

MERCREAD YOUTH CENTRE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Registered Charity No 1201236

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year, and where appropriate their appointing body, were:

- Mrs Ceri Robley
- Mrs Gemma McFarlane
- Rev Joseph Michael Padfield (resigned 21 November 2024)
- Mrs Carol Trimbee (appointed 21 November 2024)

Governing Document and Constitution

The charity was originally established by Trust Deed as the *Seaford Boys' Club* in 1922. A new constitution was adopted in 2011 with the approval of the Charity Commission. The charity subsequently changed its structure to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered on 5 December 2022.

Charity Address:

Mercread Youth Centre, Mercread Road, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1AB.

Charity Registration Number:

1201236 (formerly 305304 until 5 December 2022).

Appointment of Trustees

Apart from the first charity trustees, all trustees must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment, the trustees have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Objectives

The object of the CIO is to improve the conditions of life for the young people of Seaford and surrounding areas by providing facilities and activities for recreation and other leisure-time occupation in the interests of social welfare.

In pursuing these objectives, the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities and Achievements

This year marked significant progress in delivering our charitable objectives of improving the lives of local young people in Seaford and the surrounding area.

Following the Centre's registration as a new CIO in December 2022, we have continued to strengthen our offer to young people aged 11–16 by providing a safe, welcoming space to socialise, access support, and participate in positive activities that promote well-being and personal development.

Our weekly youth club sessions have been a particular success, growing to regular attendances of over 40 young people. Activities on offer include sports, music, cooking, creative arts (including street art courses), first aid courses, and access to internet facilities and revision space. We also offer a dedicated chill-out area, refreshments, and support, advice, and guidance from trusted Youth Workers.

We have paid particular attention to supporting those facing challenges such as food poverty, with increasing numbers of attendees needing practical help, and we currently support a few children in care. Our work helps reduce feelings of boredom, isolation and stress among local young people, responding directly to feedback that there is little affordable local provision and nowhere safe to see friends.

Financial Accounts

The charity maintains two bank accounts:

- The **Business Account**, used for day-to-day unrestricted activities.
- The **Project Account**, used for income and expenditure restricted to specific activities.

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comply with applicable law.

Reserves Policy

The trustees consider that reserves on both unrestricted and restricted funds should be maintained at no less than three months' expenditure for those funds. As of 31 March 2025, reserves held on material funds exceeded this minimum level, providing a contingency against unforeseen expenditure.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees review risks regularly to ensure the effective management and sustainability of the charity.

Key risks identified include:

- **Financial sustainability:** There is a risk the charity may be unable to fund a comprehensive range of youth work due to limited guaranteed income. This is mitigated by growth in rental income, active fundraising efforts, and securing new grant funding.

- **Safeguarding and welfare:** Ensuring the safety and well-being of young people is paramount. This risk is mitigated through robust safeguarding policies, staff and volunteer training, and appropriate supervision at all activities.
- **Operational and facilities risk:** As the charity operates from an ageing building, there is a risk of maintenance issues disrupting services. This is mitigated through ongoing renovation efforts and planned maintenance schedules.
- **Governance and compliance:** Risk of failing to meet legal or regulatory obligations is mitigated through regular Trustee meetings, clear policies, and compliance with Charity Commission guidance.

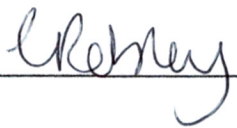
The Trustees remain committed to monitoring these risks and maintaining appropriate plans to manage them effectively.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf:

C. Robley (Chair)

Date: 24.10.25

Signature: 

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the charity's constitution.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which properly present the receipts and payments during the year and the assets and liabilities at the end of the year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Total	Total
RECEIPTS				2025	2024
Donations, Grants & Sponsorship		£1,807	£41,096	£42,903	£49,935
Income from Solar Panels		£2,486		£2,486	£2,712
Rental Income		£30,363		£30,363	£31,320
Interest			£333	£333	£209
Fund Raising Activities		£976		£976	£2,345
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£35,632	£41,429	£77,061	£86,521
PAYMENTS					
Rent		£1,398		£1,398	£937
Utilities	3	£8,545		£8,545	£7,679
Maintenance/Building Improvements		£2,902	£12,388	£15,290	£7,053
Office / IT Equipment		£461		£461	£0
Other Equipment		£3,720		£3,720	£0
Business Insurances		£2,408		£2,408	£1,963
Cleaning		£4,082		£4,082	£4,028
Administration Expenses	4	£8,756	£692	£9,448	£9,776
Centre Manager Wages			£11,625	£11,625	£0
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
Youth Clubs Sessions	5	£5,376	£16,027	£21,403	£18,795
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£37,648	£40,732	£78,380	£58,620
NET (PAYMENTS)/RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR		-£4,783	£3,464	-£1,319	£27,902

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

31 March 2025

	2025	2024
Current Assets		
Bank Current Account	£1,245	£3,241
Bank project Account	£41,587	£41,829
Cash in Hand	£521	£30
Trade Debtors	£330	0
Total Current Assets	£43,683	£45,100
Current Liabilities		
Loans	£0	£0
Prepaid Rental Income	£0	£98
TOTAL	£0	£98
Net Current Assets	£43,683	£45,002
Net Assets	£43,683	£45,002

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. They include all receipts and payments of the charity for the financial year.

1.2 Income Recognition

Income is recognised when received. This includes donations, grants, fundraising receipts, and any other incoming resources.

1.3 Expenditure Recognition

Expenditure is recognised when paid. It is allocated directly to activity headings without apportionment.

1.4 Leasehold Premises

The Club's premises are constructed on land leased from Lewes District Council under a 99-year lease dated 11 November 1987.

1.5 Going Concern

The trustees have assessed the charity's financial position and confirm there are no material uncertainties about its ability to continue operating for at least the next 12 months.

2. Transactions with Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

3. Utilities

	2025	2024
Gas	£4,181	£2,754
Electricity	£4,040	£3,394
Water	£323	£1,531
TOTAL	£8,545	£7,679

4. Administration Expenses

	2025	2024
Printing	£61	£60
Office Stationery	£0	£112
Telephone	£48	£48
Internet	£331	£322
Computer & Software	£80	£175
Legal Fees	£648	0
Consultancy & Professional fees	£2,310	£3,090
General Expenses	£586	£1,309
Subscriptions	£1,401	£731
Health & Safety	£2,901	£2,949
Waste management	£858	£552
Accountancy fees	£120	£293
Marketing	£61	£135
Volunteer Expenses	£44	0
TOTAL	£9,448	£9,776

5. Youth Clubs Expenses

	2025	2024
Youth Workers Gross Wages	£18,521	£17,646
Training Costs	£210	£24
Recruitment expenses	£65	0
Resources	£2,607	£1,125
Total	£21,403	£18,795

6. Designated Funds

Analysis of Designated Funds for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounts	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balances
Volunteer Expenses	£507	£0	£44	(£463)	£0
Youth Clubs Sessions	£15,193	£19,928	£16,027	£0.00	£19,094
Community Rewards	£2,051	£0	£0	(£2,051)	£0
Centre Manager	£7,504	£10,000	£11,625	£3,663	£9,542
Kitchen Renovation	£16,084	£4,505	£12,388	(£7,200)	£1,001
Reserves	£209	£333	£0	£4,000	£4,542
Bike Rack	£0	£663	£648	£0	£15
YSM	£0.00	£6,000	£0	£2,051	£8,051
Total	£41,547	£41,429	£40,731	£0.00	£42,245

Transfers represent reallocations between designated funds.

7. Trustees Expenses

No Trustee, or any person connected with them, have received or are due to receive any remuneration for the year directly or indirectly from the Charity's funds.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Mercread Youth Centre

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Mercread Youth Centre, registered charity number 1201236, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

You have decided that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is appropriate.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission.
- State whether any matters have come to my attention as a result of my examination.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 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 accounts.

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 Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with those records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011have 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.

Additionally:

- The balance of the bank accounts was confirmed by examination of bank statements.
- Income and expenditure were supported by appropriate receipts and correlated to the accounts.

Danielle Barnhurst
Shoreline Accountants Limited
25 Clinton Place
Seaford East Sussex BN25 1NP

Danielle Barnhurst *D Barnhurst*

Date 08/10/2025

