



Annual report 2024

Introduction

The trustees of Feed Fenland present their annual report and accounts for the year ending the 27th June 2024 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Feed Fenland Constitution, and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (SORP FRSSE).

Charitable objects and activities

Feed Fenland's charitable object is:

The relief of poverty and financial hardship amongst people in Fenland and the surrounding areas in such ways as the trustees from time-to-time think fit, in particular but not exclusively, by providing food, hot meals, essential toiletries and household items.

We pursue this object using two different models of food provision. Firstly, we run a soup kitchen-style service in the town of Wisbech. Secondly, we deliver free hot meals to the doors of service users in March. We do not charge for our service or means test our service users. These are the main activities we have undertaken over the past year. We have also held fundraising and awareness-raising activities including bake sales, sponsored bingos, community talks, etc.



When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the guidance on charities for the prevention of relief of poverty for the public benefit. The public benefit of our work is clear: we support people experiencing food poverty and financial hardship six days a week through the provision of free hot meals.

Aims

Feed Fenland's financial year runs from June 28th to June 27th. However our Annual General Meetings are held in Autumn. Our aims are therefore defined partly from June to June, and partly from Autumn to Autumn.

Aims agreed by the board of trustees at the commencement of the financial year 2023-2024 were as follows:

1. To establish ourselves in the town of March;
2. To continue to grow our service in Wisbech and meet demand as it arises;
3. To build and maintain six months of reserve funds.

Aims set at the last AGM held on the 10th November 2023 are as follows:

4. To make progress in securing a permanent indoor venue in Wisbech from which to operate;
5. To continue increasing the number of nights we serve food in Wisbech so that anyone who needs one can receive a free evening meal every night of the week;
6. To build and maintain six months of reserve funds.



Achievements and performance

The year 2023-2024 has been Feed Fenland's first full year as a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). At the beginning of the financial year which commenced on the 28th June 2023, we had just entered our first week of serving in the town of March, one night a week. We were also serving in Wisbech on five nights of the week. As of the end of the financial year on the 27th June 2024, we are serving in March twice a week and in Wisbech six nights a week.

In the course of financial year 2023-2024 we served 28,222 meals in the town of Wisbech to an average of 2,352 a month or 97 a night. Between April and June 2024 we served 9,937 meals, an average of 3,312 a month or 127 a night.

Over financial year 2023-2024 we served 4,592 meals in the town of March to an average of 383 meals a month or 72 a night. There has been a steady increase from an average of 29 meals a night in July 2023 to an average of 84 meals a night in January 2024, since when the number of service users has stabilised.

We have therefore served a total of 32,814 meals over the course of the financial year and are on track to serve in the region of 47,000 meals in the year 2024-2025. This is assuming we change neither the service models we use nor the number of nights we serve.

We have made some progress towards our aims:

1. We are established in the town of March and are reaching a good number of service users twice a week;
2. We now serving six nights a week in Wisbech;



3. At points over the course of the year we have held six months of reserves, but we presently hold reserves approximating 3-4 months;
4. We are in talks with a venue who may be able to offer us an indoor space, although we are no closer to securing the funds required to purchase one;
5. We now serve on six nights of the week in Wisbech, meaning that there is a service providing hot food on all seven nights of the week;
6. As above.

In all, it has been a successful year for Feed Fenland in which we have made good progress.

Financial review

Accounts

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £20,819, almost half of which (£9,199) was raised through fundraising events. There is now a dedicated fundraising working group whose role is to plan more such events. No restricted donations have been received this year.

Payments totalled £18,231. More than one third of this (£6,986) is accounted for by the cost of ingredients, which is to be expected. More than one fifth (£3,924) was in respect of new equipment, which (it can be hoped) will not be replicated in future years. More than one quarter of all payments (£4,805) were in respect of disposable equipment such as food boxes. It is clear that sourcing a sponsor or donor of disposables would substantially reduce Feed Fenland's outgoings.

The net result for the year 2023-2024 was an excess of receipts over payments of £2,589. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at



the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward into 2024-2025 will be £5,403.

It should be borne in mind that although we ran an annual surplus this year, between April and June 2024 we ran a substantial deficit of £1,996, or £665 a month. We have a goal of maintaining 6 months of reserve funds at all times, but as our outgoings have ballooned our reserves have not only failed to keep pace, but have reduced overall. 6 months' reserves would equate to £9,114 on our 2023-2024 average monthly expenditure. We are holding £5,403, or between 3 and 4 months of reserves. For the year 2024-2025, it will be necessary to cut spending, increase fundraising, or both.

Budget

Points to note on the budget:

1. The budget has been written on the assumption that equipment costs will stabilise now that we have a good stock of pots, pans and other equipment.
2. We have also projected a much higher income from businesses and societies than previously. This is partly due to encouraging performance in recent months in which we have received in the region of £575 a month from businesses and societies (equivalent to £6,900 a year). It is also partly due to our pending membership of Business Network International which we project will raise a further £552 a month or £5,520 from the commencement of our membership in August 2024 to year end in June 2025. If either this projection or the assumption set out at point #1 is incorrect, it is likely that we will run a deficit in 2024-2025.



3. The projection of £12,000 for fundraising events is quite optimistic, but is in line with the fundraising working group's own internal target of £10,000 for March-December 2024.
4. Projected expenditure on disposable equipment and ingredients is very high. In the year 2023-2024 we held a total of 356 serves. We spent £4,805 on disposables or £13.50 a serve and £6,986 on ingredients or £19.62 a serve. However as the number of service users has increased these costs have increased substantially in recent months. We expect to hold 405 serves in the year 2024-2025. We project expenditure for disposables at £10,560 or £26.07 a serve and for ingredients at £11,148 or £27.53 a serve. These outgoings streams account for three quarters of our budget for the year 2024-2025.

The result is that we are required to work harder than ever on fundraising just to break even. Even on that basis we are not expecting to rebuild the 6-month surplus which we had targeted for ourselves. Our projections, including the above assumptions at points #1 and #2, result in a miniscule surplus of £168.

The view of the board of trustees is that the solution to this is to cut expenditure as far as possible. Our suggestions are as follows:

1. Any purchases of new equipment should be considered carefully before being approved. No member should purchase new equipment without the agreement of a trustee. Where possible, trustees should involve the treasurer in decision making surrounding the purchase of new equipment.
2. A sponsor or donor of disposable equipment should be sought as a priority. There are many companies which dispose of large volumes of disposable boxes or cutlery for a variety of reasons, and who may be willing to donate these or sell them at a reduced rate.



3. We hold donation days regularly in which supermarket customers are flyered to donate food. We also receive regular food donations from local and national businesses. These avenues need to be pursued and developed as far as possible. It is clear that when things are working well and we have well stocked shelves and freezers, it is possible to spend far less than £27.53 per serve on ingredients.
4. Some thought needs to be given as to whether there are specific cooks who may be consistently overspending, how they can be identified, and whether it would be productive to discuss strategies with them to keep their expenditure down.
5. Feed Fenland March needs to be able to contribute to the charity-wide fundraising efforts. Members of Feed Fenland March should be encouraged to pursue fundraising opportunities in that town, or to join the fundraising working group in planning events. It is not sustainable for all fundraising to be driven by one half of the charity.

Structure, governance and management

The board of trustees is responsible for overseeing governance within Feed Fenland and ensuring it complies with the law, regulation, and guidance. Trustees are elected from and by the charity members. Operational and strategic decision making falls to the members while decision making concerning finances, compliance, and safety falls to the trustees.

Both trustees and members meet regularly and take decisions well. Attendance at member meetings is low (usually less than 20%). This may not be unexpected for a charity with an open membership whose members often volunteer for 1 or fewer hours a week.



Feed Fenland also has elected officers who are responsible for discreet areas of work such as stock control, fundraising or social media. Officers are generally working very well and driving their areas of work forward.



Reference and administrative details

Feed Fenland's registered office address is 29 Kooreman Avenue, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 3HY. We operate in Wisbech and March in Fenland, Cambridgeshire.

Feed Fenland is a registered CIO with charity number 1203779. The trustees are:

George Broughton
Kristi Broughton
Mitchell Brownson
Aleksandra Duda-Szelag
Kristine Hobbs
Robert Shippey
Eamonn Walsh

Approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by

Signed	Signed
 _____ Mitchell Lee Brownson Treasurer Date: <u>03/07/24</u>	 _____ George Patrick Broughton Trustee Date: <u>03.07.24</u>

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Feed Fenland

1203779

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

28.06.2023

To

27.06.24

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					
Balance carried over from pre-incorporation	2,815	-	-	2,815	-
Donations from the public	3,313	-	-	3,313	-
Donations from businesses, societies, etc.	2,991	-	-	2,991	-
Fundraising events (bingos, fun runs, etc.)	14,514	-	-	14,514	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	23,633	-	-	23,633	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,633	-	-	23,633	-
A3 Payments					
Disposables (cutlery, food containers, etc.)	4,805	-	-	4,805	-
Equipment (pots, aprons, etc.)	3,924	-	-	3,924	-
Fundraising costs	973	-	-	973	-
Ingredients	6,986	-	-	6,986	-
Room hire	252	-	-	252	-
Training	1,014	-	-	1,014	-
Insurance	276	-	-	276	-
Sub total	18,231	-	-	18,231	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	18,231	-	-	18,231	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,403	-	-	5,403	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Balance B/D	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	5,403	-	-	5,403	-

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	Bank balance	5,403	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,403	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			GEORGE PATRICK BROUGHTON	03.07.24
			MITCHELL LEE BROWNSON	03.07.24

NOTES