

# DORA BROWN

England & Wales · Charity number 1205728

## Details

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Other names	BROWN SISTERS CIC
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2023-11-15
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	Dora Brown 19 Tower Street Ipswich IP1 3BE
Phone	07751232244
Email	<a href="mailto:dora@dorabrown.com">dora@dorabrown.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.dorabrown.com">www.dorabrown.com</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN NEED BY REASON OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, POVERTY AND MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS THROUGH:A) PROVIDING HOME ESSENTIALS, TOILETRIES AND FURNITURE; B) PROVIDING PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES INCLUDING CLEANING AND DECLUTTERING;C) IN SUCH OTHER WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES MAY DETERMINE.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

## Geography

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- Throughout England

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-11-30	£65,995	£118,752	-	-
2024-11-30	£298,624	£102,662	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Dr James Douglas Hathorn</b>	Chair	2023-11-15
Amy Nikita Long		2026-03-17
Anne Ellen Marie Denny		2026-03-17
Emma Louise Lloyd		2026-03-17
Joanne McGurk		2026-03-17
Samantha Garner Ihenacho		2023-11-15
Vernon Blackmore		2023-11-15

**DORA BROWN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1205728

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# Accounts

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**Dora Brown**

Unaudited Financial Statements  
**for the year ended 30 November 2025**

**Charity number: 1205728**

Financial statements for Dora Brown  
for the year ended 30 November 2025

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# Dora Brown

## Trustees Annual Report

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited independently examined accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2025.

## Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Dora Brown
Charity registration number	1205728
Principal office	19 Tower Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3BE

## Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and at the date of approval were as follows:

J Hathorn (Chair)  
V Blackmore  
S Ihenacho  
V Nayar (Resigned 16/4/25)  
R Gander (Resigned 7/3/25)  
S Naylor (Resigned 7/3/25)  
T Turnbull (Resigned 4/1/25)

## Director

Jo Revett

## Bank

The Co-operative Bank  
1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M4 4BE

## Independent examiner

Louise Alexander, ACMA  
3 Upper High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3NE

## **Objectives and activities**

### Dora's Vision

For all children and families to live in safe, comfortable homes

### Dora's Mission

To transform homes for families in crisis with our team of volunteers

### Dora's Values

- Kindness
- Respect
- Trust
- Community
- Hope

*Act with kindness and respect, build trust and community, give hope*

Dora Brown's principal objective is to provide support to families with children in crisis by transforming homes, free-of-charge; homes which have broken down because of furniture and hygiene poverty and domestic neglect.

Dora Brown relieves the needs of families in living crisis due to poverty or financial hardship, mental and physical health conditions and challenging life circumstances, by transforming their homes. We remove clutter and rubbish, deep clean, organise belongings, put in place systems for cleaning and self care, and provide furniture and essential items for the home. Crucially we make sure every family member has a clean, cosy bed and bedding. Through this work we aim to give families a fresh start in their home and to show children that there is a different way to live, acting as a cycle breaker. We prioritise homes in which Child Protection Plans hinge on the state of the home, as well as the homes of young carers and where a new baby is due to arrive. We work to keep children living in the home and to prevent evictions. The transformation of the home has a knock on impact on the mental and physical health and wellbeing of families we support. We treat every family and home with respect, sensitivity and confidentiality. We never judge. No matter how bad people feel their home or situation is, we're here to help.

## **Public benefit**

Within the parameters set by its constitution, Dora Brown provides public benefit by relieving the needs of people in need by reason of financial hardship, poverty and mental health conditions and their dependents through providing home essentials, toiletries and furniture, providing practical assistance services including cleaning and decluttering, and such other ways as the Trustees may determine.

## **Achievements and performance**

Our priorities for 24/25 have been to continue to deliver our person-centred services supporting local families in need, to build our capacity in order to maximise provision in our current geographical locations, to develop a 3 year strategy and continue to develop infrastructure for growth and sustainability. We are always looking at how we can improve the quality and efficiency of our service and are hugely proud of the achievements of 24/25.

### **Main achievements in 24/25**

- 33 families helped (81 adults and 45 children)
- 82 shifts delivered in family homes
- 62 referrals/initial enquiries received
- 38 initial family home visits made
- 1910 volunteer hours working in family homes
- 13 corporate volunteering shifts took place
- Recruited a second Project Manager to work with families
- Held two family feedback groups where families attended to give feedback on our service, meet each other and share experiences, plus numerous individual home feedback visits
- Continued to have steady volunteer recruitment throughout the year, with excellent volunteer retention
- Held volunteer events including a festive Suffolk MIND Mental Health Toolkit training workshop and our summer social.
- Built and strengthened links with new and existing referral partners
- Undertook a range of training including First Aid for staff and volunteers and Hoarding Disorder and Chronic Disorganisation training for staff
- Held our first strategy day and created our Vision and Values
- Launched a recruitment campaign for new trustees
- Had a successful year of income generation including multiple successful grant funding applications, donations from individuals, local community groups and businesses and fundraising events including a NSM sample sale, the Woolpack quiz and Slow Living Market
- Honoured to be chosen as one of the Ipswich Mayor's charities of the year, and one of the charities supported by the Ipswich Minster Christmas Tree Festival
- Continued to receive valuable in kind support from local businesses, for example donated lunches and cakes for volunteers, donations of cleaning kit and bedding items, discounted container rent
- Continued to receive amazing donations of secondhand furniture, white goods and home items saved from landfill and many new items purchased from our Amazon wishlist for our families
- Over 50 bags of laundry washed, dried and returned to families
- Over 400 bedding items and over 70 items of furniture and white goods given to families
- Continued to grow our social media presence and followers - we hit 3000+ followers this year

## **What our families say**

'The impact of their help on my family has been enormous. We all take more pride in our home and find it much easier to keep up with domestic chores and cleaning now we are not feeling like we are at the bottom of a mountain. My children have friends over, as do I, and we can relax as a family or share a meal together in one space, rather than retreating to separate islands of space. I do not live with the constant anxiety that someone will drop by unexpectedly and judge me negatively on the state of the house, or suggest that it is not fit for my children. The work is hard and physical but they gave 100% and got stuck in with enthusiasm for making someone else's life better.'

'The Dora Brown team and volunteers were truly a joy to work with. The process was overwhelming at times, and letting strangers through the doors to see the 'shame' of how we had been living was scary, but every single one was so kind and positive, I felt no judgement. They gave me support when I was feeling overwhelmed making decisions about what should stay and what to let go of, they shared laughs with me and they made me feel like I deserved a clean and safe, decluttered home, instead of the shame and self-recrimination I had been feeling.'

'Life can be more of a routine now and items have places where they 'live'. It's a huge change for me and my granddaughter and a massive relief! I am of course hugely grateful for this support'

'They gave me my confidence back. They did way more than I was expecting and were not judgmental which I was expecting them to be. Thank you so much, you have changed our lives.'

'Feeling so refreshed, like so much weight has been lifted, thank you all so much for helping, [the children] were so happy and screamed with excitement'

## **What our referral partners say**

'The family now have a tidy and well organised home and garden which is safe, and which they can all enjoy. This seemed impossible without the help of Dora Brown. The younger members of the family now have more space to play. The youngest child loves to be outside in the garden.'

'We are no longer concerned that the children will be living in an environment that harms their development and understanding of what a safe and loving home should look like. We are hopeful they will not feel worried or embarrassed to bring friends or family over and increase socialising and connection with their family and friends, which is all good for their emotional wellbeing.'

'For this family, having the support of Dora during a really challenging time through drug recovery has enabled one less situational environment stressor to contend with. They have been able to remain focused on getting back to a healthy place, for the children to then have a present parent physically and emotionally.'

## **What our volunteers say**

'It is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. And, on occasion, amongst the most challenging. A tangible sense of making a difference to the lives of the families, especially the

children. And the people; those whose homes we 'invade' and the volunteers who work alongside each other,; it's so interesting to learn what brings us all together, exchanging experiences, humour, stories and, at times, tears.'

'My best Dora moment, there are always lots of moments to pick from, but the winner has to be giving a little girl a bedroom, she was so pleased and proud of it.'

'I keep coming back because [I value] being with and part of a team, and we know we are doing such meaningful work'

'The feeling you get after finishing a day volunteering; worn out but absolutely buzzing knowing how much of a difference was made'

## **Financial review**

Dora Brown's total income for 24/25 was £65,995 (2024: £298,624), of which £51,052 was restricted income (2024: £109,136). Total expenditure was £118,752 (2024: £102,662) of which £80,108 was restricted (2024: £87,462). Restricted funds of £30,343 were brought forward at 30/11/24 were largely spent on projects during 24/25, resulting in restricted funds of £1,378 at 30/11/25.

The difference in the two financial years is due to the legacy of £149,331.73 which was received days before the end of the previous financial year. This legacy enabled the charity to support an unrestricted deficit of £23,701 (2024: surplus of £168,948) and to spend money on the charity's development. £21,664 of its £80,000 designated development fund were spend in 25/26 (see note 13, 2024: £0), meaning the fund stood at £58,336 at the year end.

## **Reserves policy**

Dora Brown's reserves policy has been set with due consideration to the external environment and the performance of current operations. The policy requires that reserves be maintained at a level to ensure continuity of Dora Brown's core service, and recognises that the principal source of funding (aside from the legacy donation received in 2024) is from trusts and grants, which are under pressure nationally and in high demand.

We aim to maintain free reserves (unrestricted reserves which are not held in fixed assets or designated funds) at a level which equates to a minimum of six months and a maximum of 12 months of running costs and ensures that there are sufficient resources to:

- To enable Dora Brown to continue to deliver its core activities in the event of a shortfall in usual income streams
- To meet short term cashflow requirements
- To provide funds to protect Dora Brown against unforeseen adverse circumstances, including wind down costs

The free reserves held at 30th November 2025 were £82,567 (2024: £107,000). This level of reserves is largely due to a legacy donation of £149,331.73, which was transferred to Dora Brown in November 2024. With total expenditure of £111,824 (excluding donations in kind, 2024: £102,662), this equates to 9 months' expenditure (2024: 12 months).

Following the receipt of the legacy donation, a Development fund of £80,000 was designated by the trustees in order to grow the capacity of Dora Brown and to invest in the future sustainability and resilience of the charity. In 24/25 this Development fund has begun to be used to bring in support to consolidate and strengthen infrastructure/central functions, to develop Dora's strategy for growth and sustainability over the short, medium and long term.

The reserves policy is reviewed annually and levels of reserves are monitored and reviewed at Trustee meetings and by the Director throughout the year.

### **Plans for future periods**

- Continue to deliver our high quality service to local families in need and to continue to enhance the service to meet the needs of the beneficiaries
- Complete Trustee recruitment to increase the number of Trustees and the diversity on the board, bring in skills and expertise, and to ensure succession planning is in place
- Finalise Dora's strategy for the next three years focussing on growth and sustainability
- Develop fundraising strategy and continue to meet income targets
- Explore next steps towards expanding provision to a second geographical area within the county
- Develop our volunteer offer to maximise recruitment and retention
- Continue to develop referral partnerships, and signposting partnerships to access to further support for our families
- Continue to strengthen infrastructure for growth and sustainability, including ensuring policies and procedures which reflect legislation and best practice
- Continue to develop communications and marketing
- Continue to explore innovation and best practice and further develop partnerships and collaborative working
- Deliver training and professional development opportunities for staff and Trustees

## **Structure, governance and management**

Dora Brown is a charitable incorporated organisation (“CIO”) and a registered charity in effect from 15 November 2023 (charity number 1205728). Dora Brown's activities are governed by its Constitution last amended and approved on 2 May 2025, which it sets out the nature and limitations of the charity's work.

### **Trustees**

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The current Board of Trustees and the changes which have occurred since 30 November 2024 are as stated in the reference and administration details of this document. Approximately three/four Trustee meetings are held annually.

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees. Induction is carried out by the Chair and Director. A Trustee Information Pack provides information about Dora Brown and the roles and responsibilities of its trustees. A trustee may be appointed/elected to the Chair of Trustees role for a maximum of two terms of three years. There must be at least three charity Trustees. The maximum number of charity Trustees is 12.

We maintain a Register of Interests for all trustees, which is reviewed annually. Information on all related party transactions is recorded and disclosed in the annual accounts.

At the time of writing trustee recruitment is ongoing, with new trustees expected to be appointed in the Spring/Summer of 2026.

### **Management and staffing**

At 30 November 2025 Dora Brown employed five part-time staff. The Head of Development role was vacant.

The Trustees delegate the responsibility for the delivery of strategy and operations to the Director. The day-to-day operations of the charity are the responsibility of the Director and Head of Projects, supported by the Office Project Manager and Volunteer & Social Media Manager. The Head of Development is responsible for income generation and sponsorship.

At 30 November 2025 Dora's staffing levels (excluding vacant Head of Development post) were equivalent to 2 full time employees working a 40 hour week.

The Chair of Trustees and Director communicate regularly to share information and consider important issues arising between board meetings. The Director holds a team meeting of all the paid staff every 4 - 6 weeks to deal with operational matters.

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers are an essential part of Dora Brown. We have a team of over 80 amazing volunteers who are able to give their time flexibly to support Dora's families. Some volunteers do a shift in family homes most weeks, others fortnightly, monthly or a few times a year. Volunteers also support Dora's fundraising events and other fundraising activities. Volunteer recruitment is steady with enquiries each week and new volunteers doing their first shift every month. Corporate volunteering has continued successfully over the 2024/2025 financial year with 13 corporate volunteering shifts taking place.

We are proud to say that from 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025 1910 hours of volunteer time in family homes was recorded.

## **Risk management**

The major risks to which Dora Brown is exposed have been assessed, in particular those related to the operations and finance. Systems are in place to manage any identified major risks, which are subject to regular review at the trustee meetings and by the Director.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Hathorn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J Hathorn (Chair) Trustee

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DORA BROWN

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dora Brown for the year ended 30 November 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account), Balance Sheet and related notes.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO, 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 CIO's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the 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 Company as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.
- (3) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

*Louise Alexander*

**Louise Alexander, ACMA**

3 Upper High Street  
Ipswich IP1 3NE

Date: 10th April 2026

## DORA BROWN

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
<i>Donations &amp; legacies</i>	3	14,838	48,052	62,890	184,148	109,136	293,284
<i>Charitable activities</i>	4	-	3,000	3,000	-	5,340	5,340
<i>Investment income</i>		105	-	105	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>14,943</u>	<u>51,052</u>	<u>65,995</u>	<u>184,148</u>	<u>114,476</u>	<u>298,624</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
<i>Raising funds</i>		-	-	-	435	-	435
<i>Charitable activities</i>		38,644	80,108	118,752	14,765	87,462	102,227
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	5	<u>38,644</u>	<u>80,108</u>	<u>118,752</u>	<u>15,200</u>	<u>87,462</u>	<u>102,662</u>
<b>Net (Expenditure)/Income for the year</b>		<u>(23,701)</u>	<u>(29,056)</u>	<u>(52,757)</u>	<u>168,948</u>	<u>27,014</u>	<u>195,962</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward		<u>188,313</u>	<u>30,434</u>	<u>218,747</u>	<u>19,365</u>	<u>3,420</u>	<u>22,785</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>164,612</u>	<u>1,378</u>	<u>165,990</u>	<u>188,313</u>	<u>30,434</u>	<u>218,747</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year and all income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The accompanying notes on pages 12 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# DORA BROWN

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2025

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	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	9		2,045		1,313
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	10	154		953	
Cash at bank and in hand		169,899		221,698	
		<u>170,053</u>		<u>222,651</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors falling due within one year	11	<u>(6,108)</u>		<u>(5,217)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>163,945</u>		<u>217,434</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>165,990</u>		<u>218,747</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>	13				
Unrestricted funds			106,276		108,313
Designated funds			58,336		80,000
Restricted funds			<u>1,378</u>		<u>30,434</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u>165,990</u>		<u>218,747</u>

The members acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 17th March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

*James Hathorn*

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The accompanying notes on pages 12 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# DORA BROWN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

### 1 Accounting Policies

#### a) Basis of preparation

The charitable incorporated organisation is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the charity has prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Finance Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) published on July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below:

#### b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of going concern is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable incorporated organisation to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a year of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. In particular, the trustees have considered the charitable incorporated organisation's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on fee income. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

#### c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income and donations are accounted for on an accruals basis. All income in the Statement of Financial Activities is shown gross of the associated costs and is accounted for where there is entitlement to the income, it is probable that the benefits associated with it will flow to the charity and it can be reliably measured. Income from charitable activities is recognised as it is earned. Where amounts are billed in advance of the activity being carried out, the income is deferred.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

#### d) Resources expended

All expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Wherever possible, costs are allocated directly to the appropriate activity; other overhead, support and governance costs common to all activities are apportioned between those activities based on their relative output.

Expenditure incurred in connection with the specific objects of the charity is included under the heading 'Charitable activities'.

The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

#### e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets acquired for continuing use by the charity costing more than £500 are initially capitalised at cost and measured subsequently at cost less depreciation and any impairment losses. Depreciation of tangible fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost or valuation less any residual value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Computer & Office Equipment	- four years straight line
Fixtures & Fittings	- four years straight line

#### f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

#### g) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

#### h) Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity and have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

#### i) Taxation

The Charity is an exempt approved charity in accordance with the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

# DORA BROWN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the year in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that year, or in the year of the revision and future years if the revision affects both current and future years.

The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are outlined below.

### 3 Donations & legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Brandeston Parochial Church Coun	150		150		-	-
Ipswich Town Football Club	556		556		-	-
Woodbridge Lions	400		400		-	-
Ipswich & Kesgrave Bridge Club	360		360		-	-
Ipswich Borough Council		3,000	3,000		-	-
Tesco Stronger Starts		500	500		-	-
Benefact Group	1,000		1,000		-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation		11,500	11,500		24,620	24,620
Suffolk County Council		3,710	3,710		5,160	5,160
500 Suffolk Reasons		550	550		800	800
Felixstowe Lions		500	500		864	864
The KFC Foundation		3,000	3,000		3,000	3,000
East Suffolk Council		2,000	2,000		2,000	2,000
The Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement		16,000	16,000		-	-
The Seckford Foundation	1,047		1,047	1,712		1,712
Individual donations	10,225	364	10,589	10,911		10,911
Slow Living Market	1,100		1,100	3,149		3,149
Donations in kind		6,928	6,928		6,608	6,608
The Tudwick Foundation			-		3,000	3,000
Co-operative Bank			-		1,000	1,000
Felixstowe Town Council			-		1,800	1,800
The Woodward Charitable Trust			-	1,750	-	1,750
Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement			-		3,000	3,000
Woodbridge Deben Rotary Club			-		200	200
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust			-		9,649	9,649
The National Lottery Community Fund			-		20,000	20,000
Asda Foundation			-		1,314	1,314
Woodbridge Town Council			-		3,000	3,000
St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust			-		6,000	6,000
The 7 Stars Foundation			-		2,500	2,500
The Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement			-		14,621	14,621
Felixstowe Community Choir			-	500		500
The Moose on the Hill			-	500		500
Triangle Church Ipswich			-	500		500
The Woodbridge Shufflers			-	3,274		3,274
Upbeat Grundisburgh Choir			-	1,500		1,500
Legacy of the Estate of Philip Tricker			-	149,332		149,332
Crowdfunding			-	11,020		11,020
	<u>14,838</u>	<u>48,052</u>	<u>56,924</u>	<u>184,148</u>	<u>109,136</u>	<u>293,284</u>

# DORA BROWN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

### 4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Brames Relief in Need Charity			-		450	450
The Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement			-		1,980	1,980
Suffolk Community Foundation		3,000	3,000		-	-
Rotary Club of Ipswich East			-		930	930
Suffolk County Council			-		1,680	1,680
John Dorking Charity			-		300	300
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,340</u>	<u>5,340</u>

### 5 Expenditure on emergency transformations

	Governance 2025 £	Charitable Activities 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Governance 2024 £	Charitable Activities 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Raising funds					435	435
Charitable activities:						
Project delivery		38,933	38,933		30,356	30,356
Staff salaries		58,695	58,695		60,175	60,175
Support costs	2,530	18,594	21,124	2,395	9,301	11,696
	<u>2,530</u>	<u>116,222</u>	<u>118,752</u>	<u>2,395</u>	<u>100,267</u>	<u>102,662</u>

### 6 Support costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Rent & rates	3,189	3,522
Storage	3,744	3,744
Accounting & Independent Examination	2,530	2,395
Insurance	1,216	639
Strategy consulting	4,118	-
Staff costs including training	1,657	182
IT costs	1,080	651
Phone & internet	1,920	-
Depreciation	783	437
General Administration	887	126
	<u>21,124</u>	<u>11,696</u>

The Independent Examiner's remuneration was a fee of £950, comprising £600 for the Independent Examination (2024: £600), £350 for preparing of the financial statements (2024: £350) and £375 for help with preparing the following year's budget (2024: £0).

### 7 Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries		
Wages and salaries	57,985	59,122
Pension costs	710	1,053
	<u>58,695</u>	<u>60,175</u>

The average number of staff employed during the year was 6 (2024:7).

The Director is the sole key management personnel. The total employee benefits of the Key Management Personnel was £16,288 (2024: £14,826).

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

### 8 Trustees

No benefits were paid to trustees to trustees during the year. The insurance included Trustee Indemnity Insurance.

# DORA BROWN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

### 9 Fixed Assets

	<b>Fixtures &amp; Fittings</b>	<b>Computer &amp; Office</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 30 November 2024	344	1,667	2,011
Additions	435	1,080	1,515
<b>At 30 November 2025</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>3,526</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 30 November 2024	94	604	698
Charge for year	96	687	783
<b>At 30 November 2025</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>1,481</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 30 November 2024	250	1,063	1,313
<b>At 30 November 2025</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>2,045</b>

### 10 Debtors

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepayments	154	-
Other Debtors	-	953
	<b>154</b>	<b>953</b>

Trade debtors disclosed above are classified as loans and receivables and are therefore measured at amortised cost.

### 11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade Creditors	388	-
Taxes and social security costs	56	27
Accruals	950	950
Other creditors	4,714	4,240
	<b>6,108</b>	<b>5,217</b>

### 12 Related Party Transactions

There have been no other related party transactions in the year that require disclosure.

## DORA BROWN

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

#### 13 Movement in funds

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfer from Unrestricted Fund	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Ipswich Borough Council	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Tesco Stronger Starts	-	500	(500)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Suffolk County Council	-	3,710	(2,680)	-	1,030
500 Suffolk Reasons	584	550	(980)	-	154
Felixstowe Lions	432	500	(864)	-	68
The KFC Foundation	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
East Suffolk Council	2,000	2,000	(4,000)	-	-
Restricted donations from individuals	-	364	(364)	-	-
LD Rope Third Charitable Settlement	-	16,000	(16,000)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation	704	-	(704)	-	-
Suffolk County Council	1,050	-	(1,050)	-	-
Suffolk County Council	1,500	-	(1,500)	-	-
Suffolk County Council	360	-	(360)	-	-
Felixstowe Town Council	550	-	(550)	-	-
Woodbridge Deben Rotary	56	-	(56)	-	-
Suffolk County Council	264	-	(264)	-	-
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust	4,120	-	(4,120)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	6,397	-	(6,397)	-	-
Asda Foundation	1,314	-	(1,314)	-	-
Woodbridge Town Council	2,640	-	(2,640)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation	2,000	-	(1,874)	-	126
St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust	2,283	-	(2,283)	-	-
Suffolk County Council	1,680	-	(1,680)	-	-
The 7 Stars Foundation	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
Donations in kind	-	6,928	(6,928)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>30,434</b>	<b>51,052</b>	<b>(80,108)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,378</b>
Unrestricted funds	108,313	14,943	(16,980)	-	106,276
Designated funds	80,000	-	(21,664)	-	58,336
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>218,747</b>	<b>65,995</b>	<b>(118,752)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>165,990</b>

Restricted funds for 24/25 were made up of the following:

£3,000 was received from Ipswich Borough Council for transforming homes in South East Ipswich.

£500 was received from the Tesco Stronger Starts programme for items for families' homes.

£7,500 was received from Suffolk Community Foundation for household support

Suffolk Community Foundation awarded £4,000 from its Stand Up For Suffolk fund for transforming homes

Suffolk County Council granted £3,710 for waste removal in St Margarets & St Johns areas of Ipswich.

500 Suffolk Reasons granted £550 for furniture, £584 was brought forward from their 23/24 donation for £800.

£500 was received from Felixstowe Lions towards the rent of our containers.

£3,000 was received from the KFC Foundation towards project costs including salaries

£2,000 was received from East Suffolk for bedroom furniture and white goods

One donor gave £364 for bunk beds

LD Rope Third Charitable Settlement granted £16,000 towards salaries

£3,000 was received from Suffolk Community Foundation for 6 families in the Gainsborough area.

Donations in kind of £6,928 were made from Contain-It for discounted use of their container (£2,880) and for volunteer lunches and cakes from Two Magpies, Chestnut & Rose and Applaud Café (£4,048).

## DORA BROWN

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

#### 13 Movement in funds for the previous year

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfer from Unrestricted Fund £	Carried Forward £
Ipswich Borough Council	3,030		(3,030)	-	-
Felixstowe Town Council	140		(140)	-	-
Flagship Housing	250		(250)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation		4,725	(4,725)	-	-
The Tudwick Foundation		3,000	(3,000)	-	-
500 Suffolk Reasons		800	(216)	-	584
Felixstowe Lions		864	(432)	-	432
East Suffolk Council		2,000	-	-	2,000
Suffolk Community Foundation		2,100	(2,100)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation		2,100	(2,100)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation		3,695	(2,991)	-	704
Co-operative Bank		1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Suffolk County Council		1,800	(750)	-	1,050
Suffolk County Council		1,500	-	-	1,500
Suffolk County Council		360	-	-	360
Felixstowe Town Council		1,800	(1,250)	-	550
Suffolk Community Foundation		10,000	(10,000)	-	-
The Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement		3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Woodbridge Deben Rotary	-	200	(144)	-	56
Suffolk County Council		1,500	(1,236)	-	264
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust	-	9,649	(5,529)	-	4,120
The National Lottery Community Fund		20,000	(13,603)	-	6,397
The KFC Foundation		3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Asda Foundation		1,314	-	-	1,314
Woodbridge Town Council		3,000	(360)	-	2,640
Suffolk Community Foundation		2,000	-	-	2,000
Brames Relief in Need Charity		450	(450)	-	-
The Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement		1,980	(1,980)	-	-
St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust		6,000	(3,717)	-	2,283
Rotary Club of Ipswich East		930	(930)	-	-
Contain-It		2,880	(2,880)	-	-
Two Magpies, Chestnut & Rose and Applaud		3,728	(3,728)	-	-
Suffolk County Council		1,680	-	-	1,680
The 7 Stars Foundation		2,500	-	-	2,500
John Dorkin Charity		300	(300)	-	-
The Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement		14,621	(14,621)	-	-
Donations in kind		6,608	(6,608)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>3,420</b>	<b>114,476</b>	<b>(87,462)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,434</b>
Unrestricted funds	19,365	184,148	(15,200)	(80,000)	108,313
Designated funds	-	-	-	80,000	80,000
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>22,785</b>	<b>298,624</b>	<b>(102,662)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>218,747</b>

Restricted funds for the previous were made up of the following:

£3,030 was received from the North West Area Committee of Ipswich Borough Council to support families in North West Ipswich.

£140 was brought forward from a £1,200 grant from Felixstowe Town Council.

£250 was received on 31/10/23 by Brown Sisters CIC from Flagship Housing.

£4,725 was received from Suffolk Community Foundation's Suffolk Giving Fund for Project Manager salaries.

£3,000 was received from The Tudwick Foundation for Project Manager salaries.

£864 was received from the Felixstowe Lions for container rent.

£2,000 was received from East Suffolk Council to support families in East Suffolk.

£2,100 was received from the Pear Family Fund via Suffolk Community Foundation for Project Manager salaries.

£2,100 was received from the E&J Legacy Fund via Suffolk Community Foundation for Project Manager salaries.

(continues on next page)

# DORA BROWN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

Restricted funds for the previous year contained (continued):

£3,695 was received from the Co-Op Community Cares Fund via Suffolk Community Foundation for volunteer growth and engagement within the community.

£1,000 was received from the Co-Operative Bank Customer Fund for the purchase of staff laptops.

£1,800 was received from Suffolk County Council Locality Grants for waste removal and project costs for families living in the Priory Heath, Bridge and St Helens areas of Ipswich.

£1,500 was received from Suffolk County Council Locality Grants for waste removal and project costs for families living in the Chantry area of Ipswich.

£1,800 was received from Felixstowe Town Council's Occasional Grants Fund for supporting Felixstowe families.

£10,000 was received from the Household Support 4 Fund via Suffolk Community Foundation to support those in financial hardship with significantly rising living costs, essentials links to energy e.g. beds and bedding and wider essentials.

£3,000 was received from The Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement for core costs.

£200 from Woodbridge Deben Rotary was received for supporting families in Woodbridge and surrounding areas.

£1,500 was received from Suffolk County Council Locality Grants for waste removal and project costs for families living in the Chantry area of Ipswich.

£20,000 was received from the National Lottery Community Fund for core costs including staff salaries.

£3,000 was received from The KFC Foundation for project costs.

£1,314 was received from the Asda Foundation for project costs.

£3,000 was received from Woodbridge Town Council for supporting families in Woodbridge.

£2,000 was received from the Port Community Grantmaking Programme via Suffolk Community Foundation for supporting Felixstowe families.

£1,980 was received from Rope Trust for project costs for two specific families.

£6,000 was received from the St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust to support families in Ipswich.

£930 was received from the Rotary Club of Ipswich East for project costs for a specific family.

Contain-It donated the use of one container and a discount on one other container, constituting a value of £2,880

Volunteer lunches and cakes were donated by Two Magpies, Applaud Café and Chestnut and Rose to the value of £3,728.

£1,680 was received from Suffolk County Council Locality Grants for waste removal and project costs for families living in the St Helens and Gainsborough areas of Ipswich.

£300 was received from John Dorkin Charity for waste costs for a specific family.

£14,621 was received from Rope Trust for staff salaries.

Donations in kind of £6,608 were made from Contain-It for discounted use of their container (£2,880) and for volunteer lunches and cakes from Two Magpies, Chestnut & Rose and Applaud Café (£3,728).

### 14 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

#### At 30 November 2025

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets	2,045	-	2,045
Current assets	168,675	1,378	170,053
Creditors due within one year	(5,720)	(388)	(6,108)
	<u>165,000</u>	<u>990</u>	<u>165,990</u>

#### At 30 November 2024

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets	1,313	-	1,313
Current assets	192,217	30,434	222,651
Creditors due within one year	(5,217)	-	(5,217)
	<u>188,313</u>	<u>30,434</u>	<u>218,747</u>

**DORA BROWN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1205728

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# Accounts

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**Dora Brown**

Unaudited Financial Statements

**For the period ended 30 November 2024**

**Charity number: 1205728**

Financial statements for Dora Brown  
period ending 30 November 2024

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# Dora Brown

## Trustees Annual Report

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited independently examined accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2024.

## Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Dora Brown
Charity registration number	1205728
Principal office	19 Tower Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3BE

## Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and at the date of approval were as follows:

J Hathorn (Chair) (Appointed 15/11/23)  
V Blackmore (Appointed 15/11/23)  
S Ihenacho (Appointed 15/11/23)  
R Gander (Appointed 15/11/23, Resigned 7/3/25)  
V Nayar (Appointed 15/11/23, Resigned 16/4/25)  
S Naylor (Appointed 15/11/23, Resigned 7/3/25)  
T Turnbull (Appointed 15/11/23, Resigned 4/1/25)

## Director

Jo Revett

## Bank

The Co-operative Bank  
1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M4 4BE

## Independent Examiner

Louise Alexander, ACMA  
3 Upper High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3NE

## Accountant

MJB Avanti  
12, Epsilon House, West Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9FJ

## **Objectives and activities**

Dora Brown's principal objective is to provide support to families with children in crisis by transforming homes, free-of-charge; homes which have broken down because of furniture and hygiene poverty and domestic neglect.

Dora Brown relieves the needs of families in living crisis due to poverty or financial hardship, mental and physical health conditions and challenging life circumstances, by transforming their homes. We remove clutter and rubbish, deep clean, organise belongings, put in place systems for cleaning and self care, and provide furniture and essential items for the home. Crucially we make sure every family member has a clean, cosy bed and bedding. Through this work we aim to give families a fresh start in their home and to show children that there is a different way to live, acting as a cycle breaker. We prioritise homes in which Child Protection Plans hinge on the state of the home, as well as the homes of young carers and where a new baby is due to arrive. We work to keep children living in the home and to prevent evictions. The transformation of the home has a knock on impact on the mental and physical health and wellbeing of families we support. We treat every family and home with respect, sensitivity and confidentiality. We never judge. No matter how bad people feel their home or situation is, we're here to help.

## **Public benefit**

Within the parameters set by its constitution, Dora Brown provides public benefit by relieving the needs of people in need by reason of financial hardship, poverty and mental health conditions and their dependents through providing home essentials, toiletries and furniture, providing practical assistance services including cleaning and decluttering, and such other ways as the Trustees may determine.

## **Achievements and performance**

This year has been Dora Brown's first year as a registered charity, having operated previously as Brown Sisters CIC under the trading name of Dora Brown since 21 January 2021. Dora Brown grew rapidly in 22/23, taking on paid staff and supporting four times as many families as the previous year.

Our priorities for 23/24 have been to continue to deliver our services supporting local families in need, to embed governance processes under our new status as a registered charity, to become more financially stable and to develop systems and infrastructure to support current operations and further growth. We constantly strive to improve the quality and efficiency of our service and are hugely proud of the achievements of 23/24.

## **Main achievements in 23/24**

- 33 families helped (47 adults and 69 children)
- 69 shifts delivered in family homes
- 59 referrals received (one third from social workers and one third from family support practitioners, as well as health visitors, healthy child practitioners and other charities/support organisations)
- 32 initial family home visits made
- Reduced waiting time from the referral to the first shift in the home from 6 months to 2 months
- Held our first two family feedback groups where six families attended to give feedback on our service, meet each other and share experiences
- Moved into our first office at 19 Tower Street
- Consolidated our storage facilities to two containers in one location
- Continued to have steady volunteer recruitment throughout the year, with excellent volunteer retention
- Logged 1865.5 volunteer hours working in family homes
- Held volunteer events including a Christmas and summer social and a safeguarding training event
- Had a successful year of income generation including multiple successful grant and trust funding applications, a large legacy donation from the Estate of Philip Tricker, donations from individuals, local community groups and businesses, over £10,000 raised in our Crowdfunder campaign and fundraising events including the Trustees Summer Party
- Continued to receive amazing in kind support from local businesses, for example nine corporate volunteering shifts delivered, received donated lunches and cakes for volunteers, discounted container rent
- Numerous donations of secondhand furniture, white goods and home items saved from landfill and given to families alongside new items purchased from our Amazon wishlist
- Continued to grow our social media presence and engagement
- Won an EADT Stars of Suffolk award - team/community group of the year

## **What our families say**

‘It is so much easier to walk around the house and not feel you’re drowning. I now look forward to going home. So do the kids. We do get toys out now and play on the floor. We can do this because there’s space for it now. [My daughter] is now sleeping in her own bed. She loves it.’

‘You make a much stronger personal connection than other organisations.’

‘[My eldest son] really used to struggle with getting rid of things, even with broken toys he gets quite emotionally attached to them. But now if something will break, he doesn't like it, but he will be like "well, I suppose we've got to throw that out". One day when he has his own home, he'll be able to have that ability to let go of things.’

'Our day to day life has improved massively and my mental health has improved a lot. The children have started having play dates and friends round. [Relatives] will text and say can I come round and I will say yes, in the past it would have been blanket no.'

'The people they are the kindest most supportive people. It was a huge relief and I felt safe and supported.'

### **What our referral partners say**

'The children all now have lovely clean and tidy bedrooms with dedicated spaces for their toys/clothes belongings, and upon visits it is clear that the children now take pride in their bedrooms and want to spend time in them, which is lovely to see.'

'The home does not feel as overwhelming for mum and she is now able to start a routine of regular cleaning/tidying in order to maintain the home.'

'The home is now safe and hygienic for the children, especially the 5 month old baby who will soon be crawling and rolling and exploring his world. The home is now safe for him to do this without hurting himself or ingesting something harmful.'

'The children were sharing a mattress on the floor which was not beneficial for a good nights sleep. The children will be settle at night better which will positively impact their emotional wellbeing and that of the whole family. Also mum was feeling very low about not being able to provide for her family and now she is able to have a brighter outlook.'

### **What our volunteers say**

'Dora is fast, hands-on and high impact. That's my kind of volunteering!'

'Dora days are my favourite days. I get to hang out with a bunch of interesting, entertaining people, working with them on something that feels immediately useful and transformative. It's incredibly rewarding.'

'It's fun, it's satisfying and it's a lovely team. As volunteers we are well taken care of and there's no pressure in terms of commitment, so you just do what you can do. There's a camaraderie amongst us all and it's all very well organised. Oh and there's lovely snacks!'

We are hugely grateful to all our donors and supporters this year including individuals, local businesses and community groups & organisations. We also want to say a massive thank you to all our volunteers who have worked on shifts and events, done laundry and given time in other ways. Your support means so much to Dora

## **Financial review**

Dora Brown's total income for 23/24 was £298,284 of which £114,476 was restricted. Total expenditure was £102,663, of which £87,462 was spent from restricted funds. This resulted in a restricted fund surplus of £27,014 on the year – a total of £30,343 was carried forward in restricted funds at the year end. The charity received a legacy of £149,332 just before the year end, boosting unrestricted funds to £188,313. £80,000 of these funds have been designated by the trustees to be spent on developing the charity.

## **Reserves policy**

Dora Brown's reserves policy has been set with due consideration to the external environment and the performance of current operations. The policy requires that reserves be maintained at a level to ensure the continuity of Dora Brown's core service, and recognises that the principal source of funding (aside from the legacy donation) is from trusts and grants, which are under pressure nationally and in high demand.

We aim to maintain unrestricted reserves at a level which equates to a minimum of six months and a maximum of 12 months of running costs and ensures that there are sufficient resources to:

- To enable Dora Brown to continue to deliver its core activities in the event of a shortfall in usual income streams
- To meet short term cashflow requirements
- To provide funds to protect Dora Brown against unforeseen adverse circumstances, including wind down costs

The unrestricted reserves held at 30th November 2024 were £188,323. This was due to a large legacy donation of £149,332 which was transferred to Dora Brown on 28 November 2024.

Prior to the receipt of the legacy donation on 28 November 2024, £38,991 of unrestricted reserves was held, equating to 3.5 months of charitable expenditure based on current costs.

Following the receipt of the £149,332 legacy donation, a designated Development fund of £80,000 has been set aside by the Trustees in order to grow the capacity of Dora Brown and to invest in the future sustainability and resilience of the charity. Work will be undertaken in the first half of the next financial year to develop Dora's strategy and create a plan for growth and sustainability over the short, medium and long term.

The reserves policy is reviewed annually and levels of reserves are monitored and reviewed at Trustee meetings and by the Director throughout the year.

## **Plans for future periods**

- Develop Dora's strategy for the next three years focusing on growth and sustainability, with particular regard to development and growth plans using the legacy income
- Continue to deliver our high quality service to local families in need and to continue to enhance the service to meet the needs of the beneficiaries
- Build our capacity in order to maximise provision in our current geographical locations
- Develop existing partnerships and build new partnerships for referrals, and for signposting and access to further support for our families
- Continue to put in place and develop infrastructure for growth and sustainability, including ensuring policies and procedures continue to reflect legislation and best practice
- Undertake Trustee recruitment to increase the number of Trustees and the diversity on the board, bring in skills and expertise, and to ensure succession planning is in place
- Continue to develop communications and marketing
- Develop fundraising strategy and continue to meet income targets
- Continue to explore innovation and best practice and further develop partnerships and collaborative working
- Deliver training and professional development opportunities for staff and Trustees

## **Structure, governance and management**

Dora Brown is a charitable incorporated organisation ("CIO") and a registered charity in effect from 15 November 2024 (charity number 1205728). Dora Brown's activities are governed by its Constitution last amended and approved on 2 May 2025, which it sets out the nature and limitations of the charity's work.

### **Trustees**

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The current Board of Trustees and the changes which have occurred since 15 November 2024 are as stated in the reference and administration details of this document. Approximately three Trustee meetings are held annually.

Apart from the first charity Trustees, every Trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Trustees. Induction is carried out by the Chair and Director. A Trustee Information Pack provides information about Dora Brown and the roles and responsibilities of its Trustees. A Trustee may be appointed/elected to the Chair of Trustees role for a maximum of two terms of three years. There must be at least three charity Trustees. The maximum number of charity Trustees is 12.

We maintain a Register of Interests for all Trustees, which is reviewed annually. Information on all related party transactions is recorded and disclosed in the annual accounts.

#### Management and staffing

At 30 November 2024 Dora Brown employed six part-time staff (one of these six roles, the Grants Officer, was vacant as of 31 October 2024 with recruitment undertaken in December 2024); Dora's staffing levels (including vacant Grants Officer post) were equivalent to 2 full time employees working a 40 hour week.

The Trustees delegate the responsibility for the delivery of strategy and operations to the Director. The day-to-day operations of the charity are the responsibility of the Director and Head of Projects, supported by the Office Project Manager and Volunteer & Social Media Manager. The Head of Development and Grants Officer are responsible for income generation and sponsorship.

The Chair of Trustees and Director communicate regularly to share information and consider important issues arising between board meetings. The Director holds a team meeting of all the paid staff every 4 - 6 weeks to deal with operational matters.

#### Volunteers

Volunteers are an essential part of Dora Brown. We have a team of over 80 amazing volunteers who are able to give their time flexibly to support Dora's families. Some volunteers do a shift in family homes most weeks, others fortnightly, monthly or a few times a year. Volunteers also support Dora's fundraising events and other fundraising activities. Volunteer recruitment is steady with enquiries each week and new volunteers doing their first shift every month. Corporate volunteering has grown over the 2023/2024 financial year.

We are proud to say that from 15 November 2023 to 30 November 2024 1865.5 hours of volunteer time in family homes was recorded.

#### Risk management

The major risks to which Dora Brown is exposed have been assessed, in particular those related to the operations and finance. Systems are in place to manage any identified major risks, which are subject to regular review at the Trustee meetings and by the Director.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

J Hathorn (Chair) Trustee



# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DORA BROWN

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dora Brown for the period ended 30 November 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account), Balance Sheet and related notes.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO, 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 CIO's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.


## Independent Examiner's Statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

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 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.
- (3) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



**Louise Alexander, ACMA**

3 Upper High Street  
Ipswich IP1 3NE

Date: 30th June 2025

## DORA BROWN

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
<i>Donations &amp; legacies</i>	3	184,148	109,136	293,284	-
<i>Charitable activities</i>	4	-	5,340	5,340	-
<i>Other incoming sources</i>			-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>184,148</u>	<u>114,476</u>	<u>298,624</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
<i>Raising funds</i>		435	-	435	-
<i>Charitable activities</i>		14,765	87,462	102,227	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	5	<u>15,200</u>	<u>87,462</u>	<u>102,662</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net (Expenditure)/Income for the year before transfers</b>		<u>168,948</u>	<u>27,014</u>	<u>195,962</u>	<u>-</u>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the year</b>		<u>168,948</u>	<u>27,014</u>	<u>195,962</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>19,365</u>	<u>3,420</u>	<u>22,785</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>188,313</u>	<u>30,434</u>	<u>218,747</u>	<u>22,785</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year and all income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The accompanying notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# DORA BROWN

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	9		1,313		1,750
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	10	953		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		221,698		25,435	
		<u>222,651</u>		<u>25,435</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors falling due within one year	11	<u>(5,217)</u>		<u>(4,400)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>217,434</u>		<u>21,035</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>218,747</u>		<u>22,785</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Unrestricted funds			108,313		19,365
Designated funds			80,000		-
Restricted funds	13		<u>30,434</u>		<u>3,420</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u>218,747</u>		<u>22,785</u>

The members acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_  
and signed on its behalf by:

20/06/25 J Hathorn



The accompanying notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# DORA BROWN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

### 1 Accounting Policies

#### a) Basis of preparation

The charitable incorporated organisation is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the charity has prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Finance Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) published on July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below:

#### b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of going concern is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable incorporated organisation to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. In particular, the trustees have considered the charitable incorporated organisation's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on fee income. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

#### c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income and donations are accounted for on an accruals basis. All income in the Statement of Financial Activities is shown gross of the associated costs and is accounted for where there is entitlement to the income, it is probable that the benefits associated with it will flow to the charity and it can be reliably measured. Income from charitable activities is recognised as it is earned. Where amounts are billed in advance of the activity being carried out, the income is deferred.

#### d) Resources expended

All expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Wherever possible, costs are allocated directly to the appropriate activity; other overhead, support and governance costs common to all activities are apportioned between those activities based on their relative output.

Expenditure incurred in connection with the specific objects of the charity is included under the heading 'Charitable activities'.

The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

#### e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets acquired for continuing use by the charity costing more than £500 are initially capitalised at cost and measured subsequently at cost less depreciation and any impairment losses. Depreciation of tangible fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost or valuation less any residual value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Computer & Office Equipment	- four years straight line
Fixtures & Fittings	- four years straight line

#### f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

#### g) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

#### h) Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity and have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

#### i) Taxation

The Charity is an exempt approved charity in accordance with the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

# DORA BROWN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement (continued)

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are outlined below.

### 3 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Suffolk Community Foundation		24,620	24,620
The Tudwick Foundation		3,000	3,000
Suffolk County Council		5,160	5,160
Co-operative Bank		1,000	1,000
Felixstowe Town Council		1,800	1,800
500 Suffolk Reasons		800	800
The Woodward Charitable Trust	1,750		1,750
The Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement		3,000	3,000
Woodbridge Deben Rotary Club		200	200
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust		9,649	9,649
The National Lottery Community Fund		20,000	20,000
Felixstowe Lions		864	864
The KFC Foundation		3,000	3,000
Asda Foundation		1,314	1,314
Woodbridge Town Council		3,000	3,000
St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust		6,000	6,000
The 7 Stars Foundation		2,500	2,500
East Suffolk Council		2,000	2,000
The Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement		14,621	14,621
Donations in kind		6,608	6,608
The Seckford Foundation	1,712		1,712
Felixstowe Community Choir	500		
The Moose on the Hill	500		500
Triangle Church Ipswich	500		500
The Woodbridge Shufflers	3,274		3,274
Upbeat Grundisburgh Choir	1,500		1,500
Legacy of the Estate of Philip Tricker	149,332		149,332
Crowdfunding	11,020		11,020
Individual donations	10,911		10,911
Slow Living Market	3,149		3,149
	<u>184,148</u>	<u>109,136</u>	<u>292,784</u>

### 4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Brames Relief in Need Charity		450	450
The Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement		1,980	1,980
Rotary Club of Ipswich East		930	930
Suffolk County Council		1,680	1,680
John Dorking Charity		300	300
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,340</u>	<u>5,340</u>

# DORA BROWN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

5 Expenditure on emergency transformations	Governance	Charitable Activities	Total
	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
Raising funds		435	435
Charitable activities:			
Project delivery		33,236	33,236
Staff salaries		60,175	60,175
Support costs	2,395	6,421	8,816
	<u>2,395</u>	<u>100,267</u>	<u>102,662</u>

### 6 Support costs

	2024 £
Rent & rates	3,522
Storage	864
Accounting & Independent Examination	2,395
Insurance	639
DBS costs	182
IT costs	651
Depreciation	437
General Administration	126
	<u>8,816</u>

The Independent Examiner's remuneration amounts to a fee of £950 which comprises £600 for the Independent Examination, £350 for the preparation of the financial statements.

### 7 Staff Costs

	2024 £
Wages and salaries	
Wages and salaries	59,122
Pension costs	1,053
	<u>60,175</u>

The average number of staff employed during the period was 7.

The Director is the sole key management personnel. The total employee benefits of the Key Management Personnel were £14,826.

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

### 8 Trustees

No benefits were paid to trustees, nor expenses reimbursed to trustees during the period. The insurance included Trustee Indemnity Insurance.

# DORA BROWN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

<b>9 Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Fixtures &amp; Fittings £</b>	<b>Computer &amp; Office £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 15 November 2023	344	1,667	2,011
Additions	-	-	-
<b>At 30 November 2024</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>2,011</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 15 November 2023	11	250	261
Charge for period	83	354	437
<b>At 30 November 2024</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>698</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 15 November 2023	333	1,417	1,750
<b>At 30 November 2024</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,313</b>

<b>10 Debtors</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and Accrued Income	-	-
Other Debtors	953	-
	<u>953</u>	<u>-</u>

Trade debtors disclosed above are classified as loans and receivables and are therefore measured at amortised cost.

<b>11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one period</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Taxes and social security costs	27	16
Accruals	950	-
Other creditors	4,240	4,384
	<u>5,217</u>	<u>4,400</u>

## 12 Related Party Transactions

Trustee Rebecca Gander was reimbursed £271 for costs for an event.  
There have been no other related party transactions in the period that require disclosure.

## DORA BROWN

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

#### 13 Restricted Funds for the period

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfer from Unrestricted Fund £	Carried Forward £
Ipswich Borough Council	3,030		(3,030)	-	-
Felixstowe Town Council	140		(140)	-	-
Flagship Housing	250		(250)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation		4,725	(4,725)	-	-
The Tudwick Foundation		3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation		2,100	(2,100)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation		2,100	(2,100)	-	-
Suffolk Community Foundation		3,695	(2,991)	-	704
Co-operative Bank		1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Suffolk County Council		1,800	(750)	-	1,050
Suffolk County Council		1,500	-	-	1,500
Suffolk County Council		360	-	-	360
Felixstowe Town Council		1,800	(1,250)	-	550
Suffolk Community Foundation		10,000	(10,000)	-	-
500 Suffolk Reasons		800	(216)	-	584
The Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement		3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Woodbridge Deben Rotary	-	200	(144)	-	56
Suffolk County Council		1,500	(1,236)	-	264
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust	-	9,649	(5,529)	-	4,120
The National Lottery Community Fund		20,000	(13,603)	-	6,397
Felixstowe Lions		864	(432)	-	432
The KFC Foundation		3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Asda Foundation		1,314	-	-	1,314
Woodbridge Town Council		3,000	(360)	-	2,640
Suffolk Community Foundation		2,000	-	-	2,000
Brames Relief in Need Charity		450	(450)	-	-
The Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement		1,980	(1,980)	-	-
St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust		6,000	(3,717)	-	2,283
Rotary Club of Ipswich East		930	(930)	-	-
Contain-It		2,880	(2,880)	-	-
Two Magpies, Chestnut & Rose and Applaud		3,728	(3,728)	-	-
Suffolk County Council		1,680	-	-	1,680
The 7 Stars Foundation		2,500	-	-	2,500
East Suffolk Council		2,000	-	-	2,000
John Dorkin Charity		300	(300)	-	-
The Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement		14,621	(14,621)	-	-
	<u>3,420</u>	<u>114,476</u>	<u>(87,462)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,434</u>

Restricted funds for the period were made up of the following:

£3,030 was received from the North West Area Committee of Ipswich Borough Council to support families in North West Ipswich.

£140 was brought forward from a £1,200 grant from Felixstowe Town Council.

£250 was received on 31/10/23 by Brown Sisters CIC from Flagship Housing.

£4,725 was received from Suffolk Community Foundation's Suffolk Giving Fund for Project Manager salaries.

£3,000 was received from The Tudwick Foundation for Project Manager salaries.

£2,100 was received from the Pear Family Fund via Suffolk Community Foundation for Project Manager salaries.

£2,100 was received from the E&J Legacy Fund via Suffolk Community Foundation for Project Manager salaries.

£3,695 was received from the Co-Op Community Cares Fund via Suffolk Community Foundation for volunteer growth and engagement within the community.

£1,000 was received from the Co-Operative Bank Customer Fund for the purchase of staff laptops.

£1,800 was received from Suffolk County Council Locality Grants for waste removal and project costs for families living in the Priory Heath, Bridge and St Helens areas of Ipswich.

£1,500 was received from Suffolk County Council Locality Grants for waste removal and project costs for families living in the Chantry area of Ipswich.

£1,800 was received from Felixstowe Town Council's Occasional Grants Fund for supporting Felixstowe families.

£10,000 was received from the Household Support 4 Fund via Suffolk Community Foundation to support those in financial hardship with significantly rising living costs, essentials links to energy e.g. beds and bedding and wider essentials.

(continues on next page)

## DORA BROWN

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

Restricted funds for the year contained (continued):

£3,000 was received from The Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement for core costs.

£200 from Woodbridge Deben Rotary was received for supporting families in Woodbridge and surrounding areas.

£1,500 was received from Suffolk County Council Locality Grants for waste removal and project costs for families living in the Chantry area of Ipswich.

£20,000 was received from the National Lottery Community Fund for core costs including staff salaries.

£864 was received from the Felixstowe Lions for container rent.

£3,000 was received from The KFC Foundation for project costs.

£1,314 was received from the Asda Foundation for project costs.

£3,000 was received from Woodbridge Town Council for supporting families in Woodbridge.

£2,000 was received from the Port Community Grantmaking Programme via Suffolk Community Foundation for supporting Felixstowe families.

£1,980 was received from Rope Trust for project costs for two specific families.

£6,000 was received from the St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust to support families in Ipswich.

£930 was received from the Rotary Club of Ipswich East for project costs for a specific family.

Contain-It donated the use of one container and a discount on one other container, constituting a value of £2,880

Volunteer lunches and cakes were donated by Two Magpies, Applaud Café and Chestnut and Rose to the value of £3,728.

£1,680 was received from Suffolk County Council Locality Grants for waste removal and project costs for families living in the St Helens and Gainsborough areas of Ipswich.

£2,000 was received from East Suffolk Council to support families in East Suffolk.

£300 was received from John Dorkin Charity for waste costs for a specific family.

£14,621 was received from Rope Trust for staff salaries.