1,243

#### 4. Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 30th September 2023.

##### Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 30th September 2023.

#### 5. Tangible fixed assets

Computer  
equipment  
£

##### Cost

Additions

3,729

##### Depreciation

Charge for year

1,243

##### Net book value

At 30th September 2023

2,486

#### 6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Social security and other taxes

Other creditors

Accrued expenses

£  
538  
3,261  
1,020  
4,819

## Pepper's- A Safe Place

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023

#### 7. Movement in funds

	Net movement in funds £	At 30/9/23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
General fund	75,947	75,947
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Restricted fund	71,506	71,506
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>147,453</u>	<u>147,453</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	106,753	(30,806)	75,947
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted fund	152,892	(81,386)	71,506
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>259,645</u>	<u>(112,192)</u>	<u>147,453</u>

#### 8. Related party disclosures

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 30th September 2023.

**Pepper's- A Safe Place****Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Period 11th July 2022 to 30th September 2023****£****Income and endowments****Donations and legacies**

Donations	106,753
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**Charitable activities**

Grants	<u>152,892</u>
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<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>259,645</b>
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**Expenditure****Other trading activities**

Activities	6,560
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Wages	<u>60,369</u>
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66,929

**Support costs****Management**

Pensions	1,210
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Rent and utilities	21,219
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Insurance	2,200
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Light and heat	3,685
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Telephone	1,019
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Postage and stationery	1,906
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Sundries	5,410
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Travelling	1,448
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Computer costs	600
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Repairs and renewals	3,145
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Depreciation	<u>1,243</u>
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43,085

**Governance costs**

Accountancy and legal fees	<u>2,178</u>
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<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b><u>112,192</u></b>
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<b>Net income</b>	<b><u><u>147,453</u></u></b>
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