

Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action

England & Wales · Charity number 700910

Details

Other names W V S C, WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [02288239](#)

Registered 1988-11-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Wvca
Paycare House
George Street
Wolverhampton
WV2 4DX

Phone 01902773761

Email info@wvca.org.uk

Website www.wvca.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (I) TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY WITHIN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND SPECIFICALLY. (II) TO PROVIDE, OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE, FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION, WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THE SAID COMMUNITY. (III) TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND THE RELIEF OF POVERTY, DISTRESS AND SICKNESS. (IV) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION.

Activities: INFRA-STRUCTURE AGENCY SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WITHIN THE CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON, INCLUDING ENCOURAGING COLLABORATIVE WORKING, SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO SPEAK OUT, AND SUPPORTING PEOPLE INTO VOLUNTEERING.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Economic/community Development/employment, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING AREAS
- Dudley
- Sandwell
- Walsall
- Wolverhampton

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £1,518,545 | £1,497,036 | £1,089,557 | 33 |
| 2024-03-31 | £1,598,684 | £1,723,849 | £1,068,048 | 35 |
| 2023-03-31 | £2,591,060 | £3,003,120 | £1,193,213 | 37 |
| 2022-03-31 | £3,048,567 | £3,013,224 | £1,605,273 | 45 |
| 2021-03-31 | £3,565,773 | £3,333,336 | £1,569,930 | 48 |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|---------------------|------|------------|
| Anne-Marie Harrison | | 2016-10-06 |
| Daryl Chambers | | 2023-11-30 |
| Dominique Williams | | 2025-06-04 |
| Gurbax Kaur | | 2021-03-11 |
| James Alexander Fox | | 2014-07-08 |
| Patricia Mary Kemp | | 2020-01-23 |

Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action

England & Wales - Charity number 700910

Accounts

Company number: 2288239
Registered charity number: 700910

**WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Report of the Board of Trustees and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------|
| Legal and Administrative Information | 1 |
| Board of Trustees Annual Report | 2- 12 |
| Report of the independent auditors | 13-15 |
| Statement of financial activities – SOFA | 16 |
| Balance Sheet | 17 |
| Cash flow statement | 18 |
| Notes forming part of the financial statements | 19-31 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Legal and Administrative Information

2024-25

Charity Name

Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA)

Board of Trustees

Simeon Greene (Co-Chair)

James Fox

Anne Marie Harrison

Patricia Mary Kemp (Co-Chair)

Gurbax Kaur

Paul Tulley

Dr Josh Johnson

Daryl Chambers

Anna Place (appointed 22/04/2024)

Lisa Storey (appointed 04/06/2025)

Dominique Williams (appointed 04/06/2025)

Pamela Cole-Hudson (resigned 18/02/2025)

Janet Clarke Lewis (resigned 10/06/2024)

Councillor Jeszemma Howl (city council observer resigned June 2025), to be replaced by
Councillor Tersaim Singh

Secretary and registered office

Sharon Nanan-Sen

Paycare House, George Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4DX

Key Management

Sharon Nanan-Sen, Chief Executive

Company Number

2288239

Registered Charity Number

700910

Auditors

Muras Baker Jones Limited,

Regent House, Bath Avenue, Wolverhampton, WV1 4EG

Financial Statements

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements.

The Trustees, who are also Directors of Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action ("WVCA") for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements. The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that WVCA will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of WVCA and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of WVCA and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Structure, Governance and Management

Administrative Details

The day-to-day management of WVCA is ultimately the responsibility of the Chief Executive on behalf of the Trustees. The Chief Executive is also responsible, with the Board of Trustees, for the strategic direction of the organisation and delivery of its objectives.

The Chief Executive was managing the whole service until the appointment in October 2024 of a Service and Business Development Manager who carries out much but not all, of the day-to-day management, in addition to bringing in additional funding and developing the business.

A Finance Manager (15 hours per month) is supported by a Finance Officer (30 hours per week) and has overall responsibility to the CEO for finance systems and processes. A robust financial delegation system is in place with each project lead having day to day responsibility for their own budgets.

Governing Document

WVCA is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19th August 1988 and registered as a Charity on 24th November 1988. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being "wound up" members are each required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Articles of Association were reviewed and changes agreed at the 2018 AGM. The changes were a response to difficulties in achieving quorums at some meetings thus hindering effective and prompt decision making. The changes reduced the size of the Board and quoracy requirements, while also ensuring effective governance and board oversight. In early 22/23 members agreed to change the organisation's name to Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA) which was implemented in the same year. No further changes to the Articles of Association have been made. Although there is no requirement in the Articles of Association to hold an AGM, in terms of updating the voluntary sector and partners on WVCA's activities, an AGM was held on the 18th February 2025. The AGM was well attended, and positive feedback was received.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees

Although WVCA is a small to medium sized organisation, it is a complex one operating in what is an increasingly challenging environment. It is therefore important that the skills and competencies of the trustee body are at a high level. WVCA is also involved in a very diverse range of activities as outlined later in this report and therefore the trustee body needs to demonstrate a broad as well as a high level of skills in carrying out its governance role.

The changes agreed at the 2018 AGM maintains a Board structure which reflects our customers and the environment in which we operate. The current Board make up and quoracy requirements as outlined in the Articles of Association are as follows:

The minimum number of directors shall be 6 and the maximum number of directors shall be 12. This Board of Directors will be made up of:

- a) A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 Voluntary and Community Organisations operating in Wolverhampton who are members of Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action.
- b) Individuals, who can be invited to join the Board for their expertise including as "experts by experience"
- c) A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 other partners from the private, education, and public sectors. These directors are recruited to strengthen links across the City and provide specialist input into the Board. All trustees they must support our objectives.
- d) The City Council has observer status on the board and may invite any person to attend the charity's meetings (both directors and general meetings) as an observer without the power to vote. This observer will not be counted in the quorum.

The quorum shall be 3 or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the directors. This quorum must include at least 2 directors from a) and at least 1 from c) above.

The quorum must have Voluntary and Community Organisations in the majority. This is so that any changes or any issues requiring a vote will need to be supported by VCO members.

At the time of this report, one board member has resigned, two new board members have been recruited and there is one vacancy. We have 11 Board members made up of 3 partners, 3 experts by experience and 5 VCS organisations. We have ensured that our Board membership reflects the diversity of Wolverhampton and at the time of writing 5 of the current 11 Board members are people from minority ethnic communities.

The Trustees of the company are also the Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the Company's Articles they are known as members of the Management Committee.

Trustees' Induction and Training

As representatives of member organisations, key partners, or individuals most Trustees are familiar with the work of WVCA. Each new board member meets with the Chief Executive and is provided

with the Charity Commission's Essential Trustee Good Practice Guide and is given the latest information and links on the roles and responsibilities of a trustee.

In addition, reports on specific activities are provided at board meetings. A board awayday is being planned for Trustees. The strategic direction of WVCA is regularly discussed at board meetings. The Board and CEO will meet in order to keep this under review and reset the organisation strategic priorities where required.

Organisational Structure

WVCA has a trustee board of up to 12 members who meet bimonthly and are responsible, with the Chief Executive, for the strategic direction of the Charity. In addition, the City Council nominates a Councillor with observer status on the board.

The Chief Executive has delegated responsibility from the board for the provision of services and the day-to-day operation of WVCA. The Chief Executive works closely with managers in executing these responsibilities. The structure below the Board comprises several elements as follows:

Project Leads: The Chief Executive meets on a regular basis, with project leads as required, to establish that the organisation is delivering its mission, that it is doing so in a consistent and effective manner, and to make any operational adjustments that may be required.

Staff meetings: Regular staff meetings provide a forum for ensuring a collective understanding of day-to-day matters in areas such as health and safety and provide a forum for the Chief Executive and others to communicate matters of relevance to all staff.

Staff support: All staff meet regularly for supervision with their Line Managers. Currently, the Chief Executive manages the Service and Business Development Manager, Finance Officer/Manager, Social Prescribing Coordinator and the Engagement and Partnerships Lead. The Service and Business Development Manager manages the Infrastructure Support Team (3 staff), Comms Officer and the SUIT Project Lead. The Chief Executive receives supervision from the Chair of the Board.

Financial delegation: Robust financial systems are in place, with levels of financial authority from the Board, through to the Chief Executive down to individual projects, within agreed budgets. Systems for authorising both income and expenditure are in place along with an effective credit control system. Regular reports to Board ensure overall financial prudence and allow for the management of any financial risk.

Partner Organisations

WVCA is a member The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), NAVCA and The Chamber of Commerce.

As an umbrella organisation for the sector, WVCA has a major strategic role in Wolverhampton and works with partners locally, sub-regionally and nationally in order to achieve shared outcomes. To this end WVCA works in partnership at a number of levels and these can be summarised as follows:

Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise and Faith (VCSEF) groups: WVCA has a role in working with other VCOs to "champion" the sector. This involves working with organisations in response to issues affecting the sector and carrying out a co-ordinating role to ensure that the sector is effectively represented at a strategic level across the city. At the most strategic level this includes membership of the "One Wolverhampton" Board and the Health and Well Being Board. In addition, WVCA has the role of facilitating the Wolverhampton VCSEF Alliance.

Consortia Partners: Consortia working, both within the VCSEF and across sectors, is growing and developing as an accepted approach for achieving better outcomes for local people. WVCA have been leading the way in the development of consortia both across the City and beyond, which has resulted, over

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

the past 10 years in over £10M being secured and spent with VCSEF in Wolverhampton and the surrounding area.

In particular:

Black Country Together (BCT) was developed in 2013 by the four CVS's in order to support the delivery of services by the CVS on a sub-regional level. WVCA is one of the four members of the organisation.

WVCA delivers the city's Social Prescribing (SP) Service. GPs and other services refer people to SP to address loneliness, isolation and low level mental health issues. The VCSEF provide 'social prescriptions'.

WVCA also leads on the VCSEF Alliance, which consists of representation from Voluntary and Community groups and organisations and has become a key focus to ensuring a strong and clear voice for the sector on a range of strategic and policy issues.

Statutory Sector: The Chief Executive of WVCA is a member of the One Wolverhampton Partnership and is joint lead on Community Activation which is a key priority of the board. She also meets regularly with the Chair of the board, the Director of Public Health and other senior statutory sector colleagues.

WVCA, through the Chief Executive also represents the sector on a wide range of other forums, for example:

- ✓ Children and Families Together Board
- ✓ Youth Justice Board
- ✓ One Wolverhampton
- ✓ Safeguarding Boards
- ✓ Integrated Care Partnership
- ✓ Health and Well Being board

WVCA also facilitates representation on a range of strategic and operational forums including:

- ✓ The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership
- ✓ Health and Well Being board
- ✓ Safeguarding boards

In addition, the Board and the CEO of WVCA work closely with statutory sector colleagues on a range of strategic matters such as, social value, co-production, strategic funding and so on.

Risk Management

The risks facing WVCA can be considered under 3 broad headings as follows:

Financial

Internal Control Risks: The risk of financial mismanagement and, in the extreme, fraudulent activity:

The overall risk is reduced by having in place robust financial controls and policies and procedures for safe management of financial resources. In addition, WVCA has a robust and effective credit control system in place that serves to ease cash flow difficulties and minimise bad debts.

These systems, coupled with a small but very competent finance team means that we are working well in a complex environment. The financial outturn for the year under report, with a deficit of £20,179 on unrestricted funds and no significant overspend on restricted budgets, within an extremely challenging year would seem to support this.

Our continued membership of WMPF for one long standing and several ex staff members does present an on-going financial challenge with a tri-annual actuarial valuation due to take place during 2025, as the

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

level of contribution rates continue to increase. Previous confirmation from WMPF that "upon termination the associated assets and liabilities will be subsumed by the guarantor" – in this case WCC, is a very welcome clarification and significantly reduces medium terms risk. The remaining risk, aside from current affordability, is the applicable strain cost relating to the 1 remaining staff member should they be made redundant after the age of 55.

Our auto enrolment pension scheme, introduced for all other staff, is running smoothly with good take up.

External Financial Risks:

WVCA's income is generated through grants, contracts and direct, paid for, services.

The landscape is changing nationally and locally with, for example, the abolition of NHS England, the restructure of the Integrated Care System and the significant reduction in funds available through the City of Wolverhampton Council. We have negotiated several contracts with commissioners where we have been able to run grant programmes for the VCSEF sector resulting in £350k being awarded to the sector through those grant programmes. We have negotiated direct awards for the continuation of the SP and SUIT contracts; however, these negotiations are at prices from 5 years ago. We are needing to navigate carefully through this landscape both for ourselves and the wider sector. This has created a situation where there are limited opportunities and high levels of uncertainty and associated risk.

Operational

We work in an environment where the weight and complexity of legal requirements in areas such as health and safety, safeguarding, employment law, equal opportunities and GDPR is growing. In addition the "whole system approach" brings its own challenges for example the need for technical solutions to effective partnership working, (in our case the shared use of EMIS the IT platform used by GPs). This places all organisations at risk. In order to help manage this, the Service and Business Development Manager takes a lead on internal policies and procedures; additionally, we are working with an HR adviser and internal policies and procedures are under review.

The Board are ultimately responsible for overseeing this area of work and WVCA also has in place a number of staff-led informal working groups including in the areas of first aid, fire safety and health and safety.

We ended hybrid working on 1st July 2024 in recognition of being post Covid coupled with the needs of people who use our services for face-to-face delivery of projects and services. We still use Teams as and when necessary.

Finally covering our core costs, including the "core" team is a growing challenge, funders are not prepared to fund organisational infrastructure and are often unwilling to fund on the basis of full cost recovery.

Personnel

Most organisations have a high level of dependency on their key staff. This is exacerbated within WVCA where the diversity of our activities and high levels of specialism among senior staff places us at significant risk if those staff were to leave through resignation or illness - in several areas there are no ready-made replacements that would be able to cover beyond the short term. Notice periods for the Chief Executive is three months and for other managers it is one month; this does reduce the risk of key posts being left unfilled for any significant time.

Staff turnover is historically low, consistently running near or below 10%.

Staff sickness rates for this year averaged 4.76 days per employee, however, this does not include 3 staff who all had periods of long-term sickness: in two cases 6 months each. Including these 3 staff would increase the average to 9.51; that said, 16 Staff had no sickness and a further 11 staff had between 1-5 days during the year.

Objectives and Activities

Our mission, vision, values and principles are as follows.

Our vision

- Our vision is the world we want to see. This is the reminder that everything we work hard to achieve is worth the effort because what we do is so much bigger than the 9-to-5.
- Wolverhampton as a city where everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
- Wolverhampton as a city where the root causes of inequality are eradicated for good.
- Wolverhampton as a city with a well-resourced and thriving VCSEF sector that supports strong, diverse communities.

Our mission

- If the vision is the future, the mission is today. Every day that we get up and fulfil a part of our mission, we're one-step closer to achieving our vision.
- To provide unrivalled, dedicated support services to the voluntary and community sector.
- To champion Wolverhampton's voluntary and community sector through our reach and influence.
- To promote community action and develop opportunities for people to engage in volunteering.
- To support people to have agency over their lives and influence decision-making processes that matter to them.
- To enhance people's quality of life within Wolverhampton, especially for those who feel most excluded.
- To develop partnerships which encourage co-design and co-production.

Our values

At WVCA, we are connected by a set of collective values, keeping us all working in the same direction. These values are:

- Collaboration
- Integrity
- Inclusive
- Supportive
- Determination
- Respect

Our Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles are a set of promises which our brand will always align with.

We can use them when we want to reinforce our belief system. Our principles are the guide by which we work and also how we evaluate our work.

- **We are all about people**
The people of Wolverhampton are at the heart of every decision we make. We believe that every person should be given the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
- **We are change makers**
We seek to understand the challenges people face. We work tirelessly to challenge discrimination and commit to combatting the root causes of inequality.
- **We seek to collaborate**
We know we can achieve more by working in partnership with others. We are your trusted ally, always on hand with resources, experience and passion. We like to work with partners to find solutions. Together we can.
- **We take bold and innovative action**
We are brave, and together we persevere to reach our goals, building a strong network that is agile and resilient.
- **We strive for progress**
We use our diverse skills and experience to influence and drive forward change. We seek to support our partners to create pivotal and lasting transformation. Though our voice may be calm, our impact is loud.

Public Benefit

A thriving Voluntary and Community Sector is a key aim of Central Government and is increasingly seen as part of the solution to the health and social care crisis facing the country. This will involve the groups and organisations that make up the sector playing a fuller role in delivering services, including public services. Recasting the relationship between people and government; empowering citizens; extending opportunities and communities coming together to make lives better are key to current political thinking. In recent times the development of Social Prescribing has seen a greater focus on our sector as the enthusiasm and need for "social prescriptions" grows. In this context WVCA:

- Supports the development of capacity within the sector to position it to play a fuller part in the delivery of services.
- Delivers Wolverhampton's Social Prescribing Service.
- Enables meaningful participation in the work of partners sub regionally, City-wide and at the neighbourhood level.

Principle 1: Identifiable Benefits

1a) Key benefits are:

- A strong and effective VCSEF in the city.
- A clear voice for citizens, specifically those who use public services to influence and improve those services and the policies that inform them.

1b) Related to our aims:

By supporting voluntary organisations to operate more effectively and by providing a clear voice for citizens, both through groups and as individuals, our benefits are directly related to our aims.

1c) Balanced against harm:

With reference to each benefit outlined above:

- A strong and effective VCSEF improves the quality of provision and choice to those who commission services. There are many services, both public and otherwise, that are delivered

better by VCOs for a number of reasons including flexibility, reach and cost effectiveness. This is accepted and supported by all political parties at the time of writing.

- A clear voice for citizens helps to ensure that resources are used to best meet the needs of beneficiaries. It is possible that giving a disproportionate voice to one particular interest or point of view could be detrimental and thus WVCA works hard to ensure that a balanced picture, informed by a wide range of voices, is presented through the activities outlined in notes 14 and 15 to the accounts.

Principle 2: Benefit to the public

2a) Beneficiaries appropriate to the aims:

Beneficiaries are “voluntary organisations” and the community within Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas. The vast majority of our work has been within Wolverhampton with these beneficiaries. Some cross boundary work has taken place within the Black Country and, less so, the West Midlands. In all this work Wolverhampton organisations and communities have benefited and remained our focus. Black Country Together, Social Prescribing and most recently work with the ICS provide a vehicle for supporting voluntary organisations to work together to delivery public services and provides some capacity building to help them do so. Any surpluses generated will be used to the benefit of the local community.

2b) Not restricted by geography or ability to pay:

WVCA's basic services remain free at the point of delivery. No organisation within the area of benefit was denied a service because of inability to pay and we will continue to make every effort to maintain this approach.

2c) People in poverty must not be excluded:

No charges are made to individuals for WVCA's services and thus people in poverty are not excluded. A flexible approach to delivery including visiting groups and individuals, providing information in written and electronic forms etc., also ensures that no-one is excluded as a result of poverty.

2d) Private benefit must be incidental:

WVCA gives grants to groups to help them achieve their charitable aims – these are not used to provide any personal benefit to group members. WVCA provides for expenses to be paid to volunteers. These expenses are to cover the costs to the individuals of engaging in forums or carrying out specific tasks.

Fundraising

The majority of WVCA income is from Contracts and Grants. No further direct fundraising activities have taken place during the year 2024-2025.

Volunteers

WVCA operates the city's Volunteer Service (Wolverhampton Volunteers). The service places over 1000 new volunteers a year, with some 250 registered organisations offering placements. The service also supports our most vulnerable citizens through BBO (Building Better Opportunities), working more closely with them to help ensure they can use volunteering, training and other routes to move nearer and into employment.

Wolverhampton Volunteers has achieved the quality standard - the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA) - developed by Volunteer England, which focuses on the six core functions of a volunteer centre and of which only one is available in each locality.

The centre is increasingly becoming a hub for volunteering across the whole city, at the outbreak of COVID and the associated restrictions we worked closely with the local mutual aid group which led to a significant increase in the numbers of volunteers registered with us. We provide regular support sessions with placement providers to improve their knowledge and practice, and outreach where capacity allows.

WVCA does offer opportunities for volunteering, primarily within Social Prescribing through, for example, befrienders and SUIT where volunteers are central to the delivery of the service. Opportunities elsewhere within the organisation are ad hoc but do regularly offer themselves. All volunteers within WVCA are supported by paid staff and offered expenses to cover costs associated with their volunteer roles.

Details of the various work strands that deliver the above are included in Notes 14 and 15 to the accounts on pages 26 to 29.

Overall Achievements, Performance and Financial Review

During the year there was a reduction in income to £1,518,545 (from £1,598,684). There has been a small reduction in total unrestricted funds from £450,520 in March 2024 to £430,341 (pre-transfers).

During the year we worked directly to support many hundreds of groups and organisations; engaged with and influenced a wide range of forums, strategies and initiatives across Wolverhampton and beyond and supported thousands of vulnerable and troubled individuals, both directly and through collaborations with a wide range of organisations. We were successful in securing a number of contracts including; Heart of England, HOPE Volunteer Project, Know Your Neighbourhood Fund, SEBF and Preventative Partnerships (St. Peter's Activity). We received in excess of 150 applications across the Black Country which was a significant achievement bringing in approximately £400k into our City. The vast bulk of this resource goes to VCS partners.

We continue to lead the way in terms of innovation across the City, championing the development of Social Prescribing including making successful applications for funds to be used by partners in providing social prescriptions.

Reserves Policy

The reserves considered in the Reserves Policy, are the "free reserves". These are the sum of the Unrestricted General Reserves, less Fixed Assets within Unrestricted Activity. The rationale for WVCA's reserves is: to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to provide sustainability and continuity within times of income shortfall, and to enable WVCA to respond to key developments in the sector. The Trustees aim to build reserves which would enable WVCA to continue to fulfil its commitment to achievement of outcomes for at least 6 months, and to honour its liabilities at any point in time for which a separate designated reserve is set within Unrestricted Reserves. For the 2024-25 accounts this policy gave us a figure to work towards of £515,393.

As at 31 March 2025, WVCA's unrestricted reserves are £561,795 (£450,520 in 23/24). This is largely a result of a small decrease in in-year reserves, offset by transfers of reserves from projects which have now completed into general unrestricted and designated reserves. This total is a combination of designated reserves of £276,890 (which includes £177,130 for closure costs) and general unrestricted reserves of £284,905. After allowing for a commitment towards a fixed asset of £10,297 this leaves a residue of £274,608 (£309,854 in March 2024) as contribution towards the target of 6 months running costs, as directed by the reserves policy.

Plans for the future

We are in year 2 of the Infrastructure and Volunteer Centre contract. The contract value is £200k per year with no uplift. The contract is in place until December 2028, with the option to extend for up to 2 further years.

The reduction in value of the contract given current pressures including those relating to pressure on pay is a challenge and further illustrates the shrinking of our financial relationship with the Council at a time when the demand on WVCA and the wider sector is increasing.

SUIT has a subcontract in place with NACRO. The substantive contract between NACRO and the city council is in its 2-year extension period until the end of March 2025, and we are in discussions regarding our partnership and future activities over this extension period.

The Social Prescribing Service is funded through 6 PCNs and the Integrated Care Board (formerly CCG) year on year. During the months leading up to the end of March 2025, we were informed that one PCN was withdrawing from this arrangement from 1st April 2025. Therefore, the budget, including the ICB contribution was cut. This resulted in the directive to reduce the SP Manager and SP Deputy Manager to one post. The SP Manager opted for voluntary redundancy. The SP Deputy Manager was interviewed for the new role of SP Coordinator in April 2025 and was successful. This also resulted in the SP Link Worker for the said PCN being seconded to them under a TUPE arrangement.

We do see a range of opportunities for our organisation, alongside the challenges, in the years ahead:

- ✓ Social Prescribing is an established part of the Wolverhampton Health and Social Care landscape. It is a core manifestation of public sector aspirations for a whole system approach and a key role for the VCSEF. To that end we do believe that this is likely to be a growing area of work.
- ✓ The Black Country Integrated Care system is most likely to implement the whole system approach that is required, if health and social care is to improve. We have developed excellent relationships with system leads and employ the Engagement and Partnerships Lead Officer leading on this work for the VCSEF. Funds for the sector have been made available through this route. To date we have led on the distribution of short-term funds in Wolverhampton.
- ✓ We have a very positive emerging relationship with the local hospital Trust and secured a joint contract with the national NHS charity.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

In summary: We are in year 2 of our Infrastructure and volunteer centre contract. Encouragingly projections are improving as we go through the year and we are well placed to pick up any short-term shortfall via reserves, if this becomes necessary.

Auditors

Messrs Muras Baker Jones Limited have signified their willingness to continue in office as auditors, and this was agreed at the last audit.

Board of Trustees

Simeon Greene (Co-Chair)
Patricia Mary Kemp (Co-Chair)
James Fox
Anne Marie Harrison
Gurbax Kaur
Paul Tulley
Dr Josh Johnson
Daryl Chambers
Anna Place (appointed 22/04/2024)
Lisa Storey (appointed 04/06/2025)
Dominique Williams (appointed 04/06/2025)
Pamela Cole-Hudson (resigned 18/02/2025)
Janet Clarke Lewis (resigned 10/06/2024)

Councillor Jeszemma Howl (city council observer resigned June 2025), to be replaced by Councillor Tersaim Singh

Disclosure of information to the auditors

We, the trustees / directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

By order of the Board of Trustees



Sharon Nanan-Sen
Secretary
1 October 2025



Simeon Greene
Co-Chair
1 October 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise a statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account), a balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 2 the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION for the year ended 31 March 2025

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
and Statutory Auditor

Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
WV1 4EG

1 October 2025

Muras Baker Jones Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds 2025 £ | Restricted Funds 2025 £ | Total Funds 2025 £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Income from charitable activities | 5 | 16,105 | 1,490,097 | 1,506,202 | 1,588,365 |
| Investment Income | | 12,343 | - | 12,343 | 10,319 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 28,448 | 1,490,097 | 1,518,545 | 1,598,684 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | 6 | 48,627 | 1,448,409 | 1,497,036 | 1,723,849 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 48,627 | 1,448,409 | 1,497,036 | 1,723,849 |
| NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE | 7 | (20,179) | 41,688 | 21,509 | (125,165) |
| Transfers between funds | 14 | 131,454 | (131,454) | - | - |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | | 111,275 | (89,766) | 21,509 | (125,165) |
| Total funds brought forward | | 450,520 | 617,528 | 1,068,048 | 1,193,213 |
| TOTAL FUNDS at 31 March 2025 | | 561,795 | 527,762 | 1,089,557 | 1,068,048 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

| | Note | £ | 2025 £ | £ | 2024 £ |
|---|------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Fixed Assets: | | | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 8 | | 21,049 | | - |
| Current Assets: | | | | | |
| Debtors | 9 | 154,649 | | 123,435 | |
| Deposit Accounts | | 462,253 | | 451,475 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | <u>565,656</u> | | <u>530,653</u> | |
| | | 1,182,558 | | 1,105,563 | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 11 | (114,050) | | (37,515) | |
| Net current assets | | | <u>1,068,508</u> | | <u>1,068,048</u> |
| Total net assets | | | <u>1,089,557</u> | | <u>1,068,048</u> |
| Charity Funds: | | | | | |
| General unrestricted fund | | | 284,905 | | 274,996 |
| Designated funds | | | 276,890 | | 175,524 |
| Restricted funds | | | <u>527,762</u> | | <u>617,528</u> |
| | | | <u>1,089,557</u> | | <u>1,068,048</u> |

The Directors are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. However, an audit is required in accordance with section s154 of the Charities Act 2011.

Directors' responsibilities:

- 1) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- 2) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of the accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 1 October 2025.



Simeon Greene
Co-Chair of Board of Trustees



Pat Kemp
Co-Chair of Board of Trustees

Company Number: 2288239

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2025

| | Note | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--|------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the year | | 21,509 | (125,165) |
| Adjustments for: | | | |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | | 3,007 | 750 |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | | (12,343) | (10,319) |
| Loss on disposal of asset | | - | 1 |
| Changes in: | | | |
| Trade and other debtors | | (31,214) | 39,930 |
| Trade and other creditors | | 76,535 | (10,952) |
| Cash generated from operations: | | 57,494 | (105,755) |
| Interest received | | 12,343 | 10,319 |
| Net cash from / (used in) operating activities | | 69,837 | (95,436) |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Payment to acquire tangible fixed assets | | (24,056) | - |
| Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | 45,781 | (95,436) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | 982,128 | 1,077,564 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the year end | 10 | 1,027,909 | 982,128 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

2 Liability of Members

WVCA is a company limited by guarantee. It does not have a share capital and the liability of each member is limited to the guarantee given by that member, which shall not exceed £1. There are no beneficial interests and under the terms of its Memorandum and Articles of Association any surplus can only be applied towards the promotion of WVCA's objectives, and no dividend or other form of distribution can be paid to its members.

3 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. WVCA meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Pension costs

One employee is a member of the West Midlands Pension Fund ("WMPF"). The pension cost charge in the financial statements represents contributions due to this scheme in respect of earnings during the year, which are based on recommendations by the fund actuary.

The disclosures required by FRS 102 have not been included in the financial statements. WVCA is in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme, WMPF, and FRS 102 requires such organisations to identify their share of the pension scheme's assets and liabilities. However, within FRS 102 this is only to be achieved if "sufficient information" is available to do so. WVCA believes that an actuarial valuation would not be a reasonable use of public funds, and the directors therefore have decided not to provide this financial information on the balance sheet in the financial statements. WVCA manages contributions to its pension fund in line with the WMPF valuation recommendations, pension costs for all of the projects are fully budgeted for, and WVCA receives an actuarial valuation on the WMPF scheme on a three yearly basis. Issues around risk management of the pension fund are continually assessed through work with staff at WMPF, and at Board of Trustees' Meetings.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are normally capitalised where the cost exceeds £1,000, and are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset, on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Office equipment | over 5 years |
| Computers | over 4 years |
| Refurbishment on lease | over time remaining on the premises lease agreement |

The accounting for depreciation leads to a discrepancy between some financial statements submitted to funders, and the fund activity shown in the statutory accounts of WVCA. If a project has a funder which requires that a capital purchase is to be presented as a cash item rather than as a capitalised item, as required by Charity Accounting rules, then a discrepancy emerges between the amount claimed from the funder, and the fund accounting in the statutory accounts. Where this is the case, that particular discrepancy is referred to in the Trustees Report.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies (cont.)

Grants payable

Grants payable to local organisations are recognised in the financial statements when there is a commitment to make a payment.

Income

Revenue grants are received from various funders - see note 5 - in order to finance WVCA's activities and are accounted for in the income and expenditure account on an accrual's basis.

Where revenue grants are received which have donor-imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, any income received in advance is deferred.

Where revenue grants are received, which do not have donor imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, the income is accounted for when received.

Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Income from the provision of legal, payroll and other core services are accounted for when earned.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity, where they can be quantified.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT, where it cannot be recovered.

Expenditure on charitable activities consist of costs incurred in the direct delivery of services and the support costs which are allocated to each of these areas of service provision.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise grants and other incoming resources receivable, or generated for the objects of the charity, without further specific purpose, and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

4 Grants payable

| | Number | 2025 £ | Number | 2024 £ |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Girls Allowed Partners | 1 | 742 | 2 | 1,484 |
| HOPE | 20 | 54,540 | 7 | 25,592 |
| Heart of England | - | - | 3 | 18,000 |
| ICB REND | 5 | 9,200 | 6 | 12,050 |
| Kings Coronation | - | - | 147 | 35,855 |
| KYNF-IMPACT | - | - | 19 | 38,400 |
| Social Prescribing Partner | - | - | 1 | 5,000 |
| St Peter (Preventative Services) | 6 | 19,616 | 8 | 55,745 |
| S.E.B.F - DCMS | 3 | 19,694 | 19 | 120,000 |
| Winter Pressures | - | - | 13 | 55,076 |
| WP- Adult Hospital Discharge | 2 | 20,000 | 1 | 16,292 |
| | <u>37</u> | <u>123,792</u> | <u>226</u> | <u>383,493</u> |

5 Income from Charitable Activities

| | Unrestricted 2025 £ | Restricted 2025 £ | Total 2025 £ | Total 2024 £ |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| BLF joint funded programme | - | - | - | 20,000 |
| BLF/DCMS* joint funded programme | - | 27,611 | 27,611 | 138,415 |
| City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) | - | 200,000 | 200,000 | 174,670 |
| NHS Black Country ICB | - | 723,988 | 723,988 | 767,879 |
| Integrated Care Board (ICB) Via BCT | - | 145,990 | 145,990 | 206,493 |
| Know Your Neighbourhood Fund - KYNF | - | 27,600 | 27,600 | 81,271 |
| The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust | - | 62,778 | 62,778 | 27,352 |
| United by 22 | 2,121 | - | 2,121 | - |
| Donation | - | 230 | 230 | 798 |
| Non Grant Income | 13,984 | 301,900 | 315,884 | 171,487 |
| | <u>16,105</u> | <u>1,490,097</u> | <u>1,506,202</u> | <u>1,588,365</u> |

* Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

6 Breakdown of Costs of Charitable Activity

| | Staff Costs | Other Charitable Costs | Support Costs | Total 2025 | Total 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Core Activities | | | 37,377 | 37,377 | 69,141 |
| Infrastructure Support incl Trading | 6,285 | 3,262 | 1,703 | 11,250 | 7,003 |
| | 6,285 | 3,262 | 39,080 | 48,627 | 76,144 |
| Active Connectors | 11,070 | 57 | 1,983 | 13,110 | 41,341 |
| BBO Bridges | - | - | - | - | 450 |
| Community Conversations | 37,045 | 1,418 | 7,500 | 45,963 | 45,445 |
| Girls Allowed | - | 742 | - | 742 | 3,599 |
| Heart of England | - | - | - | - | 20,000 |
| HOPE | - | 54,540 | 8,363 | 62,903 | 35,295 |
| Hospital Discharge 1 | 6,529 | 20,008 | - | 26,537 | 42,659 |
| Hospital Discharge 2 | 16,933 | 366 | 4,790 | 22,089 | - |
| Infrastructure Support | 101,769 | 4,048 | 18,150 | 123,967 | 113,645 |
| King Charles Coronation | - | - | - | - | 40,855 |
| LITS | 4,899 | - | - | 4,899 | 8,156 |
| MHE - Reserve | - | 1,537 | - | 1,537 | 4 |
| Orange Wolves | - | - | - | - | 779 |
| Preventative Services | - | 19,616 | - | 19,616 | 70,745 |
| REND | - | 8,696 | - | 8,696 | 12,554 |
| S.E.B.F- DCMS | 7,917 | 19,694 | - | 27,611 | 138,415 |
| Social Prescribing Link Workers | 501,234 | 60,120 | 53,523 | 614,877 | 618,728 |
| Social Prescribing-Asthma Progr | - | 153 | - | 153 | 3,064 |
| STP VCSEF Engagement | 54,771 | 2,752 | 9,490 | 67,013 | 69,452 |
| Suicide Prevention | - | 130 | - | 130 | 443 |
| SUIT | 230,193 | 25,398 | 48,068 | 303,659 | 159,256 |
| Talent Match | - | 1,860 | - | 1,860 | 379 |
| Volunteer Services | 52,475 | 8,745 | 9,641 | 70,861 | 65,844 |
| Volunteer Services-KYNF IMPACT | - | - | - | - | 45,890 |
| Volunteer Services-KYNF WEC | 26,037 | 1,863 | 4,286 | 32,186 | 22,856 |
| Winter Pressures Fund | - | - | - | - | 55,076 |
| Wolverhampton for Everyone | - | - | - | - | 626 |
| Wolverhampton Lottery | - | - | - | - | 6,539 |
| WP - Adult Hospital Discharge | - | - | - | - | 19,660 |
| YOW - Children's Workforce | - | - | - | - | 450 |
| YP SP | - | - | - | - | 5,500 |
| TOTAL RESTRICTED | 1,050,872 | 231,743 | 165,794 | 1,448,409 | 1,647,705 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 1,057,157 | 235,005 | 204,874 | 1,497,036 | 1,723,849 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

6a Support Cost Breakdown by activity

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 133,439 | 157,552 |
| Property | 32,238 | 67,616 |
| Office | 26,108 | 44,456 |
| Depreciation | 1,469 | 750 |
| Professional fees | 1,757 | 2,135 |
| Support Costs | <u>195,011</u> | <u>272,509</u> |
| Governance costs: | | |
| AGM | 143 | - |
| Audit fees | 9,720 | 8,280 |
| TOTAL COSTS | <u>204,874</u> | <u>280,789</u> |

Basis of allocation of costs:

Staff costs: These are the staffing costs associated with work undertaken in the specific project areas as listed in note 6. Most staff work wholly in one project area, and their staff costs are allocated to that project. If their time is shared between projects, then the staffing cost is split accordingly. The staffing cost comprises gross salary plus on costs, including pension costs where applicable.

Other charitable costs: These are costs within the projects, incurred in the pursuance of the aims and objectives of each project. These costs are specific only to the project which they are allocated to.

Support Costs: These are costs which are incurred in the running of the organisation. They would include for example, core staff costs, rent, insurance, heat and light, IT support, repairs and maintenance, and any other costs which are associated with core staff executing their tasks, which are required in order to support all the projects and contracts within the organisation.

These costs are calculated on a budget basis, at the beginning of the financial year, and allocated as per numbers of full-time staff members in each project, or in accordance with grant agreement arrangements. Any support costs which are not recovered in the actual year, are seen as an additional core service support cost.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7 Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| This is stated after charging: | | |
| Rentals under operating leases | 30,945 | 32,145 |
| Auditors remuneration | 9,720 | 8,280 |
| Depreciation: owned fixed assets | 3,007 | 750 |

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

| | Refurb on lease | Computers and office equipment | Total |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Cost | | | |
| 31 March 2024 | 34,996 | 5,250 | 40,246 |
| Disposals | (34,996) | (2,250) | (37,246) |
| Additions | 24,056 | - | 24,056 |
| 31 March 2025 | <u>24,056</u> | <u>3,000</u> | <u>27,056</u> |
| Depreciation: | | | |
| 31 March 2024 | 34,996 | 5,250 | 40,246 |
| Disposals | (34,996) | (2,250) | (37,246) |
| Charge for the year | 3,007 | - | 3,007 |
| 31 March 2025 | <u>3,007</u> | <u>3,000</u> | <u>6,007</u> |
| Net book value: | | | |
| 31 March 2024 | - | - | - |
| 31 March 2025 | 21,049 | - | 21,049 |

9 Debtors

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade Debtors | 65,504 | 114,039 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 89,145 | 9,396 |
| | <u>154,649</u> | <u>123,435</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

10 Cash and Cash Equivalents

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Funds on deposit at bank | 462,253 | 451,475 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 565,656 | 530,653 |
| | <u>1,027,909</u> | <u>982,128</u> |

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income | 62,998 | - |
| Other creditors | 26,109 | 26,928 |
| Accruals | 24,943 | 10,587 |
| | <u>114,050</u> | <u>37,515</u> |

12 Analysis of Deferred Income

| Funder of Deferred Income | £ |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Heart of England | 7,377 |
| NHS Black Country ICB | 50,000 |
| S.C.V.O | 3,500 |
| United by 22 | 2,121 |
| | <u>62,998</u> |

13 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total 2025 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed Assets | 10,297 | 10,752 | - | 21,049 |
| Current Assets | 299,908 | 266,004 | 616,646 | 1,182,558 |
| Current Liabilities | (25,300) | - | (88,750) | (114,050) |
| | <u>284,905</u> | <u>276,756</u> | <u>527,896</u> | <u>1,089,557</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

14 Reserves and Reconciliation of Movement in Funds

| | 31 March 2024 £ | Transfers £ | Incoming Resources £ | Outgoing Resources £ | 31 March 2025 £ |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Unrestricted funds: | | | | | |
| General unrestricted fund | 274,996 | 30,088 | 28,448 | 48,627 | 284,905 |
| Designated funds including operation liabilities | 175,524 | 101,366 | - | - | 276,890 |
| | <u>450,520</u> | <u>131,454</u> | <u>28,448</u> | <u>48,627</u> | <u>561,795</u> |
| Restricted funds: | | | | | |
| 100% Digital | 8,250 | (8,250) | - | - | - |
| Active Connectors | 10,597 | 2,513 | - | 13,110 | - |
| BBO Bridges | 923 | (923) | - | - | - |
| Community Conversations | 2,695 | - | 47,240 | 45,963 | 3,972 |
| CRF50+ | 731 | (731) | - | - | - |
| Girls Allowed | 748 | (6) | - | 742 | - |
| Hope | 19,409 | - | 62,778 | 62,903 | 19,284 |
| Hospital Discharge 1 | 29,340 | - | - | 26,537 | 2,803 |
| Hospital Discharge 2 | - | - | 50,000 | 22,089 | 27,911 |
| Inf Support Reserve - Compact | 1,905 | (1,905) | - | - | - |
| Inf Support Reserve - training/quality | 15,623 | (15,623) | - | - | - |
| Infrastructure Support | - | - | 134,000 | 123,967 | 10,033 |
| King Charles Coronation | 450 | (450) | - | - | - |
| LITS | 11,844 | - | - | 4,899 | 6,945 |
| Mental Health Reducing Isolation | 5,542 | (5,542) | - | - | - |
| MHE - Reserve | 56,359 | (54,822) | - | 1,537 | - |
| MHE -Small Grants | 2,953 | - | - | - | 2,953 |
| NDELJ | 737 | (737) | - | - | - |
| Orange Wolves | 533 | - | - | - | 533 |
| Preventative Services/St Peters | 18,855 | 761 | - | 19,616 | - |
| REND | 7,446 | - | 1,250 | 8,696 | - |
| SEBF (DCMS) | - | - | 27,611 | 27,611 | - |
| Social Prescribing | 177,425 | - | 673,987 | 614,877 | 236,535 |
| Social Prescribing - Asthma Prog | 2,437 | - | - | 153 | 2,284 |
| Social Prescribing - Thriving Communités | 3,762 | - | - | - | 3,762 |
| STP VCSEF Engagement | 89,610 | - | 97,500 | 67,013 | 120,097 |
| Suicide Prevention | 170 | (40) | - | 130 | - |
| SUIT | 31,692 | - | 293,501 | 303,659 | 21,534 |
| Talent Match | 27,940 | (26,080) | - | 1,860 | - |
| Third Sector P'ship | - | - | - | - | - |
| TSC Systems Resilience | 7,571 | (7,571) | - | - | - |
| Vol Services - Space to Connect | - | - | - | - | - |
| Volunteer Centre | 6,903 | - | 73,382 | 70,861 | 9,424 |
| Volunteer Services-KYNF Impact | 4,110 | - | - | - | 4,110 |
| Volunteer Services-KYNF WEC | 8,415 | - | 27,600 | 32,186 | 3,829 |
| Winter Pressures Fund | 432 | (432) | - | - | - |
| Wolverhampton for Everyone | 10,216 | (10,216) | - | - | - |
| WP - Adult Hospital Discharge | 1,400 | (1,400) | - | - | - |
| WVCA Community Lottery | - | - | 1,248 | - | 1,248 |
| YOW - Childrens Workforce | 1,005 | - | - | - | 1,005 |
| YP SP | 49,500 | - | - | - | 49,500 |
| | <u>617,528</u> | <u>(131,454)</u> | <u>1,490,097</u> | <u>1,448,409</u> | <u>527,762</u> |
| | <u>1,068,048</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,518,545</u> | <u>1,497,036</u> | <u>1,089,557</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

15 Note: Reserves and Reconciliation of Movements in funds – Transfers between funds:

In 2024-25 there were transfers of funds between unrestricted and restricted funds:

- Balances on community renewal fund over 50s (£731), BBO Bridges (£923) and Adult Hospital Discharge (£1,400) – these balances arose from core staff time funded by grant. This balance has therefore been transferred into unrestricted reserves (£3,054 in total).
- A number of small balances on old projects which have ended, having fulfilled funder requirements, have been transferred into unrestricted reserves, totalling £33,244:
 - 100% Digital (£8,250)
 - Girls Allowed (£6)
 - King Charles Coronation (£450)
 - NDELJ/WfE (£10,953)
 - MH – reducing isolation (£5,542)
 - Suicide Prevention (£40)
 - TSC Systems Resilience (£7,571)
 - Winter Pressures (£432)
- General unrestricted reserves met the shortfall on the Active Connectors project which ended in the summer, to the value of £2,513 and the St Peters project to the value of £761
- The remaining balance on the designated fund set aside for re-branding has been transferred back into general unrestricted reserves (£645) and the designated fund for closure costs has been increased by a transfer from general unrestricted reserves of £3,581
- Some reserves formerly treated as restricted but with no remaining funder restrictions have been transferred into designated reserves, to be held for use in line with their original purpose:
 - Infrastructure support (£17,528)
 - Mental Health Empowerment (£54,822)
 - Talent Match records storage (£26,080)

Purpose of Funds The information provided below is a brief summary on each fund and how the funded activities contribute to WVCA aims and objectives.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General Unrestricted Fund: This is used to fund some core activities that are not fully funded through our infrastructure support contract with CWC. It is also held to enable activities to continue for a period of time in the event of sudden loss of funding, in line with the Trustees' reserves policy. Movement on the level of these reserves is dependent on WVCA's ability to recover its core operating costs from support cost charges to projects together with earned income and bank interest.

In the year under report net earned income totalled £17,198, consisting mainly of bank interest (£10,278 in 2023-24). The agreed charges to projects fell short of covering support costs by £37,377. The combination of these would have meant a reduction in general unrestricted reserves of £20,179. Transfers to and from other funds gave a one-off increase to general unrestricted reserves of £30,088, resulting in a small overall increase of £9,909 to £284,905. This level of reserve would cover approximately 3 month's continuation costs, compared to the 6 months target set out by the reserves policy.

Designated Funds: The balance in designated funds is £276,890 This represents:

- £1,330 for improving safety within the organisation for staff and visitors

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

- £177,130 for operational liabilities/closure costs
- £26,080 for Talent Match records storage and associated costs
- £54,822 for Mental Health Empowerment related costs
- £17,528 for Infrastructure Support related costs

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds represent funding received for specific projects and activities in support of WVCA's overall objectives.

Infrastructure Support: This service provides a wide range of support to local VCOs including in the areas of funding, governance, safeguarding, policies, GDPR, information etc. During the year we supported many hundreds of organisations and attended dozens of strategic forums across a very wide range of issues. These activities receive a £134K pa contract from City of Wolverhampton Council re-awarded from 1 January 2024 with an increased level of resource. Whilst this income covers costs in 2024-25 it is unlikely to do so for much of the remainder of the contract as no inflationary increase is included. In previous years the board agreed to subsidise this work from unrestricted funds, together with the designated reserve set out above, and this area is monitored by the Board.

Hospital Discharge: This project aims to address the needs of patients recently discharged or about to be discharged from hospital in the local communities. The programme has had two phases, one beginning in 2023 and a second tranche from September 2024 to September 2025. The remaining funds are to be utilised during 25-26 on project activities.

Preventative Services (St Peters): Funding received through the CCG has now been spent in full.

REND: This fund forms part of the Community Conversation Project. The fund was now been spent in full.

Social Prescribing: The project works with "patients" to identify alternative approaches to tackling issues such as low level depression, isolation and frequent GP contact, that can better be tackled by diversion to activities within the VCS such as wellbeing sessions, group activities, exercise etc., rather than by medical interventions. During the year the project supported in the region of 1500 customers facing loneliness, isolation and mental ill health. In the year under report the project was funded through a combination of PCN (Networks of GPs), and the CCG. An in-year surplus of £59,110 arose from operational savings combined with additional income allocated towards the end of the year. The total surplus of £236,535 will be spent in delivering the wider social Prescribing vision, including filling gaps in prescriptions in the years ahead. and in supporting unfunded cost of living increases.

Local Implementation Teams (LITs)

Local Implementation Teams (LITs) have been formed by the Dudley Health and Care Partnership Board to improve patient pathways. They will consist of a number of GPs, clinicians and other key partners. The voluntary sector has been invited to be part of each LIT. It is envisaged that they will be short-term, task and finish type teams. Local voluntary and community organisations such WVCA to represent the sector at each LIT. WVCA secured this funding during 2023 with a plan to continue activities over the next year.

Service User Involvement Project (SUIT): Through a sub-contract with NACRO this project works alongside users and ex-users of drug treatment services to support them in influencing the design and

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

delivery of drug treatment services and provides direct support to service users using a model based on abstinence-based recovery.

STP - Engagement & Partnership/ICS: Funded through the Integrated Care System this work is overseen by WVCA on behalf of the four Black Country CVS organisations. We employ a worker who delivers this work that commenced in 2020/21.

Wolverhampton Volunteers Services: The project forms the basis of our volunteering offer and is outlined in the Trustees Annual Report under "Volunteers". The project works with some 250 organisations, providing volunteers and support.

Orange Wolverhampton: This funding was raised in previous years and must be used to support Orange Wolverhampton, a campaign to raise awareness of violence inflicted on Women and Girls.

YOW – Children's' workforce: This fund is restricted for use in training the children's' workforce in the City.

Hope: Hope is a partnership between Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) and Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA) to improve mental health due to isolation or other factors. As part of our work we have established a small grants programme which will support activities that will help to reduce isolation and loneliness, through grass roots community groups and small organisations. The funding has been used in full in 2024-25 and supplemented by a small contribution from general reserves.

Young People – Social Prescribing: WVCA were awarded funding to help support young refugees and migrants that are currently living in hotels in Wolverhampton. Funding was awarded just prior to year ending March 2023, with initial plans to utilise during 2023-2024. Currently WVCA has reserves of £49,500 to be utilised in line with plans agreed with the funder during 2025-2026.

Active Connectors: WVCA were given funding to work with partners in the community to reduce inactivity, tackle inequality and improve the lives of local residents. Black Country Community Connectors (Active Connectors) are engaging with local communities and community groups across 12 priority wards across the Black Country to enable people to move more. All remaining reserves were used during 2024-2025, supported by a small contribution from unrestricted reserves.

16 Information regarding the members of the Board of Trustees

The names of persons who are members of the Board are given in the Report of the Board of Trustees.

Remuneration: Under the terms of the Memorandum of Association, neither member of the Board nor any connected person shall receive any remuneration from WVCA. Board members are offered reimbursement for travel expenses. The amounts involved are negligible.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

17 Particulars of Employees

The average monthly headcount was 39 (35 in 2024).

The average number of full time equivalent persons employed by WVCA during the year was:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------|------|------|
| General activities | 33.1 | 30.5 |

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons was as follows:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 1,032,965 | 941,967 |
| Social security costs | 82,236 | 86,868 |
| Other pension costs | 40,675 | 48,531 |
| Redundancy costs | - | - |
| Payments to sub-contractors | 34,720 | 53,566 |
| | <u>1,190,596</u> | <u>1,130,932</u> |

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Key management remuneration | 67,636 | 101,582 |

No employee's earned benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

18 Pensions

One remaining employee of the charity is a member of the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities Pension Fund, which is a multi-employer scheme. The Fund is financed by contributions paid by both employees and the charity, and by earnings received on investments. The scheme is a Defined Benefits Scheme. It has been closed to new members.

Contributions to the Scheme from the employee are payable at a variable rate according to graded rates of pensionable pay. The employer contribution rate rose to 24.2% in 2020/21 in response to the Actuarial Valuation for the scheme and was unchanged in the following Actuarial Valuation which set rates to March 2026. Also, the charity was not required to make additional Past Service Lump Sum contributions towards meeting the shortfall in the scheme during 2023-2026. The next Valuation is due to take place during 2025 with any resulting additional financial contributions from WVCA to take effect from April 2026.

It is assumed that the Administering Authority will continue to invest a significant proportion of the assets of the Fund in UK and overseas equities, and that these will produce a future investment return that exceeds the current yield available on bonds.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

A stakeholder scheme was established in January 2016 and is offered to all employees who are not members of the West Midland Pension Scheme, subject to pension guidance in terms of eligibility.

19 Taxation

WVCA is not liable to tax on any of its income because of its charitable status.

20 Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 March 2025 WVCA had minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

| | 2025 | | 2024 | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | Land and Buildings | Other | Land and Buildings | Other |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Falling due: | | | | |
| Within one year | 30,945 | 11,717 | 28,545 | 1,782 |
| In one to two years | - | 11,599 | - | 449 |
| In two to five years | - | 12,457 | - | - |
| After 5 years | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>30,945</u> | <u>35,773</u> | <u>28,545</u> | <u>2,231</u> |

A twelve month commitment is disclosed in respect of land and buildings as WVCA has an option to terminate this on giving one year's notice. The landlord can terminate the lease in the event of default by WVCA.

21 Related Party Transactions

WVCA receives funding for services provided to NHS Black Country ICB, an organisation of which Paul Tulley, a trustee of WVCA, is a director. All transactions with this organisation are at an arms length basis.

Black Country Together CIC was founded 31 January 2013, by the four Councils for Voluntary Service in the Black Country each with 25% membership, with the aim of increasing levels of funding coming into our sub-region and fostering greater co-operation and collaboration between voluntary organisations and local statutory agencies both within and across borough boundaries.

BCT CIC was a company limited by guarantee without share capital until 12 September 2024 when it registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Sharon Nanan-Sen, WVCA CEO, is a director of BCT along with three other Black Country CVS CEOs. WVCA received ICB funding for STP VCSEF Engagement, Community Conversations and REND grants programmes through BCT.

There are no other related party transactions to disclose.

Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action

England & Wales - Charity number 700910

Accounts

Company number: 2288239
Registered charity number: 700910

**WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Report of the Board of Trustees and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------|
| Legal and Administrative Information | 1 |
| Board of Trustees Annual Report | 2- 13 |
| Report of the independent auditors | 14-16 |
| Statement of financial activities – SOFA | 17 |
| Balance Sheet | 18 |
| Cash flow statement | 19 |
| Notes forming part of the financial statements | 20-34 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Legal and Administrative Information

Year ended 31 March 2024

Charity Name

Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action (WVCA)

Board of Trustees

Simeon Greene (Co-Chair)
Pamela Cole-Hudson (Co-Chair)
Janet Clarke Lewis
James Fox
Anne Marie Harrison
Patricia Mary Kemp
Gurbax Kaur
Paul Tulley
Sarah Deeming (resigned 30 November 2023)
Edna Masoha (resigned 28 March 2024)
Dr Josh Johnson (appointed 30 November 2023)
Daryl Chambers (appointed 30 November 2023)

Anna Place was appointed a trustee with effect from 22 April 2024. Janet Clarke Lewis resigned as a trustee with effect from 10 June 2024.

Board Observer

Councillor Jeszemma Howl (city council observer 28 September 2023)

Secretary and registered office

Sharon Nanan-Sen (commenced on 1st September 2023),
Paycare House, George Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4DX (from 1st October 2023)
16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN (up to 30th September 2023)

Key Management

Sharon Nanan-Sen, Chief Executive (commenced on 1st September 2023)
Ian Darch, Chief Executive (retired on 31st August 2023)

Company Number

2288239

Registered Charity Number

700910

Auditors

Muras Baker Jones Limited,
Regent House, Bath Avenue, Wolverhampton, WV1 4EG

Financial Statements

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements.

The Trustees, who are also Directors of Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action ("WVCA") for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements. The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that WVCA will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of WVCA and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of WVCA and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Structure, Governance and Management

Administrative Details

The day-to-day management of WVCA is ultimately the responsibility of the Chief Executive on behalf of the Trustees. The Chief Executive is also responsible, with the Board of Trustees, for the strategic direction of the organisation and delivery of its objectives.

Much of the day-to-day management was delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive who was supported by a part time Operations Manager and a Central Administrator. The Deputy Chief Executive left WVCA on 28th April 2023. The Deputy Chief Executive post was not replaced.

A Finance Manager (22 hours pw) is supported by a Finance Officer (30 hours pw) and has overall responsibility to the CEO for finance systems and processes. A robust financial delegation system is in place with each project lead having day to day responsibility for their own budgets.

Governing Document

WVCA is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19th August 1988 and registered as a Charity on 24th November 1988. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being "wound up" members are each required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Articles of association were reviewed and changes agreed at the 2018 AGM. These changes were a response to difficulties in achieving quorums at some meetings thus hindering effective and prompt decision making. In essence the changes reduce the size of the Board and quoracy requirements, while also ensuring effective governance and board oversight. In early 22/23 members agreed to change the organisations name to Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action (WVCA) and this is being actioned at the time of writing.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees

Although WVCA is a small to medium sized organisation, it is a complex one operating in what is an increasingly challenging environment. It is therefore important that the skills and competencies of the trustee body are at a high level. WVCA is also involved in a very diverse range of activities as outlined later in this report and therefore the trustee body needs to demonstrate a broad as well as a high level of skills in carrying out its governance role.

The changes agreed at the 2018 AGM maintains a Board structure which reflects our customers and the environment in which we operate. The current Board make up and quoracy requirements as outlined in the Articles of Association are as follows:

The minimum number of directors shall be 6 and the maximum number of directors shall be 12. This Board of Directors will be made up of:

- a) A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 Voluntary and Community Organisations operating in Wolverhampton who are members of Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action.
- b) Individuals, who can be invited to join the Board for their expertise including as "experts by experience"
- c) A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 other partners from the private, education, and public sectors. These directors are recruited to strengthen links across the City and provide specialist input into the Board. All trustees they must support our objectives.
- d) The City Council has observer status on the board and may invite any person to attend the charity's meetings (both directors and general meetings) as an observer without the power to vote. This observer will not be counted in the quorum.

The quorum shall be 3 or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the directors. This quorum must include at least 2 directors from a) and at least 1 from c) above.

The quorum must have Voluntary and Community Organisations in the majority. This is so that any changes or any issues requiring a vote will need to be supported by VCO members.

At the time of this report there were no vacancies. We have worked hard to ensure that our Board membership reflects the diversity of Wolverhampton and at the time of writing 7 of our 12 Board members are people from minority ethnic communities.

The Trustees of the company are also the Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the Company's Articles they are known as members of the Management Committee.

Trustees' Induction and Training

As representatives of member organisations, key partners, or individuals most Trustees are familiar with the work of WVCA. Each new board member meets with the Chief Executive for an induction and is provided with a recently updated induction pack.

In addition, reports on specific activities are provided at board meetings and training/orientation sessions are organised for Trustees. The strategic direction of WVCA is regularly discussed at board meetings. The Board and CEO will meet in order to keep this under review and reset the organisation strategic priorities where required.

Organisational Structure

WVCA has a management committee of up to 12 members who meet bimonthly and are responsible, with the Chief Executive, for the strategic direction of the Charity. In addition, the City Council nominate a Councillor with observer status on the board. The structure underneath the board is as follows:

A sub-committee of the board (known as the Executive Committee and consisting of up to four Trustees) meets with the Chief Executive on an ad hoc basis as required. This sub-committee provides a forum for more detailed discussion on key issues and advises the board.

A Remuneration Committee consisting of the Chief Executive and Finance Manager has been delegated by the Board to make salary adjustments in order to maintain a fair and equitable salary structure within the organisation. Any changes to the salaries the Chief Executive will be considered by the Executive Committee.

The Chief Executive has delegated responsibility from the board for the provision of services and the day-to-day operation of WVCA. The Chief Executive works closely with managers in executing these responsibilities. The structure below the Board comprises a number of elements as follows:

Project Leads: The Chief Executive meets on a regular basis, with project leads as required, to establish that the organisation is delivering its mission, that it is doing so in a consistent and effective manner, and to make any operational adjustments that may be required.

Staff meetings: Regular staff meetings provide a forum for ensuring a collective understanding of day-to-day matters in areas such as health and safety and provide a forum for the Chief Executive and others to communicate matters of relevance to all staff.

Staff support: All staff meet regularly for supervision with their Line Managers. The Chief Executive manages the Finance Manager and the Project Leads of the Social Prescribing Project, SUIT lead and Engagement & Partnership lead. The Chief Executive receives supervision from the Chair of the Board.

Financial delegation: Robust financial systems are in place, with levels of financial authority from the Board, through to the Chief Executive down to individual departments, within agreed budgets. Systems for authorising both income and expenditure are in place along with an effective credit control system. Regular reports to Board ensure overall financial prudence and allow for the management of any financial risk.

Partner Organisations

WVCA is a member of The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), NAVCA and The Chamber of Commerce.

As an umbrella organisation for the sector, WVCA has a major strategic role in Wolverhampton and works with partners locally, sub-regionally and nationally in order to achieve shared outcomes. To this end WVCA works in partnership at a number of levels and these can be summarised as follows:

Voluntary Organisations and community groups: WVCA has a role in working with other VCOs to “champion” the sector. This involves working with organisations in response to issues affecting the sector and carrying out a co-ordinating role to ensure that the sector is effectively represented at a strategic level across the city. At the most strategic level this includes membership of the “One Wolverhampton” Board and the Health and Well Being Board. In addition, WVCA has the role of facilitating the Wolverhampton VCSE Alliance.

Consortia Partners: Consortia working, both within the VCS and across sectors, is growing and developing as an accepted approach for achieving better outcomes for local people. WVCA have been leading the way in the development of consortia both across the City and beyond, which has resulted, over the past 5 years in over £10M being secured and spent with VCOs in Wolverhampton and the surrounding area.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

In particular:

Black Country Together (BCT) was developed in 2013 by the four CVS's in order to support the delivery of services by the VCS on a sub-regional level. WVCA is one of the four members of the organisation. BCT currently oversees the delivery of a contract worth £2M, from the Arts council (subject to Business Plan).

We deliver the City's Social Prescribing Service which brings together Health and Social Care services, people who are referred from those services in order to address loneliness, isolation, low level mental health issues and so on; and VCOs who provide the prescriptions.

WVCA also leads on the VCSE Alliance , which consists of representation from Voluntary and Community groups and organisations and has become a key focus to ensuring a strong and clear voice for the sector on a range of strategic and policy issues.

Statutory Sector: The Chief Executive of WVCA is a member of the One Wolverhampton Partnership, she meets regularly on a one to one basis with the Director of Public Health, Chief Super Intendent and other senior statutory sector colleagues.

WVCA, through the Chief Executive also represents the sector on a wide range of other forums. At the current time these include:

- ✓ Children and Families Together Board
- ✓ Community Cohesion Forum
- ✓ Safeguarding Boards
- ✓ The Healthier Futures Partnership Board (Integrated care system)
- ✓ Integrated Care Partnership
- ✓ Health and Well-being board

WVCA also facilitates representation on a range of strategic and operational forums including:

- ✓ The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership
- ✓ The Place based Partnership
- ✓ Health and Well Being board
- ✓ Safeguarding boards

In addition, the Board and the CEO of WVCA work closely with statutory sector colleagues on a range of strategic matters such as, social value, co-production, strategic funding and so on.

Risk Management

The risks facing WVCA can be considered under 3 broad headings as follows:

Financial

Internal Control Risks: The risk of financial mismanagement and, in the extreme, fraudulent activity:

These internal risks have increased in recent years as WVCA's role in leading complex consortia activities, such as Talent Match, and, in the year under report the community renewal fund (Skills Connect), has grown. These risks reached a peak in 20/21 with IMPACT: We have now withdrawn from that partnership, all funds owed have been paid to us and, other than the minor risk of future audit and clawback there are no remaining issues to deal with. The overall risk is reduced by having in place robust financial controls and policies and procedures for safe management of financial resources. In addition, WVCA has a robust and effective credit control system in place that serves to ease cash flow difficulties and minimise bad debts.

These systems, coupled with a small but very competent finance team means that we are working well in a complex environment. The financial outturn for the year under report, with a deficit of £64,069 on

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

unrestricted funds and no significant overspend on restricted budgets, within an extremely challenging year would seem to support this.

Our continued membership of WMPF for long standing and ex staff members does present an on-going financial challenge during the year, as the level of contribution rates continue to increase. On the other hand only 1 staff member remains within the fund. Recent confirmation from WMPF that “upon termination” the associated assets and liabilities will be subsumed by the guarantor – in this case WCC, is a very welcome clarification and significantly reduces medium terms risk. The remaining risk, aside from current affordability, is the applicable strain cost relating to the 1 remaining staff member should they be made redundant after the age of 55.

Our auto enrolment pension scheme, introduced for all other staff is running smoothly with good take up.

External Financial Risks:

WVCA's income is generated through grants, contracts and direct, paid for, services.

The changing landscape; with the emerging role of the Integrated Care System, Brexit and the level to which EU funds are replaced via the Shared Prosperity Fund, the significant reduction in funds available through the City of Wolverhampton Council, including our need to retender for our existing I/S services, at prices from 5 years ago, have created a situation where there are opportunities but high levels of uncertainty. We are needing to navigate carefully through this landscape both for ourselves and the wider sector. The level of change is unprecedented and we are well placed to emerge strongly from this period. On the other hand the complexity of the environment does present an uncomfortable level of uncertainty and associated risk.

Operational

We work in an environment where the weight and complexity of legal requirements in areas such as health and safety, safeguarding, employment law, equal opportunities and GDPR is growing, In addition the “whole system approach” brings its own challenges for example the need for technical solutions to effective partnership working, (in our case the shared use of EMIS the IT platform used by GPs). This places all organisations at risk. In order to help manage this, the Operations Manager takes a lead on internal policies and procedures, many of these have been reviewed and a clear procedure for future review is in place.

The Board are ultimately responsible for overseeing this area of work and WVCA also has in place a number of staff-led informal working groups including in the areas of first aid, fire safety and health and safety.

We have in place a Hybrid working policy to provide a mixture of colleagues meeting regularly while at the same time being able to work effectively at home, saving some travel time by utilising TEAMS, Zoom and so on.

Finally covering our core costs, including the “core” team is a growing challenge, funders are not prepared to fund organisational infrastructure and are often unwilling to fund on the basis of full cost recovery.

Personnel

Most organisations have a high level of dependency on their key staff. This is exacerbated within WVCA where the diversity of our activities and high levels of specialism among senior staff places us at significant risk if those staff were to leave through resignation or illness - in several areas there are no ready-made replacements that would be able to cover beyond the short term. Notice periods for the Chief Executive is three months and for other managers it is one month; this does reduce the risk of key posts being left unfilled for any significant time.

Staff turnover is historically low, consistently running near or below 10%.

Staff sickness rates for this year averaged 4.08 days per employee (3.28 in 22/23). Unlike in previous years the most common causes of sickness absence were mental ill-health, digestive problems and COVID, in that order, reflecting the wider impacts of the COVID pandemic. That said 19 staff had no sickness absence and a further 21 had between 1 and 5 days during the year. We do not have a sickness culture but it feels important that the year on year increase from an average of 4.1 days sickness (19/20) to 6.1 (20/21) and 6.95 in 21/22 which indicates that WVCA has seen improvement.

Objectives and Activities

Following an away day in September 2021, involving the Board and senior staff, it was agreed that WVCA would change its name and update its branding to better reflect our mission, vision, values and principles as we work together with the vibrant communities of Wolverhampton to cultivate a thriving and inclusive City. These are as follows.

Our vision

Our vision is the world we want to see. This is the reminder that everything we work hard to achieve is worth the effort because what we do is so much bigger than the 9-to-5.

Wolverhampton as a city where everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Wolverhampton as a city where the root causes of inequality are eradicated for good.

Wolverhampton as a city with a well-resourced and thriving voluntary, community and social enterprise sector that supports strong, diverse communities.

Our mission

If the vision is the future, the mission is today. Every day that we get up and fulfil a part of our mission, we're one-step closer to achieving our vision.

To provide unrivalled, dedicated support services to the voluntary and community sector.

To champion Wolverhampton's voluntary and community sector through our reach and influence.

To promote community action and develop opportunities for people to engage in volunteering.

To support people to have agency over their lives and influence decision-making processes that matter to them.

To enhance people's quality of life within Wolverhampton, especially for those who feel most excluded.

To develop partnerships which encourage co-design and co-production.

Our values

At WVCA, we're connected by a set of collective values, keeping us all working in the same direction. These values are:

Collaboration

Integrity

Inclusive

Supportive

Determination

Respect

Our Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles are a set of promises which our brand will always align with.

We can use them when we want to reinforce our belief system. Our principles are the guide by which we work and also how we evaluate our work.

We are all about people

The people of Wolverhampton are at the heart of every decision we make. We believe that every person should be given the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

We are change makers

We seek to understand the challenges people face. We work tirelessly to challenge discrimination and commit to combatting the root causes of inequality.

We seek to collaborate

We know we can achieve more by working in partnership with others. We are your trusted ally, always on hand with resources, experience and passion. We like to work with partners to find solutions. Together we can.

We take bold and innovative action

We are brave, and together we persevere to reach our goals, building a strong network that is agile and resilient.

We strive for progress

We use our diverse skills and experience to influence and drive forward change. We seek to support our partners to create pivotal and lasting transformation. Though our voice may be calm, our impact is loud.

Public Benefit

A thriving Voluntary and Community Sector is a key aim of Central Government and is increasingly seen as part of the solution to the health and social care crisis facing the country. This will involve the groups and organisations that make up the sector playing a fuller role in delivering services, including public services. Recasting the relationship between people and government; empowering citizens; extending opportunities and communities coming together to make lives better are key to current political thinking. In recent times the development of Social Prescribing has seen a greater focus on our sector as the enthusiasm and need for "social prescriptions" grows. In this context WVCA:

- Supports the development of capacity within the sector to position it to play a fuller part in the delivery of services.
- Delivers Wolverhampton's Social Prescribing Service.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

- Enables meaningful participation in the work of partners sub regionally, City-wide and at the neighbourhood level.

Principle 1: Identifiable Benefits

1a) Key benefits are:

- A strong and effective VCS in the city.
- A clear voice for citizens, specifically those who use public services to influence and improve those services and the policies that inform them.

1b) Related to our aims:

By supporting voluntary organisations to operate more effectively and by providing a clear voice for citizens, both through groups and as individuals, our benefits are directly related to our aims.

1c) Balanced against harm:

With reference to each benefit outlined above:

- A strong and effective VCS improves the quality of provision and choice to those who commission services. There are many services, both public and otherwise, that are delivered better by VCOs for a number of reasons including flexibility, reach and cost effectiveness. This is accepted and supported by all political parties at the time of writing.
- A clear voice for citizens helps to ensure that resources are used to best meet the needs of beneficiaries. It is possible that giving a disproportionate voice to one particular interest or point of view could be detrimental and thus WVCA works hard to ensure that a balanced picture, informed by a wide range of voices, is presented through the activities outlined in note 15 to the accounts.

Principle 2: Benefit to the public

2a) Beneficiaries appropriate to the aims:

Beneficiaries are “voluntary organisations” and the community within Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas. The vast majority of our work has been within Wolverhampton with these beneficiaries. Some cross boundary work has taken place within the Black Country and, less so, the West Midlands. In all this work Wolverhampton organisations and communities have benefited and remained our focus. The Preventative Partnership, Black Country Together, Social Prescribing and most recently work with the ICS provide a vehicle for supporting voluntary organisations to work together to delivery public services and provides some capacity building to help them do so. Any surpluses generated will be used to the benefit of the local community.

2b) Not restricted by geography or ability to pay:

WVCA's basic services remain free at the point of delivery although with the reduced availability of funding we do make charges for work beyond the core offer when this is feasible. No organisation within the area of benefit was denied a service because of inability to pay and we will continue to make every effort to maintain this approach albeit reductions in funding, for example to support organisations does limit our capacity to respond.

2c) People in poverty must not be excluded:

No charges are made to individuals for WVCA's services and thus people in poverty are not excluded. A flexible approach to delivery including visiting groups and individuals, providing information in written and electronic forms etc., also ensures that no-one is excluded as a result of poverty.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

2d) Private benefit must be incidental:

WVCA gives grants to groups to help them achieve their charitable aims – these are not used to provide any personal benefit to group members. WVCA provides for expenses to be paid to volunteers including board members. These expenses are to cover the costs to the individuals of engaging in forums or carrying out specific tasks.

Fundraising

The majority of WVCA income is from Contracts and Grants. No further direct fundraising activities have taken place during the year 2023-2024.

Volunteers

WVCA operates the city's Volunteer Service (Wolverhampton Volunteers). The service places over 1000 new volunteers a year, with some 250 registered organisations offering placements. The service also supports our most vulnerable citizens through BBO (Building Better Opportunities), working more closely with them to help ensure they can use volunteering, training and other routes to move nearer and into employment.

Wolverhampton Volunteers has achieved the quality standard - the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA) - developed by Volunteer England, which focuses on the six core functions of a volunteer centre and of which only one is available in each locality.

The centre is increasingly becoming a hub for volunteering across the whole city, at the outbreak of COVID and the associated restrictions we worked closely with the local mutual aid group which led to a significant increase in the numbers of volunteers registered with us. This in turn led to some expansion of the Volunteer offer to include work with care homes and the City Council. We provide regular support sessions with placement providers to improve their knowledge and practice, and outreach where capacity allows.

WVCA does offer opportunities for volunteering, primarily within Social Prescribing through, for example, befrienders and SUI where volunteers are central to the delivery of the service. Opportunities elsewhere within the organisation are ad hoc but do regularly offer themselves. All volunteers within WVCA are supported by paid staff and offered expenses to cover costs associated with their volunteer roles.

Details of the various work strands that deliver the above are included in Note 15 to the accounts on page 27.

Overall Achievements, Performance and Financial Review

During the year there was a reduction in income to £1,598,684 (from £2,591,060). This decrease is primarily as a result in the reduction of resources for Talent Match as we withdrew from the IMPACT project and national lottery funds tapered as planned.

This year has seen a small reduction in total unrestricted funds from £514,589 in March 2023 to £450,520. This includes providing a subsidy to our Infrastructure project funded by the City Council, which is agreed each year by the board. Given the challenging financial environment during the year this is a positive outcome. WVCA also incurred costs due to moving from Temple Street to George Street during the year.

During the year we worked directly to support many hundreds of groups and organisations; engaged with and influenced a wide range of forums, strategies and initiatives across Wolverhampton and beyond and supported thousands of vulnerable and troubled individuals, both directly and through collaborations with a wide range of organisations. We were successful in securing a number of contracts including; Heart of England, HOPE Volunteer Project, Know Your Neighbourhood Fund, SEBF and Preventative Partnerships (St. Peter's Activity). We received in excess of 150 applications across the Black Country which was a

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

significant achievement bringing in just under £1M into our City. The vast bulk of this resource goes to VCS partners.

We continue to lead the way in terms of innovation across the City, championing the development of social prescribing including making successful applications for funds to be utilised by partners in providing prescriptions. We see this as a growing area of work. More specifically we continue to work with partners within and across sectors to address areas such as co-production, whole system approaches to deliver and the on-going levels of inequality in our City. In particular our relationships with the integrated care system (ICS) are bearing significant fruit for the wider VCS including for example funds through “winter pressures” and those to tackle Health Inequalities would not previously have been shared in this way. The emerging Integrated Care System is a significant opportunity for our sector with widespread acknowledgement of its roll within the “whole system” approach.

Reserves Policy

The reserves considered in the Reserves Policy, are the “free reserves”. These are the sum of the Unrestricted General Reserves, less Fixed Assets within Unrestricted Activity. These free reserves include designated funds. The rationale for WVCA’s reserves is: to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to provide sustainability and continuity within times of income shortfall, and to enable WVCA to respond to key developments in the sector. The Trustees aim to build reserves which would enable WVCA to continue to fulfil its commitment to achievement of outcomes for at least 6 months, and to honour its liabilities at any point in time. For the 2023/24 accounts this policy gave us a figure to work towards of £504,260.

The net impact on reserves of the above is a reduction in general unrestricted reserves of £63,955.

As at 31 March 2024, WVCA’s unrestricted reserves are £450,520 (£514,589 in 22/23). This includes £173,549 for closure costs and £645 for remaining rebranding costs (which together with £1,330 safety fund are included as designated funds), and a commitment towards a fixed asset of £2,250 leaving a residue of £309,854 (£338,951 in March 2023) as contribution towards the target of 6 months running costs, as directed by the reserves policy.

Plans for the future

During the year we retendered for the Infrastructure and Volunteer Centre contracts. The contract value was £200k per year with no uplift. The tender was successful and the contracts are in place until December 2028, with the option to extend for up to 2 further years.

The reduction in value of the contract given current pressures including those relating to pressure on pay will also be a challenge and further illustrates the shrinking of our financial relationship with the Council at a time when the demand on WVCA and the wider sector is increasing.

SUIT has a subcontract in place with NACRO. The substantive contract between NACRO and CWC is in its 2-year extension period until the end of March 2025 and we are in discussions regarding our partnership and future activities over this extension period.

Social Prescribing Funding is agreed year on year with PCNs which is a challenge. The re-organisation of the CCG and departure of many staff is currently an issue as we work to establish new relationships. The bulk of PCNs have committed to the service until the end of 24/25 but there is a need to re-negotiate the element of our current contract that is funded through the CCG – something that we will do in the months ahead.

We do see a range of opportunities for our organisation, alongside the challenges, in the years ahead:

- ✓ Social Prescribing is an established part of the Wolverhampton Health and Social Care landscape. It is a core manifestation of public sector aspirations for a whole system approach and a key role for the VCS. To that end we do believe that this is likely to be a growing area of work.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

- ✓ The Black Country Integrated care system is most likely to implement the whole system approach that is required, if health and social care is to improve. We have developed excellent relationships with system leads and employ the Engagement Lead Officer leading on this work for the VCS. As anticipated last year funds for the sector are being increasingly made available through this route. To date we have led on the distribution of short-term funds in Wolverhampton and we see this continuing in a more consistent manner into 24/25 and beyond.
- ✓ We have a very positive emerging relationship with the local hospital Trust and have secured a joint contract with the national NHS charity.

In summary: With the need to re-tender for our I/S and volunteer centre contracts, there is still some in year uncertainty and we are working to a best case/worst case budget. Encouragingly projections are improving as we go through the year and we are well placed to pick up any short term shortfall via reserves if this becomes necessary.

Change presents opportunities, with our new look, a re-visited and clarified mission and vision, excellent links across and beyond the VCS and a top-class reputation, we are well placed to benefit.

Auditors

Messrs Muras Baker Jones Limited have signified their willingness to continue in office as auditors and this was agreed in principle at the most recent AGM.

Board of Trustees

Simeon Greene (Co-Chair)
Pamela Cole-Hudson (Co-Chair)
Janet Clarke Lewis
James Fox
Anne Marie Harrison
Patricia Mary Kemp
Gurbax Kaur
Paul Tulley
Sarah Deeming (resigned 30/11/2023)
Edna Masoha (resigned 28/3/2024)
Dr Josh Johnson (appointed 30/11/2023)
Daryl Chambers (appointed 30/11/2023)

Board Observer

Councillor Jeszemma Howl (city council observer 28/9/23)

Anna Place was appointed a trustee with effect from 22 April 2024. Janet Clarke Lewis resigned as a trustee with effect from 10 June 2024.

Disclosure of information to the auditors

We, the trustees / directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

By order of the Board of Trustee

Sharon Nanan-Sen
Secretary
27 November 2024

Simeon Greene
Co-Chair
27 November 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise a statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account), a balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 2 the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION for the year ended 31 March 2024

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
and Statutory Auditor

Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
WV1 4EG

27 November 2024

Muras Baker Jones Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds 2024 £ | Restricted Funds 2024 £ | Total Funds 2024 £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Income from charitable activities | 5 | 6,962 | 1,581,403 | 1,588,365 | 2,587,312 |
| Investment Income | | 10,319 | - | 10,319 | 3,748 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 17,281 | 1,581,403 | 1,598,684 | 2,591,060 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | 6 | 76,144 | 1,647,705 | 1,723,849 | 3,003,120 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 76,144 | 1,647,705 | 1,723,849 | 3,003,120 |
| NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE | 7 | (58,863) | (66,302) | (125,165) | (412,060) |
| Transfers between funds | 15 | (5,206) | 5,206 | - | - |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | | (64,069) | (61,096) | (125,165) | (412,060) |
| Total funds brought forward | | 514,589 | 678,624 | 1,193,213 | 1,605,273 |
| TOTAL FUNDS at 31 March 2024 | | 450,520 | 617,528 | 1,068,048 | 1,193,213 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

| | Note | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Fixed Assets: | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 8 | - | 750 |
| Investments | 9 | - | 1 |
| Current Assets: | | | |
| Debtors | 10 | 123,435 | 163,365 |
| Deposit Accounts | | 451,475 | 441,409 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 530,653 | 636,155 |
| | | <u>1,105,563</u> | <u>1,240,929</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 12 | (37,515) | (48,467) |
| Net current assets | | 1,068,048 | 1,192,462 |
| Total net assets | | <u>1,068,048</u> | <u>1,193,213</u> |
| Charity Funds: | | | |
| General unrestricted fund | | 274,996 | 338,951 |
| Designated funds | | 175,524 | 175,638 |
| Restricted funds | | 617,528 | 678,624 |
| | | <u>1,068,048</u> | <u>1,193,213</u> |

The Directors are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. However, an audit is required in accordance with section s154 of the Charities Act 2011.

Directors' responsibilities:

- 1) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- 2) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of the accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 27 November 2024.

Simeon Greene
Co-Chair of Board of Trustees

Pamela Cole-Hudson
Co-Chair of Board of Trustees

Company Number: 2288239

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2024

| | Note | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|------|----------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the year | | (125,165) | (412,060) |
| Adjustments for: | | | |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | | 750 | 750 |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | | (10,319) | (3,748) |
| Loss on disposal of investment | | 1 | - |
| Changes in: | | | |
| Trade and other debtors | | 39,930 | 167,450 |
| Trade and other creditors | | (10,952) | (153,891) |
| Cash generated from operations: | | (105,755) | (401,499) |
| Interest received | | 10,319 | 3,748 |
| Net cash from / (used in) operating activities | | (95,436) | (397,751) |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Payment to acquire tangible fixed assets | | - | - |
| Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | (95,436) | (397,751) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | 1,077,564 | 1,475,315 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the year end | 11 | <u>982,128</u> | <u>1,077,564</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

2 Liability of Members

WVCA is a company limited by guarantee. It does not have a share capital and the liability of each member is limited to the guarantee given by that member, which shall not exceed £1. There are no beneficial interests and under the terms of its Memorandum and Articles of Association any surplus can only be applied towards the promotion of WVCA's objectives, and no dividend or other form of distribution can be paid to its members.

3 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. WVCA meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Pension costs

Certain employees are members of the West Midlands Pension Fund ("WMPF"). The pension cost charge in the financial statements represents contributions due to this scheme in respect of earnings during the year, which are based on recommendations by the fund actuary.

The disclosures required by FRS 102 have not been included in the financial statements. WVCA is in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme, WMPF, and FRS 102 requires such organisations to identify their share of the pension scheme's assets and liabilities. However, within FRS 102 this is only to be achieved if "sufficient information" is available to do so. WVCA believes that an actuarial valuation would not be a reasonable use of public funds, and the directors therefore have decided not to provide this financial information on the balance sheet in the financial statements. WVCA manages contributions to its pension fund in line with the WMPF valuation recommendations, pension costs for all of the projects are fully budgeted for, and WVCA receives an actuarial valuation on the WMPF scheme on a three yearly basis. Issues around risk management of the pension fund are continually assessed through work with staff at WMPF, and at Board of Trustees' Meetings.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are normally capitalised where the cost exceeds £1,000, and are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset, on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Office equipment | over 5 years |
| Computers | over 4 years |
| Refurbishment on lease | over time remaining on the premises lease agreement |

The accounting for depreciation leads to a discrepancy between some financial statements submitted to funders, and the fund activity shown in the statutory accounts of WVCA. If a project has a funder which requires that a capital purchase is to be presented as a cash item rather than as a capitalised item, as required by Charity Accounting rules, then a discrepancy emerges between the amount claimed from the funder, and the fund accounting in the statutory accounts. Where this is the case, that particular discrepancy is referred to in the Trustees Report.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Accounting Policies (cont.)

Grants payable

Grants payable to local organisations are recognised in the financial statements when there is a commitment to make a payment.

Income

Revenue grants are received from various funders - see note 5 - in order to finance WVCA's activities and are accounted for in the income and expenditure account on an accrual's basis.

Where revenue grants are received which have donor-imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, any income received in advance is deferred.

Where revenue grants are received, which do not have donor imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, the income is accounted for when received.

Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Income from the provision of legal, payroll and other core services are accounted for when earned.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity, where they can be quantified.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT, where it cannot be recovered.

Expenditure on charitable activities consist of costs incurred in the direct delivery of services and the support costs which are allocated to each of these areas of service provision.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise grants and other incoming resources receivable, or generated for the objects of the charity, without further specific purpose, and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

4 Grants payable

| | Number | 2024 £ | Number | 2023 £ |
|---|------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 100% Digital | - | - | 4 | 9,750 |
| Building Connections Partners | - | - | - | - |
| CRF 50+ | - | - | 10 | 61,973 |
| Girls Allowed Partners | 2 | 1,484 | 2 | 327 |
| Health Inequalities | - | - | 3 | 190,748 |
| HOPE | 7 | 25,592 | - | - |
| Heart of England | 3 | 18,000 | - | - |
| ICB REND | 6 | 12,050 | - | - |
| Kings Coronation | 147 | 35,855 | - | - |
| KYNF-IMPACT | 19 | 38,400 | - | - |
| One City Fund Grants | - | - | 11 | 2,740 |
| CRF Skills Connect | - | - | 11 | 473,715 |
| Social Prescribing Partner | 1 | 5,000 | - | - |
| St Peter (Preventative Services) | 8 | 55,745 | 1 | 5,400 |
| S.E.B.F - DCMS | 19 | 120,000 | - | - |
| Talent Match Partners | - | - | 6 | 395,376 |
| Third Sector Consortium Partners/Systems Resilience | - | - | - | - |
| Thriving communities | - | - | 2 | 7,500 |
| Winter Pressures | 13 | 55,075 | 14 | 179,472 |
| WP- Adult Hospital Discharge | 1 | 16,292 | 1 | 15,758 |
| | 226 | 383,493 | 65 | 1,342,759 |

5 Income from Charitable Activities

| | Unrestricted 2024 £ | Restricted 2024 £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Arts Council | - | - | - | 4,880 |
| Black Country Consortium | - | - | - | 8,000 |
| Community Renewal Fund | - | - | - | 814,885 |
| BLF joint funded programme | - | 20,000 | 20,000 | 62,594 |
| BLF/DCMS* joint funded programme | - | 138,415 | 138,415 | - |
| City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) | - | 174,670 | 174,670 | 423,291 |
| Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/NHS | - | 767,879 | 767,879 | 750,399 |
| Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/ICB Via BCT | - | 206,493 | 206,493 | 347,775 |
| Department of Health | - | - | - | 3,000 |
| Know Your Neighbourhood Fund - KYNF | - | 81,271 | 81,271 | - |
| The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust | - | 27,352 | 27,352 | - |
| Donation | - | 798 | 798 | 3,527 |
| Non Grant Income | 6,962 | 164,525 | 171,487 | 172,709 |
| | 6,962 | 1,581,403 | 1,588,365 | 2,591,060 |

* Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 Breakdown of Costs of Charitable Activity

| | Staff Costs | Other Charitable Costs | Support Costs | Total 2024 | Total 2023 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Core Activities | - | - | 69,141 | 69,141 | 79,596 |
| Infrastructure Support incl Trading | 5,151 | 149 | 1,703 | 7,003 | 8,360 |
| | <u>5,151</u> | <u>149</u> | <u>70,844</u> | <u>76,144</u> | <u>87,956</u> |
| CRF50+CRF Skills Connect | - | - | - | - | 592,897 |
| Wolverhampton Lottery | - | 6,539 | - | 6,539 | - |
| 100% Digital | - | - | - | - | 9,750 |
| Girls Allowed | - | 3,599 | - | 3,599 | 327 |
| Infrastructure Support | 87,439 | 2,597 | 23,609 | 113,645 | 125,352 |
| Inf Support Reserve - Compact | - | - | - | - | 240 |
| Hospital Discharge | 35,900 | 373 | 6,386 | 42,659 | - |
| MHE - ReserveBudget(pens liab) | - | 4 | - | 4 | 877 |
| One City FundTotal | - | - | - | - | 2,740 |
| Preventative Services | - | 55,745 | 15,000 | 70,745 | 10,400 |
| REND | - | 12,554 | - | 12,554 | - |
| Social Prescribing Link Workers (CCG) | 515,027 | 51,099 | 52,602 | 618,728 | 616,857 |
| Community Conversations | 36,615 | 1,330 | 7,500 | 45,445 | 65 |
| Health Inequalities | - | - | - | - | 190,748 |
| Social Prescribing-Asthma Progr | 2,540 | 524 | - | 3,064 | 94 |
| Social Prescribing- BAS9 | - | - | - | - | 50 |
| Social Prescribing- Hardship Fu | - | - | - | - | 618 |
| Social Prescribing- Tackling In | - | - | - | - | 3,136 |
| Social Prescribing- Thriving Co | - | - | - | - | 13,861 |
| LITS | 8,156 | - | - | 8,156 | - |
| Suicide Prevention | - | 443 | - | 443 | 8,780 |
| SUIT | 110,889 | 15,601 | 32,766 | 159,256 | 138,003 |
| STP | 49,235 | 217 | 20,000 | 69,452 | 51,829 |
| Talent Match (BLF)ESF unfunded | - | 1 | - | 1 | 369,665 |
| Talent Match (BLF) combined | - | - | - | - | 389,055 |
| KYNF- WEC | 11,813 | 6,750 | 4,293 | 22,856 | - |
| KYNF-IMPACT | 4,990 | 38,400 | 2,500 | 45,890 | - |
| Talent Match / CRF | - | 378 | - | 378 | - |
| BBO Bridges | 436 | 14 | - | 450 | 61,219 |
| Volunteer Services | 50,197 | 493 | 15,154 | 65,844 | 64,139 |
| W'hampton for Everyone(WE) | - | 626 | - | 626 | 3,244 |
| NDELJ | - | - | - | - | 3,717 |
| S.E.B.F- DCMS | 18,415 | 120,000 | - | 138,415 | - |
| Winter Pressures Fund | - | 55,076 | - | 55,076 | 199,621 |
| Orange Wolves | - | 779 | - | 779 | 10 |
| YOW - Childrens Workforce | - | 450 | - | 450 | 1,473 |
| Heart Of England | - | 18,000 | 2,000 | 20,000 | - |
| HOPE | - | 25,592 | 9,703 | 35,295 | - |
| King Charles Coronation | - | 35,855 | 5,000 | 40,855 | - |
| Primary Care Ambassadors | - | - | - | - | 8,000 |
| YP-SP | - | - | 5,500 | 5,500 | - |
| Active Connectors | 33,210 | 199 | 7,932 | 41,341 | 29,406 |
| WP- Adult Hospital Discharge | 3,368 | 16,292 | - | 19,660 | 18,991 |
| TOTAL RESTRICTED | 968,230 | 469,530 | 209,945 | 1,647,705 | 2,915,164 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 973,381 | 469,679 | 280,789 | 1,723,849 | 3,003,120 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

6a Support Cost Breakdown by activity

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 157,552 | 210,647 |
| Property | 67,616 | 53,832 |
| Office | 44,456 | 42,000 |
| Depreciation | 750 | 750 |
| Professional fees | 2,135 | 3,079 |
| Support Costs | 272,509 | 310,308 |
| Governance costs: | | |
| AGM | - | - |
| Audit fees | 8,280 | 7,800 |
| TOTAL COSTS | 280,789 | 318,108 |

Basis of allocation of costs:

Staff costs: These are the staffing costs associated with work undertaken in the specific project areas as listed in note 6. Most staff work wholly in one project area, and their staff costs are allocated to that project. If their time is shared between projects, then the staffing cost is split accordingly. The staffing cost comprises gross salary plus on costs, including pension costs where applicable.

Other charitable costs: These are costs within the projects, incurred in the pursuance of the aims and objectives of each project. These costs are specific only to the project which they are allocated to.

Support Costs: These are costs which are incurred in the running of the organisation. They would include for example, core staff costs, rent, insurance, heat and light, IT support, repairs and maintenance, and any other costs which are associated with core staff executing their tasks, which are required in order to support all the projects and contracts within the organisation.

These costs are calculated on a budget basis, at the beginning of the financial year, and allocated as per numbers of full-time staff members in each project, or in accordance with grant agreement arrangements. Any support costs which are not recovered in the actual year, are seen as an additional core service support cost.

7 Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| This is stated after charging: | | |
| Rentals under operating leases | 32,145 | 25,000 |
| Auditors remuneration | 8,280 | 7,800 |
| Depreciation: owned fixed assets | 750 | 750 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 31 March 2023 | 34,996 | 5,250 | 40,246 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| 31 March 2024 | <u>34,996</u> | <u>5,250</u> | <u>40,246</u> |

Depreciation:

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 31 March 2023 | 34,996 | 4,500 | 39,496 |
| Charge for the year | - | 750 | 750 |
| 31 March 2024 | <u>34,996</u> | <u>5,250</u> | <u>40,246</u> |

Net book value:

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|------------|------------|
| 31 March 2023 | <u>-</u> | <u>750</u> | <u>750</u> |
| 31 March 2024 | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

9 Fixed Assets Investments

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

People in Partnership (Wolverhampton) Community Interest Company

This company was dissolved with effect from 5 December 2023.

Black Country Together C.I.C.

Black Country Together CIC was founded 31 January 2013, by the four Councils for Voluntary Service in the Black Country each with 25% membership, with the aim of increasing levels of funding coming into our sub-region and fostering greater co-operation and collaboration between voluntary organisations and local statutory agencies both within and across borough boundaries.

BCT CIC is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. It is actively trading generating an income of £1,550,504 in the year ended 30 June 2023 which resulted in a small surplus of £6 for the year. The balance sheet at 30 June 2023, the most recent set of accounts, showed net assets of £4,169. Ian Darch, WVCA CEO, is a director of BCT CIC (replaced as Director by Sharon Nanan-Sen in September 2023).

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

10 Debtors

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 114,039 | 121,102 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 9,396 | 42,263 |
| | <u>123,435</u> | <u>163,365</u> |

11 Cash and Cash Equivalents

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Funds on deposit at bank | 451,475 | 441,409 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 530,653 | 636,155 |
| | <u>982,128</u> | <u>1,077,564</u> |

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income | - | - |
| Other creditors | 26,928 | 30,421 |
| Accruals | 10,587 | 18,047 |
| | <u>37,515</u> | <u>48,468</u> |

13 Analysis of Deferred Income

Funder of Deferred Income

None

14 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total 2024 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Current Assets | 289,833 | 175,524 | 640,206 | 1,105,563 |
| Current Liabilities | (14,837) | - | (22,678) | (37,515) |
| | <u>274,996</u> | <u>175,524</u> | <u>617,528</u> | <u>1,068,048</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

15 Reserves and Reconciliation of Movement in Funds

| | 31 March 2023 | Transfers | Incoming Resources | Outgoing Resources | 31 March 2024 |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted funds: | | | | | |
| General unrestricted fund | 338,951 | (5,206) | 17,281 | 76,030 | 274,996 |
| Designated funds including operation liabilities | 175,638 | - | - | 114 | 175,524 |
| | <u>514,589</u> | <u>(5,206)</u> | <u>17,281</u> | <u>76,144</u> | <u>450,520</u> |
| Restricted funds: | | | | | |
| CRF50+ | 731 | - | - | - | 731 |
| Wolverhampton Lottery | - | 5,206 | 1,333 | 6,539 | - |
| 100% Digital | 8,250 | - | - | - | 8,250 |
| Girls Allowed | 347 | - | 4,000 | 3,599 | 748 |
| Infrastructure Support | - | 3,645 | 110,000 | 113,645 | - |
| Inf Support Reserve - Compact | 5,550 | (3,645) | - | - | 1,905 |
| Inf Support Reserve - training/quality | 15,623 | - | - | - | 15,623 |
| Hospital Discharge | - | - | 72,000 | 42,660 | 29,340 |
| Mental Health Reducing Isolation | 5,542 | - | - | - | 5,542 |
| MHE - ReserveBudget(pens liab) | 56,363 | - | - | 4 | 56,359 |
| MHE -Small Grants | 2,953 | - | - | - | 2,953 |
| Preventative Services | 89,600 | - | - | 70,745 | 18,855 |
| REND | - | - | 20,000 | 12,554 | 7,446 |
| Social Prescribing Link Workers(CCG) | 136,604 | (5,000) | 664,549 | 618,728 | 177,425 |
| Community Conversations | - | - | 48,140 | 45,445 | 2,695 |
| Social Prescribing-Asthma Progr | - | 5,000 | 501 | 3,064 | 2,437 |
| Social Prescribing- Thriving Co | 4,262 | - | (500) | - | 3,762 |
| LITS | - | - | 20,000 | 8,156 | 11,844 |
| Suicide Prevention | 170 | - | 443 | 443 | 170 |
| SUIT | 31,721 | - | 159,227 | 159,256 | 31,692 |
| STP | 61,562 | - | 97,500 | 69,452 | 89,610 |
| KYNF- WEC | - | - | 31,271 | 22,856 | 8,415 |
| KYNF-IMPACT | - | - | 50,000 | 45,890 | 4,110 |
| Talent Match / CRF | 28,317 | - | - | 377 | 27,940 |
| Third Sector Consortium/ Systems Resilien | 7,571 | - | - | - | 7,571 |
| BBO Bridges | 1,374 | - | - | 451 | 923 |
| Volunteer Services | 7,758 | - | 64,990 | 65,845 | 6,903 |
| W'hampton for Everyone(WE) | 10,842 | - | - | 626 | 10,216 |
| NDELI | 737 | - | - | - | 737 |
| S.E.B.F- DCMS | - | - | 138,415 | 138,415 | - |
| Winter Pressures Fund | 55,508 | - | - | 55,076 | 432 |
| Orange Wolves | 1,312 | - | - | 779 | 533 |
| YOW - Childrens Workforce | 1,455 | - | - | 450 | 1,005 |
| Heart Of England | 20,000 | - | - | 20,000 | - |
| HOPE | 27,352 | - | 27,352 | 35,295 | 19,409 |
| King Charles Coronation | 30,000 | - | 11,305 | 40,855 | 450 |
| YP-SP | 55,000 | - | - | 5,500 | 49,500 |
| Active Connectors | 11,085 | - | 40,852 | 41,340 | 10,597 |
| WP- Adult Hospital Discharge | 1,035 | - | 20,025 | 19,660 | 1,400 |
| | <u>678,624</u> | <u>5,206</u> | <u>1,581,403</u> | <u>1,647,705</u> | <u>617,528</u> |
| | <u>1,193,213</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,598,684</u> | <u>1,723,846</u> | <u>1,068,049</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

16 Note: Reserves and Reconciliation of Movements in funds – Transfers between funds:

In 2023-24 there was transfers of funds between unrestricted and restricted funds. Core transferred reserves of £5,206 to Wolverhampton Lottery Fund. This reflects the Board's decision to support the capacity building service with organisational reserves, up to an annually agreed value. Board have agreed to support a small deficit where required on the infrastructure support project for the next few years.

There was a reduction in designated funds from previous year 2022-2023 due to the usage of the re-branding fund of £759 which now has £645 remaining as at 31st March 2024.

Purpose of Funds The information provided below is a brief summary on each fund and how the funded activities contribute to WVCA aims and objectives.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General Unrestricted Fund: This is used to fund some core activities that are not fully funded through our infrastructure support contract with CWC. It is also held to enable activities to continue for a period of time in the event of sudden loss of funding, in line with the Trustees' reserves policy. Movement on the level of these reserves is dependent on WVCA's ability to recover its core operating costs from support cost charges to projects together with earned income and bank interest. In the year under report this fund showed a net reduction of £63,955. This reduction was caused by a number of factors: Some under-recovery of core costs; the need to cover unbudgeted re branding cost and moving Costs.

Designated Funds: The balance in designated funds is £175,524. This represents £1,330 for improving safety within the organisation for staff and visitors, £645 remaining for re-branding and £173,549 for operational liabilities/closure costs. Please see reference to reserves policy in the TAR.

For the year ended 31 March 2024 earned income totalled £17,281 (£36,983 in 22/23). The combination of support costs recovered through the agreed charges to projects, earned income and required movements to other funds meant unrestricted reserves including designated funds reduced by £64,069 (£76,550 in 22/23) to £450,520). Current unrestricted reserves therefore cover closure costs and approximately 3 months continuation costs, compared to the 6 months target set out by the reserves policy.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds represent funding received for specific projects and activities in support of WVCA's overall objectives.

Community Renewal Fund: Over 50s: A Black Country Wide project led by Sandwell MBC and aimed at moving people over 50 nearer and into employment; WVCA was the local lead for Wolverhampton overseeing delivery by 4 providers. Funds are to enable us to carry out this oversight role. This project has now come to an end as 31st March 2023. The remaining restricted funds of £731 are currently held to be used against final activities on the project. These funds still remain as at 31st March 2024 with a plan utilisation in similar activities during 24/25.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

100% digital: Funding made available to WVCA from CWC in order to fund activity by a small local consortium in support local people and organisations to develop their IT skills. An initial allocation of £49,999 was fully utilised and reported on during the year 2021-22. An additional allocation of 25K was made towards the year end 2021-22 – the reserve relates to part of that second tranche of funds and some of the reserves were spent on project related activities during year ending 31st March 2024. The remaining reserves of £8,250 will be spent during 24/25.

Girls Allowed: This project was funded from the Tampon Tax Fund through a partnership between HM Government and Comic Relief until August 2021 and was extended through additional funds from Comic Relief to the end of December 2021. The project worked to support girls at risk of being drawn into gangs. WVCA was the accountable body with the bulk of the activity and funding being subcontracted to VCS partners. The remaining balance of £748 will be retained by 24/25 to cover any residual costs or activities in line with the projects aims.

Infrastructure Support: This service provides a wide range of support to local VCOs including in the areas of funding, governance, safeguarding, policies, GDPR, information etc. This also incorporates the former YOW support worker whose focus is on organisations working with Children and Young People. This post also has a significant role in safeguarding within the City, particularly supporting CWC colleagues and the role of the CEO in strategic work with partners, including CWC. During the year we supported many hundreds of organisations and attended dozens of strategic forums across a very wide range of issues. These activities receive a £100K pa contract from City of Wolverhampton Council although this has not covered the full cost of the service for several years. In this year the board agreed to subsidise this work from unrestricted funds to the amount of £21,351 (21/22 £14,822). The other related reserve of £5,550 for Inf Support Reserve - Compact and £15,623 for Inf Support Reserve - training/quality are held for partnership working with CWC. There is also a pension liability within this fund. During 23-24 a small amount of funds were transferred from Inf Support Reserve – Compact to the infrastructure support project to cover the deficit of £3,645.

In 23/24 we retendered for this service. Part of the tender focused on partnership working and it is our intention to incorporate this reserve, the other related reserves, less outstanding liabilities, into our proposal by way of added value.

Hospital Discharge: This project aims to address the needs of patients recently discharged or about to be discharged from hospital in the local communities. The programme began later during the year 2023 and as result was carried over into 24-25. The remaining funds of £29,340 are to be utilised during 24-25 on project activities.

Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHE): This project was funded through a contract with CWC for several years, but the funding was withdrawn in 2017/18. Some further funding was made available by the CCG for specific pieces of work in the year to March 2020. Combined Reserves for MHE currently stand at £64,854. There is a pension liability within this project and some reserves are being used to cover the associated costs moving forward. Remaining funds will be available to support peer led MH groups in the years ahead. WVCA board have agreed to utilise some funds towards creating confidential space to support MH groups within our premises during 24-25.

Preventative Services (St Peters): Funded through the CCG has remaining reserves to be utilised on project activities during 23-24. The restricted remaining fund of £18,855 to be used on project activities.

REND: This fund forms part of the Community Conversation Project. The fund was separated to support and isolate all delivery cost towards the project. The remaining £7,446 will continue to be utilised during 24-25 as part of the original purpose of the fund.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Social Prescribing: The project works with “patients” to identify alternative approaches to tackling issues such as low level depression, isolation and frequent GP contact, that can better be tackled by diversion to activities within the VCS such as wellbeing sessions, group activities, exercise etc., rather than by medical interventions. During the year the project supported in the region of 1500 customers facing loneliness, isolation and mental ill health. In the year under report the project was funded through a combination of PCN (Networks of GPs), and the CCG. An in-year surplus of £40,821 was because of operational savings which equate to less than 5% of the budget. The total surplus of £177,425 will be spent in delivering the wider social Prescribing vision, including filling gaps in prescriptions in the years ahead. and in supporting unfunded cost of living increases.

Local Implementation Teams (LITs)

Local Implementation Teams (LITs) have been formed by the Dudley Health and Care Partnership Board to improve patient pathways. They will consist of a number of GPs, clinicians and other key partners. The voluntary sector has been invited to be part of each LIT. It is envisaged that they will be short-term, task and finish type teams. Local voluntary and community organisations such WVCA to represent the sector at each LIT. WVCA Secured tis funding during 2023 with a plan to continue activities over the next year.

Suicide Prevention: Funding was made available by CWC to support a campaign aimed at preventing suicide in the City. The majority of delivery has taken place in 22/23 utilising £8,780. The remaining funds of £170 to be used in 24/25.

Service User Involvement Project (SUIT): Through a sub-contract with NACRO this project works alongside users and ex-users of drug treatment services to support them in influencing the design and delivery of drug treatment services and provides direct support to service users using a model based on abstinence-based recovery. The reserve of £31,692 will be used in future delivery, including supporting cost of living increases over the remaining 2 years of this contract that are not covered within the current budget.

STP - Engagement & Partnership/ICS: Funded through the newly emerged Integrated Care System this work is overseen by WVCA on behalf of the four Black Country CVS organisations. We employ a worker who delivers this work that commenced in 2020/21. The reserve of £89,610 is an operational saving and will be used in delivery during 2024/2025.

Talent Match – CRF. Talent match ending during 2022-2023, at the point the project activities were gradually concluded. All Talent match project staff were made redundant costing WVCA a total of £25,774 in redundancy costs during 23-24. All related funds were consolidated in to one. WVCA has a total of £27,721 as remaining reserves for the project to be used with remaining cost that relate to the project closure for example; document archiving etc.. to be agreed and used during 2024-2025.

Third Sector Consortium: Funded by the CCG this work involved a small consortium of three organisations supported by WVCA, which is the accountable body, working together to distributed and support effective messaging about health and social care provision, reduce admissions to A and E and to improve levels of re-ablement among elderly people leaving hospital. The reserve of £7,571 is the result of small underspends on monitoring during the five years of the project. No funds were available to continue delivery into 23/24 which resulted in a small underspend.

Volunteers - BBO Bridges: Part of our offer to Volunteers, this project worked with those furthest from the workplace who want to use volunteering, alongside other support, to obtain employment. In the year the project worked intensely with c50 customers moving many of them on into further training and employment. As a result of good delivery, we were offered extensions on two occasions, and this

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

was confirmed until March 2023. The project has now ended with a small underspend of £923 which will be utilised in similar activities.

Wolverhampton Volunteers Services: The project forms the basis of our volunteering offer and is outlined in the Trustees Annual Report under “Volunteers”. The project works with some 250 organisations, providing volunteers and support. The balance of £6,903 will be used in future delivery.

Wolverhampton for Everyone (WE): A “movement” being championed by WVCA and other partners, with the aim of involving increasing numbers of citizens in a “people powered” city where they have full ownership of “place”. There has been limited funded activity during 21/22 but the need for this work remains. In that spirit the reserve of £16,040, some was used in 2022/23 for continuation of this work. The payment of £2,500 was from Civic Square, a grant to host a “learning journey” for 12 local people utilising ideas from “doughnut economics” to explore new grass approaches. Current remaining funds as at year ending March 2024 was £10,216.

Winter Pressures Fund: Allocated via the CCG for use over 2019/20 and 2020/21 in strengthening links between acute mental health provision and our social prescribing service. The funding body no longer exists and the work is now being delivered more effectively on a Black Country Wide basis under engagement and partnership (above). On that basis these funds will be transferred to unrestricted reserves and utilised in the delivery of our overall mission. Funding was allocated towards the end of the year to be allocated to partner organisations who will provide counselling, Peer Support and IAG to individuals. Most unspent funds were used during 23-24 for amount of £55,508. The remaining funds of £432 to use on project related activities during 24-25.

Orange Wolverhampton: This is a campaign to raise awareness of violence inflicted on Women and Girls, with a small amount made available to WVCA for delivery each year. The balance of £533 relates to unspent funds raised and reported on in previous years and will be utilised in publicising future Orange campaigns.

YOW – Children’s’ workforce: This fund is restricted for use in training the children’s’ workforce in the City. One training course has been delivered this year and the balance of £1,005 will be used in this way in the years ahead.

Heart of England: The Heart of England grant is a stand-alone project although it is working with Wolverhampton Volunteers, Wolverhampton for Everyone and Social Prescribing. A grant of £20K was secured towards year ending March 2023. Funds were used during 23-24 on the project as set out in the grant terms. During 23/24 KYNF funding was secured over 2 years with Heart of England to promote volunteering as a route to tackling loneliness and isolation. A balance of £12,525 is carried forward into 2024-2025.

Hope: Hope is a partnership between Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) and Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA) which has received funding to improve mental health due to isolation or other factors. As part of our work we have established a small grants programme which will support activities that will help to reduce isolation and loneliness. This funding opportunity is for grass roots community groups and small organisations to organise and run social groups and activities that will bring people together. Remaining Funding to be used during 2024-2025.

Kings Charles Coronation: Kings Charles Coronation fund was a funding to Support local community events held in relation to the Kings Coronation, funding utilised in the early months of 2023-2024.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Young People – Social Prescribing: WVCA were awarded funding to help support young refugees and migrants that are currently living in hotels in Wolverhampton. Funding was awarded just prior to year ending March 2023, with initial plans to utilise during 2023-2024. Currently WVCA has reserves of £49,500 to be utilised on project activities during 2024-2025.

Active Connectors: WVCA were given funding to work with partners in the community to reduce inactivity, tackle inequality and improve the lives of local residents. Black Country Community Connectors (Active Connectors) are engaging with local communities and community groups across 12 priority wards across the Black Country to enable people to move more. Remaining reserves £10,597 will be used during 2024-2025.

WP – Adult Hospital Discharge: This Project was a pilot programme to demonstrate needs among patients recently discharged or due to be discharged from hospitals in the local communities. The projects starting late in the year and as a result continued into 2023-2024. Remaining reserves of £1,400 to be utilised on project activities during 2024-2025.

17 Information regarding the members of the Board of Trustees

The names of persons who are members of the Board are given in the Report of the Board of Trustees.

Remuneration: Under the terms of the Memorandum of Association, neither member of the Board nor any connected person shall receive any remuneration from WVCA. Board members are offered reimbursement for travel expenses. The amounts involved are negligible.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

18 Particulars of Employees

The average monthly headcount was 35 (41 in 2023).

The average number of full time equivalent persons employed by WVCA during the year was:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--------------------|------|------|
| General activities | 30.5 | 37.2 |

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons was as follows:

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Wages and salaries | 941,967 | 1,130,811 |
| Social security costs | 86,868 | 110,002 |
| Other pension costs | 48,531 | 77,196 |
| Redundancy costs | - | 25,774 |
| Payments to sub contractors | 53,566 | 32,518 |
| | <u>1,130,932</u> | <u>1,376,301</u> |

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Key management remuneration | <u>101,582</u> | <u>129,888</u> |

No employee's earned benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

19 Pensions

Some of the employees of the charity are members of the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities Pension Fund, which is a multi-employer scheme. The Fund is financed by contributions paid by both employees and the charity, and by earnings received on investments. The scheme is a Defined Benefits Scheme. It has been closed to new members.

Contributions to the Scheme from the employees are payable at a variable rate according to graded rates of pensionable pay. The employer contribution rate rose in 2020/21 in response to the Actuarial Valuation for the scheme, from 23.3% to 24.2%, set for the three financial years until March 2023. Also, the charity is required to make additional Past Service Lump Sum contributions towards meeting the shortfall in the scheme, with WVCA share being calculated at the latest Actuarial revaluation (2019) as £77k. The amount payable for 2020/21 – 2022/23 was £11,736 of this £4,053 representing the 2022-23 share is recognised in last year's accounts.

It is assumed that the Administering Authority will continue to invest a significant proportion of the assets of the Fund in UK and overseas equities, and that these will produce a future investment return that exceeds the current yield available on bonds.

A stakeholder scheme was established in January 2016 and is offered to all employees who are not members of the West Midland Pension Scheme, subject to pension guidance in terms of eligibility.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

20 Taxation

WVCA is not liable to tax on any of its income because of its charitable status.

21 Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 March 2024 WVCA had minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

| | 2024 | | 2023 | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | Land and Buildings | Other | Land and Buildings | Other |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Falling due: | | | | |
| Within one year | 28,545 | 1,782 | 25,000 | 2,946 |
| In one to two years | - | 449 | - | 1,782 |
| In two to five years | - | - | - | 449 |
| | <u>28,545</u> | <u>2,231</u> | <u>25,000</u> | <u>5,177</u> |

A twelve month commitment is disclosed in respect of land and buildings as WVCA has an option to terminate this on giving one year's notice. The landlord can terminate the lease in the event of default by WVCA.

22 Related Party Transactions

WVCA receives funding for services provided to NHS Black Country ICB, an organisation of which Paul Tulley, a trustee of WVCA, is a director. All transactions with this organisation are at an arms length basis.

There are no other related party transactions to disclose.

Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action

England & Wales - Charity number 700910

Accounts

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Company number: 2288239
Registered charity number: 700910

COMPANIES HOUSE COPY

**WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Report of the Board of Trustees and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023



Contents

COMPANIES HOUSE COPY

| | Page |
|--|-------|
| Legal and Administrative Information | 1 |
| Board of Trustees Annual Report | 2- 14 |
| Report of the independent auditors | 15-17 |
| Statement of financial activities – SOFA | 18 |
| Balance Sheet | 19 |
| Cash flow statement | 20 |
| Notes forming part of the financial statements | 21-34 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION
Legal and Administrative Information

2022-23

Charity Name

Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action (WVCA)

Board of Trustees

Simeon Greene (Co-Chair)
Pamela Cole-Hudson (Co-Chair)
Stephen Clay (Resigned on 24/11/2022)
Janet Clarke Lewis
James Fox
Anne Marie Harrison
Patricia Mary Kemp
Sarah Ball
Gurbax Kaur
Edna Masoha
Paul Tulley

Secretary and registered office

Sharon Nanan-Sen, 16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN (commenced on 1st September 2023)

Key Management

Sharon Nanan-Sen, Chief Executive (commenced on 1st September 2023)
Ian Darch, Chief Executive (retired on 31st August 2023)

Company Number

2288239

Registered Charity Number

700910

Auditors

Muras Baker Jones Limited,
Regent House, Bath Avenue, Wolverhampton, WV1 4EG

Financial Statements

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements.

The Trustees, who are also Directors of Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action ("WVCA") for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements. The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that WVCA will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of WVCA and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of WVCA and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Structure, Governance and Management

Administrative Details

The day-to-day management of WVCA is ultimately the responsibility of the Chief Executive on behalf of the Trustees. The Chief Executive is also responsible, with the Board of Trustees, for the strategic direction of the organisation and delivery of its objectives.

Much of the day-to-day management is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive who is currently supported by a part time Operations Manager and a Central Administrator.

The Deputy Chief Executive left WVCA on 28th April 2023.

A Finance Manager (22 hours pw) is supported by a Finance Officer (30 hours pw) and has overall responsibility to the CEO for finance systems and processes. A robust financial delegation system is in place with each project lead having day to day responsibility for their own budgets.

Governing Document

WVCA is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19th August 1988 and registered as a Charity on 24th November 1988. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being "wound up" members are each required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Articles of association were reviewed and changes agreed at the 2018 AGM. These changes were a response to difficulties in achieving quorums at some meetings thus hindering effective and prompt decision making. In essence the changes reduce the size of the Board and quoracy requirements, while also ensuring effective governance and board oversight. In early 22/23 members agreed to change the organisations name to Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA).

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees

Although WVCA is a small to medium sized organisation, it is a complex one operating in what is an increasingly challenging environment. It is therefore important that the skills and competencies of the trustee body are at a high level. WVCA is also involved in a very diverse range of activities as outlined later in this report and therefore the trustee body needs to demonstrate a broad as well as a high level of skills in carrying out its governance role.

The changes agreed at the 2018 AGM maintains a Board structure which reflects our customers and the environment in which we operate. The current Board make up and quoracy requirements as outlined in the Articles of Association are as follows:

The minimum number of directors shall be 6 and the maximum number of directors shall be 12. This Board of Directors will be made up of:

- a) A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 Voluntary and Community Organisations operating in Wolverhampton who are members of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council.
- b) Individuals, who can be invited to join the Board for their expertise including as "experts by experience"
- c) A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 other partners from the private, education, and public sectors. These directors are recruited to strengthen links across the City and provide specialist input into the Board. All trustees they must support our objectives.
- d) The City Council has observer status on the board and may invite any person to attend the charity's meetings (both directors and general meetings) as an observer without the power to vote. This observer will not be counted in the quorum.

The quorum shall be 3 or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the directors. This quorum must include at least 2 directors from a) and at least 1 from c) above.

The quorum must have Voluntary and Community Organisations in the majority. This is so that any changes or any issues requiring a vote will need to be supported by VCO members.

At the time of this report there is one vacancy on the Board but West Midland Police are currently considering the opportunity to become a partner member. We have worked hard to ensure that our Board membership reflects the diversity of Wolverhampton and at the time of writing 4 of our 10 Board members are people from minority ethnic communities.

The Trustees of the company are also the Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the Company's Articles they are known as members of the Management Committee.

Trustees' Induction and Training

As representatives of member organisations, key partners, or individuals most Trustees are familiar with the work of WVCA. Each new board member meets with the Chief Executive for an induction and is provided with a recently updated induction pack.

In addition, reports on specific activities are provided at board meetings and training/orientation sessions are organised for Trustees. The strategic direction of WVCA is regularly discussed at board meetings and a revised strategic document was adopted in 2017/18.

Organisational Structure

WVCA has a management committee of up to 12 members who meet bi monthly and are responsible, with the Chief Executive, for the strategic direction of the Charity. In addition, the City Council nominate a Councillor with observer status on the board. The structure underneath the board is as follows:

A sub-committee of the board (known as the Executive Committee and consisting of up to four Trustees) meets with the Chief Executive on an ad hoc basis as required. This sub-committee provides a forum for more detailed discussion on key issues and advises the board.

A Remuneration Committee consisting of the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive has been delegated by the Board to make salary adjustments in order maintain a fair and equitable salary structure within the organisation. Any changes to the salaries the Chief Executive or Deputy will be considered by the Executive Committee.

The Chief Executive has delegated responsibility from the board for the provision of services and the day-to-day operation of WVCA. The Chief Executive works closely with managers in executing these responsibilities. The structure below the Board comprises a number of elements as follows:

Senior Managers: The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive meet on a regular basis, with other senior managers as required, to establish that the organisation is delivering its mission, that it is doing so in a consistent and effective manner, and to make any operational adjustments that may be required.

Section Heads: Managers from each area of work meet, as required, with Senior Managers in order to oversee the effective delivery of the organisation's outcomes, to maintain a consistent approach across the organisation, to consider issues affecting the work of the organisation and the wider sector and to share information.

Staff meetings: Regular staff meetings provide a forum for ensuring a collective understanding of day-to-day matters in areas such as health and safety, and provide a forum for the Chief Executive and others to communicate matters of relevance to all staff.

Staff support: All staff meet regularly for supervision with their Line Managers. The Chief Executive manages the Deputy CEO, the Finance Manager and the Project Managers of Talent Match, the Social Prescribing project and Engagement & Partnership lead. The Deputy CEO manages the other section heads. The Chief Executive receives supervision from the Chair of the Board.

Financial delegation: Robust financial systems are in place, with levels of financial authority from the Board, through to the Chief Executive down to individual departments, within agreed budgets. Systems for authorising both income and expenditure are in place along with an effective credit control system. Regular reports to Board ensure overall financial prudence and allow for the management of any financial risk.

Partner Organisations

WVCA is a member The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), NAVCA and The Chamber of Commerce.

As an umbrella organisation for the sector, WVCA has a major strategic role in Wolverhampton and works with partners locally, sub-regionally and nationally in order to achieve shared outcomes. To this end WVCA works in partnership at a number of levels and these can be summarised as follows:

Voluntary Organisations and community groups: WVCA has a role in working with other VCO's to "champion" the sector. This involves working with organisations in response to issues affecting the sector and carrying out a co-ordinating role to ensure that the sector is effectively represented at a strategic level across the city. At the most strategic level this includes membership of the "One Wolverhampton" Board,

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

the Health and Well Being Board and Chairing the Inclusion Board. In addition WVCA has the role of facilitating the Wolverhampton VCSE Alliance.

Consortia Partners: Consortia working, both within the VCS and across sectors, is growing and developing as an accepted approach for achieving better outcomes for local people. WVCA have been leading the way in the development of consortia both across the City and beyond, which has resulted, over the past 5 years in over £10M being secured and spent with VCOs in Wolverhampton and the surrounding area.

In particular:

WVCA is the lead body for Talent Match: a lottery/ESF /Community Renewal Fund, resources Black Country project aimed at supporting people aged 18-29, who have been NEET for at least six months, nearer and into employment. Led by young people the project sub contracts to a range of in order to deliver some challenging outcomes.

In year we also bid successfully for Community Renewal Funds in order to establish and deliver employment and skills support through the 15 local partners in our Skills Connect Project

In addition we are the local lead body for a CRF funded "over 50s project led by Sandwell MBC, supporting a partnership of 4 local providers and overseeing the use of an Innovation fund of 50K

Black Country Together (BCT) was developed in 2013 by the four CVS's in order to support the delivery of services by the VCS on a sub-regional level. WVCA is one of the four members of the organisation. BCT currently oversees the delivery of a contract worth £2M, from the Arts council (subject to Business Plan) and acts as the accountable body for one strand of the Building Opportunities, European Social Inclusion Fund (families in poverty). Delivery of this commenced in mid-2016 and an extension to 2022 has recently been secured.

In year we were the lead body for the Preventative Partnership (Previously called the Third Sector Consortium), a group of three delivery partners funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group and working to reduce A and E attendance and improve level of re-ablement among older people leaving hospital. Sadly this project came to an end in April 2022 when funding was withdrawn.

We deliver the Cities Social Prescribing Service which brings together Health and Social Care services, people who are referred from those services in order to address loneliness, isolation, low level mental health issues and so on; and VCOs who provide the prescriptions.

We are also the accountable body for 100% digital; a short term CWC funded project with 6 other partners and aimed at increasing the digital skills of individuals and organisations.

WVSC also leads on the VCSE Alliance, which consists of representation from Voluntary and Community groups and organisations and has become a key focus to ensuring a strong and clear voice for the sector on a range of strategic and policy issues.

Statutory Sector: The Chief Executive of WVCA is a member of the One Wolverhampton Partnership and chairs the Cities inclusion Board, he meets regularly on a one to one basis with the Director of Public Health, Chief Super Intendent and other senior statutory sector colleagues.

WVCA, primarily through the Chief Executive and the YOW Project Manager, also represents the sector on a wide range of other forums. At the current time these include:

- ✓ Children and Families Together Board
- ✓ Community Cohesion Forum
- ✓ Black Country Grants Committee
- ✓ Safeguarding Boards
- ✓ The Healthier Futures Partnership Board (Integrated care system)
- ✓ Integrated Care Partnership

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

- ✓ Health and Well-being board
- ✓ Cross Sector Forum

WVCA also facilitates representation on a range of strategic and operational forums including:

- ✓ The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership
- ✓ The Place based Partnership
- ✓ Employment and Skills board
- ✓ Health and Well Being board
- ✓ Safeguarding boards

In addition, the Board and senior staff of WVCA work closely with statutory sector colleagues on a range of strategic matters such as the those relating to the Old School, social value, co-production, strategic funding and so on.

Risk Management

The risks facing WVCA can be considered under 3 broad headings as follows:

Financial

Internal Control Risks: The risk of financial mismanagement and, in the extreme, fraudulent activity:

These internal risks have increased in recent years as WVCA's role in leading complex consortia activities, such as Talent Match, and, in the year under report the community renewal fund (Skills Connect), has grown. These risks reached a peak in 20/21 with IMPACT: We have now withdrawn from that partnership, all funds owed have been paid to us and, other than the minor risk of future audit and clawback there are no remaining issues to deal with. The overall risk is reduced by having in place robust financial controls and policies and procedures for safe management of financial resources. In addition, WVCA has a robust and effective credit control system in place that serves to ease cash flow difficulties and minimise bad debts.

These systems, coupled with a small but very competent finance team means that we are working well in a complex environment. The financial outturn for the year under report, with a deficit of £76,550 on unrestricted funds and no significant overspend on restricted budgets, within an extremely challenging year would seem to support this.

Our continued membership of WMPF for long standing and ex staff members does present an on-going financial challenge as the level of contribution rates continue to increase. On the other hand only 3 staff remain within the fund and we had been concerned about a possible deficit needing to be paid once the last member leaves. Recent confirmation from WMPF that "upon termination the associated assets and liabilities will be subsumed by the guarantor – in this case WCC, is a very welcome clarification and significantly reduces medium terms risk. The remaining risk, aside from current affordability, is the applicable strain cost relating to the 3 remaining staff should they be made redundant after the age of 55.

Our auto enrolment pension scheme, introduced for all other staff is running smoothly with good take up.

External Financial Risks:

WVCA's income is generated through grants, contracts and direct, paid for, services.

The changing landscape; with the emerging role of the Integrated Care System, Brexit and the level to which EU funds are replaced via the Shared Prosperity Fund, the significant reduction in funds available through the City of Wolverhampton Council, including our need to retender for our existing I/S services, at prices from 5 years ago, have created a situation where there are opportunities but high levels of uncertainty. We are needing to navigate carefully through this landscape both for ourselves and the wider

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

sector. The level of change is unprecedented and we are well placed to emerge strongly from this period. On the other hand the complexity of the environment does present an uncomfortable level of uncertainty and associated risk.

Operational

We work in an environment where the weight and complexity of legal requirements in areas such as health and safety, safeguarding, employment law, equal opportunities and GDPR is growing. In addition the "whole system approach" brings its own challenges for example the need for technical solutions to effective partnership working, (in our case the shared use of EMIS the IT platform used by GPs). This places all organisations at risk. In order to help manage this WVCA has a strong senior management structure. The Deputy Chief Executive working with the Operations Manager takes a lead on internal policies and procedures, many of these have been recently reviewed and a clear procedure for future review is in place.

The Board are ultimately responsible for overseeing this area of work and WVCA also has in place a number of staff-led committees including in the areas of health and safety, equality duties and recruitment. These committees are tasked with responding to the operational requirements of the legislative framework.

Our organisation has responded well to the COVID pandemic and continued service delivery throughout the pandemic.

We have put in place a Hybrid working policy which is currently being trialled. We hope that this will give us the best of both worlds, with colleagues meeting regularly while at the same time being able to work effectively at home, saving some travel time by utilising TEAMS, Zoom and so on.

Finally covering our core costs, including the "core" team is a growing challenge, funders are not prepared to fund organisational infrastructure and are often unwilling to fund on the basis of full cost recovery. In light of this the Board are currently considering various options in terms of the makeup of the "core" team with the intention of balancing organisational need with affordability.

Personnel

Most organisations have a high level of dependency on their key staff. This is exacerbated within WVCA where the diversity of our activities and high levels of specialism among senior staff places us at significant risk if those staff were to leave through resignation or illness - in several areas there are no ready-made replacements that would be able to cover beyond the short term. With an established structure for sharing knowledge through, for example, the Section Heads Meetings, we are developing our ability to respond to any loss of a staff member, but it is envisaged that our reliance on key workers will continue to be high. Notice periods for the Chief Executive and Deputy are three months and for other managers it is two months; this does reduce the risk of key posts being left unfilled for any significant time.

Staff turnover is historically low, consistently running near or below 10%, although, in common with many organisations this has seen some increase during the latter stages of the pandemic.

Staff sickness rates for this year averaged 3.28 days per employee (6.95 in 21/22). Unlike in previous years the most common causes of sickness absence were mental ill-health, digestive problems and COVID, in that order, reflecting the wider impacts of the COVID pandemic. That said 19 staff had no sickness absence and a further 30 had between 1 and 5 days. during the year. We do not have a sickness culture but it feels important that the year on year increase from an average of 4.1 days sickness (19/20) to 6.1 (20/21) and 6.95 in 21/22 which indicates that WVCA has seen in improvement.

Objectives and Activities

Following an away day in September 2021, involving the Board and senior staff, it was agreed that WVCA would change its name and update its branding to better reflect our mission, vision, values and principles as we work together with the vibrant communities of Wolverhampton to cultivate a thriving and inclusive City. These are as follows.

Our vision

Our vision is the world we want to see. This is the reminder that everything we work hard to achieve is worth the effort because what we do is so much bigger than the 9-to-5.

Wolverhampton as a city where everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Wolverhampton as a city where the root causes of inequality are eradicated for good.

Wolverhampton as a city with a well-resourced and thriving voluntary, community and social enterprise sector that supports strong, diverse communities.

Our mission

If the vision is the future, the mission is today. Every day that we get up and fulfil a part of our mission, we're one-step closer to achieving our vision.

To provide unrivalled, dedicated support services to the voluntary and community sector.

To champion Wolverhampton's voluntary and community sector through our reach and influence.

To promote community action and develop opportunities for people to engage in volunteering.

To support people to have agency over their lives and influence decision-making processes that matter to them.

To enhance people's quality of life within Wolverhampton, especially for those who feel most excluded.

To develop partnerships which encourage co-design and co-production.

Our values

At WVCA, we're connected by a set of collective values, keeping us all working in the same direction. These values are:

Collaboration

Integrity

Inclusive

Supportive

Determination

Respect

Our Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles are a set of promises which our brand will always align with.

We can use them when we want to reinforce our belief system. Our principles are the guide by which we work and also how we evaluate our work.

We are all about people

The people of Wolverhampton are at the heart of every decision we make. We believe that every person should be given the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

We are change makers

We seek to understand the challenges people face. We work tirelessly to challenge discrimination and commit to combatting the root causes of inequality.

We seek to collaborate

We know we can achieve more by working in partnership with others. We are your trusted ally, always on hand with resources, experience and passion. We like to work with partners to find solutions. Together we can.

We take bold and innovative action

We are brave, and together we persevere to reach our goals, building a strong network that is agile and resilient.

We strive for progress

We use our diverse skills and experience to influence and drive forward change. We seek to support our partners to create pivotal and lasting transformation. Though our voice may be calm, our impact is loud.

Public Benefit

A thriving Voluntary and Community Sector" is a key aim of Central Government and is increasingly seen as part of the solution to the health and social care crisis facing the country. This will involve the groups and organisations that make up the sector playing a fuller role in delivering services, including public services. Recasting the relationship between people and government; empowering citizens; extending opportunities and communities coming together to make lives better are key to current political thinking. In recent times the development of Social Prescribing has seen a greater focus on our sector as the enthusiasm and need for "social prescriptions" grows. In this context WVCA:

- Supports the development of capacity within the sector to position it to play a fuller part in the delivery of services.
- Delivers Wolverhampton's Social Prescribing Service.
- Enables meaningful participation in the work of partners sub regionally, City-wide and at the neighbourhood level.

Principle 1: Identifiable Benefits

1a) Key benefits are:

- A strong and effective VCS in the city.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

- A clear voice for citizens, specifically those who use public services to influence and improve those services and the policies that inform them.

1b) Related to our aims:

By supporting voluntary organisations to operate more effectively and by providing a clear voice for citizens, both through groups and as individuals, our benefits are directly related to our aims.

1c) Balanced against harm:

With reference to each benefit outlined above:

- A strong and effective VCS improves the quality of provision and choice to those who commission services. There are many services, both public and otherwise, that are delivered better by VCOs for a number of reasons including flexibility, reach and cost effectiveness. This is accepted and supported by all political parties at the time of writing.
- A clear voice for citizens helps to ensure that resources are used to best meet the needs of beneficiaries. It is possible that giving a disproportionate voice to one particular interest or point of view could be detrimental and thus WVCA works hard to ensure that a balanced picture, informed by a wide range of voices, is presented through the activities outlined in note 15 to the accounts.

Principle 2: Benefit to the public

2a) Beneficiaries appropriate to the aims:

Beneficiaries are "voluntary organisations" and the community within Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas. The vast majority of our work has been within Wolverhampton with these beneficiaries. Some cross boundary work has taken place within the Black Country and, less so, the West Midlands. In all this work Wolverhampton organisations and communities have benefited and remained our focus. Talent Match, the Preventative Partnership, Girls Allowed, Black Country Together, Social Prescribing and most recently work with the ICS provide a vehicle for supporting voluntary organisations to work together to delivery public services and provides some capacity building to help them do so. Any surpluses generated will be used to the benefit of the local community.

2b) Not restricted by geography or ability to pay:

WVCA's basic services remain free at the point of delivery although with the reduced availability of funding we do make charges for work beyond the core offer when this is feasible. No organisation within the area of benefit was denied a service because of inability to pay and we will continue to make every effort to maintain this approach albeit reductions in funding, for example to support organisations does limit our capacity to respond.

2c) People in poverty must not be excluded:

No charges are made to individuals for WVCA's services and thus people in poverty are not excluded. A flexible approach to delivery including visiting groups and individuals, providing information in written and electronic forms etc., also ensures that no-one is excluded as a result of poverty.

2d) Private benefit must be incidental:

WVCA gives grants to groups to help them achieve their charitable aims – these are not used to provide any personal benefit to group members. WVCA provides for expenses to be paid to volunteers including board members. These expenses are to cover the costs to the individuals of engaging in forums or carrying out specific tasks.

Fundraising

The majority of WVCA income is from Contracts and Grants. In the year under report we were not involved in any direct fundraising. Residual funds from our One City campaign in 20/21 were distributed during 22/23 in line with the aims of that campaign.

Volunteers

WVCA operates the city's Volunteer Service (Wolverhampton Volunteers). The service places over 1000 new volunteers a year, with some 250 registered organisations offering placements. The service also supports our most vulnerable citizens through BBO (Building Better Opportunities), working more closely with them to help ensure they can use volunteering, training and other routes to move nearer and into employment.

Wolverhampton Volunteers has achieved the quality standard - the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA) - developed by Volunteer England, which focuses on the six core functions of a volunteer centre and of which only one is available in each locality.

The centre is increasingly becoming a hub for volunteering across the whole city, at the outbreak of COVID and the associated restrictions we worked closely with the local mutual aid group which led to a significant increase in the numbers of volunteers registered with us. This in turn led to some expansion of the Volunteer offer to include work with care homes and the City Council. We provide regular support sessions with placement providers to improve their knowledge and practice, and outreach where capacity allows.

In 2016/17 we secured EU funding to work intensively alongside people facing significant barriers to employment and for whom volunteering will be part of the solution. This aspect of the Volunteer service works with 50 people a year. Funding for this work has recently been extended until April 2023.

WVCA does offer opportunities for volunteering, primarily within Social Prescribing through, for example, befrienders and SUIT where volunteers are central to the delivery of the service. Opportunities elsewhere within the organisation are ad hoc but do regularly offer themselves. All volunteers within WVSC are supported by paid staff and offered expenses to cover costs associated with their volunteer roles.

Details of the various work strands that deliver the above are included in Note 14 to the accounts on pages 29 to 33.

Overall Achievements, Performance and Financial Review

During the year there was a reduction in income to £2,591,057 (from £3,048,567). This decrease is primarily as a result in the reduction of resources for Talent Match as we withdrew from the IMPACT project and national lottery funds tapered as planned.

This year has seen a small reduction in total unrestricted funds from £591,139 in March 2022 to £514,589. This includes providing a subsidy to our Infrastructure project funded by the City Council, which is agreed

each year by the board. Given the challenging financial environment during the year this is a positive outcome.

During the year we worked directly to support many hundreds of groups and organisations; engaged with and influenced a wide range of forums, strategies and initiatives across Wolverhampton and beyond and supported thousands of vulnerable and troubled individuals, both directly and through collaborations with a wide range organisations. Our success in securing 2 of the 8 Community Fund contracts out of some 150 applications across the Black Country is a significant achievement and has brought over £1M into our City. The vast bulk of this resource goes to VCS partners.

We continue to lead the way in terms of innovation across the City, championing the development of social prescribing including making successful applications for funds to be utilised by partners in providing prescriptions. We see this as a growing area of work. More specifically we continue to work with partners within and across sectors to address areas such as co-production, whole system approaches to deliver and the on-going levels of inequality in our City. In particular our relationships with the integrated care system (ICS) are bearing significant fruit for the wider VCS including for example funds through "winter pressures" and those to tackle Health Inequalities would not previously have been shared in this way. The emerging Integrated Care System is a significant opportunity for our sector with widespread acknowledgement of its roll within the "whole system" approach.

Reserves Policy

The reserves considered in the Reserves Policy, are the "free reserves". These are the sum of the Unrestricted General Reserves, less Fixed Assets within Unrestricted Activity. These free reserves include designated funds. The rationale for WVCA's reserves is: to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to provide sustainability and continuity within times of income shortfall, and to enable WVCA to respond to key developments in the sector. The Trustees aim to build reserves which would enable WVCA to continue to fulfil its commitment to achievement of outcomes for at least 6 months, and to honour its liabilities at any point in time. For the 2022/23 accounts this policy gave us a figure to work towards of £506,351.

The net impact on reserves of the above is a reduction in general unrestricted reserves of £71,781.

As at 31 March 2023, WVCA's unrestricted reserves are £514,589 (£591,139 in 21/22). This includes £173,549 for closure costs and £759 for remaining rebranding costs, which together with £1,330 safety fund are included as designated funds, and a commitment towards a fixed asset of £2,250 leaving a residue of £338,951 (£410,732 in March 2022) as contribution towards the target of 6 months running costs, as directed by the reserves policy.

Plans for the future

Our Infrastructure and Volunteer Centre contracts are in place until December 2023. Our current services are being re-tendered in 5 lots but to the same total value as 5 years ago. While we fully intend to bid for all 5 and are hopeful of success, this split does increase the risk of losing part of the contract, in turn undermining the sustainability of those lots that we do win given our ongoing need to subsidise the costs of delivery in recent years. The reduction in value of the contract given current pressures including those relating to pressure on pay will also be a challenge and further illustrates the shrinking of our financial relationship with the Council at a time when the demand on WVSC and the wider sector is increasing.

SUIT has a sub contract in place with NACRO. The substantive contract between NACRO and CWC has just gone into its 2 year extension period until the end of 2023/24 and we are in the process of finalising discussions regarding our partnership over this extension period.

Talent Match funding, following success with CRF, is in place until December 2022, This project has worked with over 3000 young people over the past 8 years and is an important part of the support landscape. Talant Match project has now come to an end just before the year end March 2023.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Social Prescribing Funding is agreed year on year with PCNs which is a challenge. The re-organisation of the CCG and departure of many staff is currently an issue as we work to establish new relationships. The bulk of PCNs have committed to the service until the end of 23/24 but there is a need to re-negotiate the element of our current contract that is funded through the CCG – something that we will do in the months ahead.

We do see a range of opportunities for our organisation, alongside the challenges, in the years ahead:

- ✓ Social Prescribing is an established part of the Wolverhampton Health and Social Care landscape. It is a core manifestation of public sector aspirations for a whole system approach and a key role for the VCS. To that end we do believe that this is likely to be a growing area of work.
- ✓ The Black Country Integrated care system is most likely to implement the whole system approach that is required if health and social care is to improve. We have developed excellent relationship with system leads and employ the worker leading on this work for the VCS. As anticipated last year funds for the sector are being increasingly made available through this route. To date we have led on the distribution of short term funds in Wolverhampton and we see this continuing in a more consistent manner into 22/23 and beyond.
- ✓ We have a very positive emerging relationship with the local hospital trust and we are currently awaiting the outcome of a joint application to the national NHS charity.
- ✓ There will be opportunities to expand our role in leading consortia following our success with the Community Renewal Fund which has secured over £1M for our sector and allowed us to develop a well-functioning partnership of 15 local organisation in delivering our Skills Connect project..

In summary: With the need to re-tender for our I/S and volunteer centre contracts and a lack of clarity regarding the future of Talent Match and Skills Connect there is still some in year uncertainty and we are working to a best case/worst case budget. Encouragingly projection are improving as we go through the year and we are well placed to pick up any short term shortfall via reserves if this becomes necessary.

Change presents opportunities, with our new look, a re-visited and clarified mission and vision, excellent links across and beyond the VCS and a top class reputation we are well placed to benefit.

Auditors

Messrs Muras Baker Jones Limited have signified their willingness to continue in office as auditors and this was agreed in principle at the most recent AGM.

Board of Trustees

Simeon Greene (Co-Chair)
Pamela Cole-Hudson (Co-Chair)
Stephen Clay (resigned on 24/11/22)
Janet Clarke Lewis
James Fox
Anne Marie Harrison
Patricia Mary Kemp
Sarah Deeming
Gurbax Kaur
Edna Masoha
Paul Tulley

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Disclosure of information to the auditors

We, the trustees / directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

By order of the Board of Trustees



Sharon Nanan-Sen
Secretary
30 November 2023



Simeon Greene
Co-Chair
30 November 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise a statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account), a balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 2 the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
and Statutory Auditor

Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
WV1 4EG

30 November 2023

Muras Baker Jones Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds 2023 £ | Restricted Funds 2023 £ | Total Funds 2023 £ | Total Funds 2022 £ |
|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Income from charitable activities | 5 | 33,235 | 2,554,077 | 2,587,312 | 3,045,352 |
| Investment Income | | 3,748 | - | 3,748 | 3,215 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 36,983 | 2,554,077 | 2,591,060 | 3,048,567 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | 6 | 87,956 | 2,915,164 | 3,003,120 | 3,013,224 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 87,956 | 2,915,164 | 3,003,120 | 3,013,224 |
| NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE | 7 | (50,973) | (361,087) | (412,060) | 35,343 |
| Transfers between funds | 15 | (25,577) | 25,577 | - | - |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | | (76,550) | (335,510) | (412,060) | 35,343 |
| Total funds brought forward | | 591,139 | 1,014,134 | 1,605,273 | 1,569,930 |
| TOTAL FUNDS at 31 March 2023 | | 514,589 | 678,624 | 1,193,213 | 1,605,273 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
|---|----|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Fixed Assets: | | | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 8 | | 750 | | 1,500 |
| Investments | 9 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Current Assets: | | | | | |
| Debtors | 10 | 163,365 | | 330,815 | |
| Deposit Accounts | | 441,409 | | 438,558 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 636,155 | | 1,036,757 | |
| | | <u>1,240,929</u> | | <u>1,806,130</u> | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 12 | (48,467) | | (202,358) | |
| Net current assets | | | <u>1,192,462</u> | | <u>1,603,772</u> |
| Total net assets | | | <u>1,193,213</u> | | <u>1,605,273</u> |
| Charity Funds: | | | | | |
| General unrestricted fund | | | 338,951 | | 410,732 |
| Designated funds | | | 175,638 | | 180,407 |
| Restricted funds | | | 678,624 | | 1,014,134 |
| | | | <u>1,193,213</u> | | <u>1,605,273</u> |

The Directors are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. However, an audit is required in accordance with section s154 of the Charities Act 2011.

Directors' responsibilities:

- 1) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- 2) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of the accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 30 November 2023.



Simeon Greene
Co-Chair of Board of Trustees



Janet Clarke-Lewis
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Company Number: 2288239

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2023

| | Note | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|------|------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the year | | (412,060) | 35,343 |
| Adjustments for: | | | |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | | 750 | 750 |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | | (3,748) | (3,215) |
| Changes in: | | | |
| Trade and other debtors | | 167,450 | 61,300 |
| Trade and other creditors | | (153,891) | 79,796 |
| Cash generated from operations: | | (401,499) | 173,974 |
| Interest received | | 3,748 | 3,215 |
| Net cash from / (used in) operating activities | | (397,751) | 177,189 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Payment to acquire tangible fixed assets | | - | - |
| Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | (397,751) | 177,189 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | 1,475,315 | 1,298,126 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the year end | 11 | 1,077,564 | 1,475,315 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

1 Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

2 Liability of Members

WVSC is a company limited by guarantee. It does not have a share capital and the liability of each member is limited to the guarantee given by that member, which shall not exceed £1. There are no beneficial interests and under the terms of its Memorandum and Articles of Association any surplus can only be applied towards the promotion of WVSC's objectives, and no dividend or other form of distribution can be paid to its members.

3 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. WVSC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Pension costs

Certain employees are members of the West Midlands Pension Fund ("WMPF"). The pension cost charge in the financial statements represents contributions due to this scheme in respect of earnings during the year, which are based on recommendations by the fund actuary.

The disclosures required by FRS 102 have not been included in the financial statements. WVCA is in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme, WMPF, and FRS 102 requires such organisations to identify their share of the pension scheme's assets and liabilities. However, within FRS 102 this is only to be achieved if "sufficient information" is available to do so. WVCA believes that an actuarial valuation would not be a reasonable use of public funds, and the directors therefore have decided not to provide this financial information on the balance sheet in the financial statements. WVCA manages contributions to its pension fund in line with the WMPF valuation recommendations, pension costs for all of the projects are fully budgeted for, and WVCA receives an actuarial valuation on the WMPF scheme on a three yearly basis. Issues around risk management of the pension fund are continually assessed through work with staff at WMPF, and at Board of Trustees' Meetings.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are normally capitalised where the cost exceeds £1,000, and are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset, on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Office equipment | over 5 years |
| Computers | over 4 years |
| Refurbishment on lease | over time remaining on the premises lease agreement |

The accounting for depreciation leads to a discrepancy between some financial statements submitted to funders, and the fund activity shown in the statutory accounts of WVCA. If a project has a funder which requires that a capital purchase is to be presented as a cash item rather than as a capitalised item, as required by Charity Accounting rules, then a discrepancy emerges between the amount claimed from the funder, and the fund accounting in the statutory accounts. Where this is the case, that particular discrepancy is referred to in the Trustees Report.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

Accounting Policies (cont.)

Grants payable

Grants payable to local organisations are recognised in the financial statements when there is a commitment to make a payment.

Income

Revenue grants are received from various funders - see note 5 - in order to finance WVCA's activities and are accounted for in the income and expenditure account on an accrual's basis.

Where revenue grants are received which have donor-imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, any income received in advance is deferred.

Where revenue grants are received, which do not have donor imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, the income is accounted for when received.

Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Income from the provision of legal, payroll and other core services are accounted for when earned.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity, where they can be quantified.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT, where it cannot be recovered.

Expenditure on charitable activities consist of costs incurred in the direct delivery of services and the support costs which are allocated to each of these areas of service provision.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise grants and other incoming resources receivable, or generated for the objects of the charity, without further specific purpose, and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

4 Grants payable

| | Number | 2023 £ | Number | 2022 £ |
|---|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| 100% Digital | 4 | 9,750 | 6 | 49,500 |
| Building Connections Partners | - | - | 1 | 7,664 |
| CRF 50+ | 10 | 61,973 | 1 | 2,080 |
| Girls Allowed Partners | 2 | 327 | 6 | 77,663 |
| Health Inequalities | 3 | 190,748 | - | - |
| One City Fund Grants | 11 | 2,740 | 1 | 2,000 |
| CRF Skills Connect | 11 | 473,715 | 12 | 174,847 |
| Social Prescribing Partner | - | - | 1 | 24,873 |
| St Peter (Preventative Services) | 1 | 5,400 | - | - |
| Talent Match Partners | 6 | 395,376 | 6 | 747,938 |
| Third Sector Consortium Partners/Systems Resilience | - | - | 3 | 117,608 |
| Thriving communities | 2 | 7,500 | 12 | 36,205 |
| Winter Pressures | 14 | 179,473 | 4 | 16,729 |
| WP- Adult Hospital Discharge | 1 | 15,758 | - | - |
| | <u>65</u> | <u>1,342,759</u> | <u>53</u> | <u>1,257,107</u> |

5 Income from Charitable Activities

| | Unrestricted 2023 £ | Restricted 2023 £ | Total 2023 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Active Black Country | - | - | - | 3,250 |
| Arts Council | - | 4,880 | 4,880 | 43,920 |
| Black Country Consortium | - | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,852 |
| Big Lottery Fund Grants (BLF) | - | - | - | 741,796 |
| Community Renewal Fund | - | 814,885 | 814,885 | 470,129 |
| ESF grants | - | - | - | 267,307 |
| BLF/ESF joint funded programme | - | 62,594 | 62,594 | 54,936 |
| BLF/DCMS* joint funded programme | - | - | - | - |
| City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) | - | 423,291 | 423,291 | 288,899 |
| Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/NHS | - | 750,399 | 750,399 | 927,470 |
| Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/ICB Via BCT | - | 347,775 | 347,775 | - |
| Co-op Foundation | - | - | - | 1,045 |
| Department of Health | 3,000 | - | 3,000 | - |
| Comic Relief | - | - | - | 56,916 |
| Police and Crime Commission | - | - | - | - |
| Creative Black Country | - | - | - | - |
| Donation | 2,882 | 645 | 3,527 | 380 |
| Non Grant Income | 27,353 | 141,608 | 168,961 | 180,452 |
| | <u>33,235</u> | <u>2,554,077</u> | <u>2,587,312</u> | <u>3,045,352</u> |

* Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

6 Breakdown of Costs of Charitable Activity

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

| | Staff Costs | Other Charitable Costs | Support Costs | Total 2023 | Total 2022 |
|--|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Core Activities | - | - | 79,596 | 79,596 | 22,777 |
| Infrastructure Support incl Trading | 6,587 | 70 | 1,703 | 8,360 | 10,704 |
| | 6,587 | 70 | 81,299 | 87,956 | 33,481 |
| CRF50+ | 12,115 | 61,973 | 1,744 | 75,832 | 6,674 |
| CRFSkills Connect | 26,421 | 486,681 | 3,963 | 517,065 | 188,752 |
| 100% Digital | - | 9,750 | - | 9,750 | 56,999 |
| Faith Engagement | - | - | - | - | 4,239 |
| Girls Allowed | - | 327 | - | 327 | 90,398 |
| Infrastructure Support | 100,089 | 1,716 | 23,546 | 125,351 | 115,454 |
| Inf Support Reserve - Compact | 240 | - | - | 240 | - |
| Inf Support Reserve - training/quality | - | - | - | - | - |
| MHE - ReserveBudget(pens liab) | 877 | - | - | 877 | - |
| MHE -Small Grants | - | - | - | - | 1,245 |
| One City FundTotal | - | 2,740 | - | 2,740 | 2,000 |
| Preventative Services | - | 5,400 | 5,000 | 10,400 | - |
| Public Health Transf | - | - | - | - | - |
| Social Prescribing Link Workers(CCG) | 518,013 | 46,261 | 52,584 | 616,858 | 611,164 |
| Community Conversations | - | 65 | - | 65 | - |
| Health Inequalities | - | 190,748 | - | 190,748 | - |
| Social Prescribing-Asthma Progr | - | 94 | - | 94 | - |
| Social Prescribing- BAS9 | - | 50 | - | 50 | - |
| Social Prescribing- Hardship Fu | - | 618 | - | 618 | - |
| Social Prescribing- Tackling In | - | 3,136 | - | 3,136 | 36,930 |
| Social Prescribing- Thriving Co | - | 13,861 | - | 13,861 | 12,682 |
| Suicide Prevention | 1,788 | 6,992 | - | 8,780 | 550 |
| SUIT | 96,409 | 11,285 | 30,309 | 138,003 | 120,230 |
| STP | 41,221 | 1,238 | 9,369 | 51,828 | 58,702 |
| Talent Match(BLF)ESF unfunded | - | - | - | - | 267,307 |
| Talent Match(BLF)cont | 88,895 | 235,563 | 45,205 | 369,663 | - |
| Talent Match (BLF) combined | - | - | - | - | 921,288 |
| Talent Match / PCC | - | - | - | - | 4,964 |
| Talent Match / CRF | 150,027 | 230,939 | 8,090 | 389,056 | 194,792 |
| Third Sector Consortium/ Systems Resi | - | - | - | - | 126,720 |
| BBO Bridges | 51,507 | 2,868 | 6,845 | 61,220 | 56,870 |
| Volunteer Services | 47,753 | 1,233 | 15,154 | 64,140 | 62,678 |
| Whampton for Everyone(WE) | - | 3,244 | - | 3,244 | 8,157 |
| WE - Spaces to Connect | - | - | - | - | 10,379 |
| NDELJ | - | 3,717 | - | 3,717 | - |
| Winter Pressures Fund | - | 179,621 | 20,000 | 199,621 | 20,062 |
| Orange Wolves | - | 10 | - | 10 | 452 |
| YOW - Childrens Workforce | - | 1,473 | - | 1,473 | 55 |
| King Charles Coronation | - | - | - | - | - |
| Primary Care Ambassadors | - | - | 8,000 | 8,000 | - |
| Active Connectors | 20,479 | 1,928 | 7,000 | 29,407 | - |
| WP- Adult Hospital Discharge | 3,233 | 15,757 | - | 18,990 | - |
| TOTAL RESTRICTED | 1,159,067 | 1,519,288 | 236,809 | 2,915,164 | 2,979,743 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 1,165,654 | 1,519,358 | 318,108 | 3,003,120 | 3,013,224 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

6a Support Cost Breakdown by activity

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 210,647 | 187,302 |
| Property | 53,832 | 55,654 |
| Office | 42,000 | 30,238 |
| Depreciation | 750 | 750 |
| Professional fees | 3,079 | 3,988 |
| Support Costs | <u>310,308</u> | <u>277,932</u> |
| Governance costs: | | |
| AGM | - | - |
| Audit fees | 7,800 | 7,500 |
| TOTAL COSTS | <u>318,108</u> | <u>285,432</u> |

Basis of allocation of costs:

Staff costs: These are the staffing costs associated with work undertaken in the specific project areas as listed in note 6. Most staff work wholly in one project area, and their staff costs are allocated to that project. If their time is shared between projects, then the staffing cost is split accordingly. The staffing cost comprises gross salary plus on costs, including pension costs where applicable.

Other charitable costs: These are costs within the projects, incurred in the pursuance of the aims and objectives of each project. These costs are specific only to the project which they are allocated to.

Support Costs: These are costs which are incurred in the running of the organisation. They would include for example, core staff costs, rent, insurance, heat and light, IT support, repairs and maintenance, and any other costs which are associated with core staff executing their tasks, which are required in order to support all the projects and contracts within the organisation.

These costs are calculated on a budget basis, at the beginning of the financial year, and allocated as per numbers of full-time staff members in each project, or in accordance with grant agreement arrangements. Any support costs which are not recovered in the actual year, are seen as an additional core service support cost.

7 Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers

| | £ | £ |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| This is stated after charging: | | |
| Rentals under operating leases | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Auditors remuneration | 7,800 | 7,500 |
| Depreciation: owned fixed assets | 750 | 750 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

| | £ | £ | £ |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Cost | | | |
| 31 March 2022 | 34,996 | 5,250 | 40,246 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| 31 March 2023 | <u>34,996</u> | <u>5,250</u> | <u>40,246</u> |
| Depreciation: | | | |
| 31 March 2022 | 34,996 | 3,750 | 38,746 |
| Charge for the year | - | 750 | 750 |
| 31 March 2023 | <u>34,996</u> | <u>4,500</u> | <u>39,496</u> |
| Net book value: | | | |
| 31 March 2022 | - | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| 31 March 2023 | - | 750 | 750 |

9 Fixed Assets Investments

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

People in Partnership (Wolverhampton) Community Interest Company

Nature of the business: The Company was incorporated on 12 July 2011 and has not traded during the year 2022-23. Initially WVCA held 100% of the holding, however the articles were amended and subsequently changes resulted in WVCA only holding 25%. However subsequent gifting of two shares have made it so that WVCA now holds 75% of the active holding.

| Class of share | % Holding | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ordinary | 75 | |
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| Aggregate capital and reserves | 4 | 4 |

Black Country Together C.I.C.

Black Country Together CIC was founded 31 January 2013, by the four Councils for Voluntary Service in the Black Country each with 25% membership, with the aim of increasing levels of funding coming into our sub-region and fostering greater co-operation and collaboration between voluntary organisations and local statutory agencies both within and across borough boundaries.

BCT CIC is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. It is actively trading generating an income of £1,691,934 in the year ended 30 June 2022 which resulted in a small deficit of £242 for the year. The balance sheet at 30 June 2022, the most recent set of accounts, showed net assets of £4,164. Ian Darch, WVCA CEO, is a director of BCT CIC (replaced as Director by Sharon Nanan-Sen in September 2023).

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

10 Debtors

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Debtors | 143,491 | 277,320 |
| Payments in advance | 19,874 | 53,495 |
| | <u>163,365</u> | <u>330,815</u> |

11 Cash and Cash Equivalents

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Funds on deposit at bank | 441,409 | 438,558 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 636,155 | 1,036,757 |
| | <u>1,077,564</u> | <u>1,475,315</u> |

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income | - | - |
| Other creditors | 30,421 | 47,361 |
| Accruals | 18,047 | 154,997 |
| | <u>48,468</u> | <u>202,358</u> |

13 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total 2023 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed Assets | 751 | - | - | 751 |
| Current Assets | 360,823 | 175,638 | 704,468 | 1,240,929 |
| Current Liabilities | (22,623) | - | (25,844) | (48,467) |
| | <u>338,951</u> | <u>175,638</u> | <u>678,624</u> | <u>1,193,213</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

14 Reserves and Reconciliation of Movement in Funds

| | 31 March 2022 | Transfers | Incoming Resources | Outgoing Resources | 31 March 2023 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted funds: | | | | | |
| General unrestricted fund | 410,732 | (25,577) | 36,983 | 83,187 | 338,951 |
| Designated funds including operation liabilities | 180,407 | - | - | 4,769 | 175,638 |
| | <u>591,139</u> | <u>(25,577)</u> | <u>36,983</u> | <u>87,956</u> | <u>514,589</u> |
| Restricted funds: | | | | | |
| CRF50+ | - | - | 76,563 | 75,832 | 731 |
| CRFSkills Connect | 34,703 | 226 | 482,136 | 517,065 | - |
| 100% Digital | 18,000 | - | - | 9,750 | 8,250 |
| Girls Allowed | 674 | - | - | 327 | 347 |
| Infrastructure Support | - | 25,351 | 100,000 | 125,351 | - |
| Inf Support Reserve - Compact | 5,790 | - | - | 240 | 5,550 |
| Inf Support Reserve - training/quality | 15,623 | - | - | - | 15,623 |
| Mental Health Reducing Isolation | 5,542 | - | - | - | 5,542 |
| MHE - ReserveBudget(pens liab) | 57,240 | - | - | 877 | 56,363 |
| MHE -Small Grants | 2,953 | - | - | - | 2,953 |
| One City FundTotal | 2,740 | - | - | 2,740 | - |
| Preventative Services | 100,000 | - | - | 10,400 | 89,600 |
| Public Health Transf | - | - | - | - | - |
| Social Prescribing Link Workers(CCG) | 115,162 | (10,000) | 648,300 | 616,858 | 136,604 |
| Community Conversations | - | 65 | - | 65 | - |
| Health Inequalities | - | - | 190,748 | 190,748 | - |
| Social Prescribing-Asthma Progr | - | 93 | 1 | 94 | - |
| Social Prescribing- BAS9 | - | 50 | - | 50 | - |
| Social Prescribing- Hardship Fu | - | 618 | - | 618 | - |
| Social Prescribing- Tackling In | - | 3,004 | 132 | 3,136 | - |
| Social Prescribing- Thriving Co | 7,039 | 6,170 | 4,914 | 13,861 | 4,262 |
| Suicide Prevention | 6,950 | - | 2,000 | 8,780 | 170 |
| SUIT | 36,724 | - | 133,000 | 138,003 | 31,721 |
| STP | 15,890 | - | 97,500 | 51,828 | 61,562 |
| Talent Match(BLF)cont | 485,642 | (115,979) | - | 369,663 | - |
| Talent Match / CRF | 45,208 | 115,979 | 256,186 | 389,056 | 28,317 |
| Think Family Champions | - | - | - | - | - |
| Third Sector Consortium/ Systems Resilien | 7,571 | - | - | - | 7,571 |
| BBO Bridges | - | - | 62,594 | 61,220 | 1,374 |
| Volunteer Services | 4,568 | - | 67,330 | 64,140 | 7,758 |
| W'hampton for Everyone(WE) | 14,086 | - | - | 3,244 | 10,842 |
| NDELJ | 1,954 | - | 2,500 | 3,717 | 737 |
| Winter Pressures Fund Orig | - | - | - | - | - |
| Winter Pressures Fund | 26,338 | - | 228,791 | 199,621 | 55,508 |
| Orange Wolves | 809 | - | 513 | 10 | 1,312 |
| YOW - Childrens Workforce | 2,928 | - | - | 1,473 | 1,455 |
| Heart Of England | - | - | 20,000 | - | 20,000 |
| HOPE | - | - | 27,352 | - | 27,352 |
| King Charles Coronation | - | - | 30,000 | - | 30,000 |
| Primary Care Ambassadors | - | - | 8,000 | 8,000 | - |
| YP-SP | - | - | 55,000 | - | 55,000 |
| Active Connectors | - | - | 40,492 | 29,407 | 11,085 |
| WP- Adult Hospital Discharge | - | - | 20,025 | 18,990 | 1,035 |
| | <u>1,014,134</u> | <u>25,577</u> | <u>2,554,077</u> | <u>2,915,164</u> | <u>678,624</u> |
| | <u>1,605,273</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,591,060</u> | <u>3,003,120</u> | <u>1,193,213</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

Note: Reserves and Reconciliation of Movements in funds – Transfers between funds:

In 2022-23 there was transfers of funds between unrestricted and restricted funds. Core transferred reserves of £25,351 to Infrastructure Support. This reflects the Board's decision to support the capacity building service with organisational reserves, up to an annually agreed value. In additions to this there was £226 transferred to Community Renewal Fund Skills connect to cover the small deficit, which was not remaining within the fund, as this contract has now ended.

There was a reduction in designated funds from previous year 2021-2022 due to the usage of the re-branding fund of £10,000 which now has £759 remaining as at 31st March 2023.

Purpose of Funds The information provided below is a brief summary on each fund and how the funded activities contribute to WVCA aims and objectives.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General Unrestricted Fund: This is used to fund some core activities that are not fully funded through our infrastructure support contract with CWC. It is also held to enable activities to continue for a period of time in the event of sudden loss of funding, in line with the Trustees' reserves policy. Movement on the level of these reserves is dependent on WVCA's ability to recover its core operating costs from support cost charges to projects together with earned income and bank interest. In the year under report this fund showed a net reduction of £71,781: This reduction was caused by a number of factors: Some under-recovery of core costs; the need to cover unbudgeted re branding cost.

Designated Funds: The balance in designated funds is £175,638. This represents £1,330 for improving safety within the organisation for staff and visitors, £759 remaining for re-branding and £173,549 for operational liabilities/closure costs. Please see reference to reserves policy in the TAR.

For the year ended 31 March 2023 earned income totalled £36,983 (£45,667 in 21/22). The combination of support costs recovered through the agreed charges to projects, earned income and required movements to other funds meant unrestricted reserves including designated funds reduced by 75,650 (£39,684 increase in 21/22) to £514,589). Current unrestricted reserves therefore cover closure costs and approximately 3 months continuation costs, compared to the 6 months target set out by the reserves policy.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds represent funding received for specific projects and activities in support of WVCA's overall objectives.

Community Renewal Fund: Over 50s: A Black Country Wide project led by Sandwell MBC and aimed at moving people over 50 nearer and into employment; WVCA was the local lead for Wolverhampton overseeing delivery by 4 providers. Funds are to enable us to carry out this oversight role. This project has now come to an end as 31st March 2023. The remaining restricted funds of £731 are currently held to be used against final activities on the project.

Community Renewal Fund: Skills Connect: Funding secured by WVCA on behalf of a local partnership of VCOs. The project aims to support citizens to move nearer and into employment and

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

runs until December 2022. Funds are paid in advance against an agreed profile. The project has now ended with a small overspend of £226 which was transferred from the general unrestricted reserves. The profile was however set when the project was to run for only 6 months – this was then extended to 10 months and funds were used during the extended period.

100% digital: Funding made available to WVCA from CWC in order to fund activity by a small local consortium in support local people and organisations to develop their IT skills. An initial allocation of £49,999 was fully utilised and reported on during the year 2021-22. An additional allocation of 25K was made towards the year end 2021-22 – the reserve relates to part of that second tranche of funds and some of the reserves were spent on project related activities during year ending 31st March 2023. The remaining reserves of £8,250 will be spent during 23/24.

Girls Allowed: This project was funded from the Tampon Tax Fund through a partnership between HM Government and Comic Relief until August 2021 and was extended through additional funds from Comic Relief to the end of December 2021. The project worked to support girls at risk of being drawn into gangs. WVCA was the accountable body with the bulk of the activity and funding being subcontracted to VCS partners. The remaining balance of £347 will be retained by 23/24 to cover any residual costs or activities in line with the projects aims.

Infrastructure Support: This service provides a wide range of support to local VCOs including in the areas of funding, governance, safeguarding, policies, GDPR, information etc. This also incorporates the former YOW support worker whose focus is on organisations working with Children and Young People. This post also has a significant role in safeguarding within the City, particularly supporting CWC colleagues and the role of the CEO in strategic work with partners, including CWC. During the year we supported many hundreds of organisations and attended dozens of strategic forums across a very wide range of issues. These activities receive a £100K pa contract from City of Wolverhampton Council although this has not covered the full cost of the service for several years. In this year the board agreed to subsidise this work from unrestricted funds to the amount of £21,351 (21/22 £14,822). The other related reserve of £5,550 for Inf Support Reserve - Compact and £15,623 for Inf Support Reserve - training/quality are held for partnership working with CWC. There is also a pension liability within this fund.

In 23/24 we will retender for this service. Part of the tender focuses on partnership working and it is our intention to incorporate this reserve the other related reserves, less outstanding liabilities, into our proposal by way of added value.

Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHE): This project was funded through a contract with CWC for several years but the funding was withdrawn in 2017/18. Some further funding was made available by the CCG for specific pieces of work in the year to March 2020. Combined Reserves for MHE currently stand at £64,858. There is a pension liability within this project and some reserves are being used to cover the associated costs moving forward. Remaining funds will be available to support peer led MH groups in the years ahead.

Preventative Services (St Peters): Funded through the CCG has remaining reserves to be utilised on project activities during 23-24. The restricted remaining fund of £89,600 to be used on project activities.

Social Prescribing: The project works with “patients” to identify alternative approaches to tackling issues such as low level depression, isolation and frequent GP contact, that can better be tackled by diversion to activities within the VCS such as wellbeing sessions, group activities, exercise etc., rather than by medical interventions. During the year the project supported in the region of 1500 customers facing loneliness, isolation and mental ill health. In the year under report the project was funded

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

through a combination of PCN (Networks of GPs), and the CCG. An in-year surplus of £31,442 was because of operational savings which equate to less than 5% of the budget. The total surplus of £136,604 will be spent in delivering the wider social Prescribing vision, including filling gaps in prescriptions in the years ahead. and in supporting unfunded cost of living increases. In the year it agreed to transfer £10k from the surplus to smaller related projects for social prescribing. From this there are remaining funds of £4,262 reserves on Social Prescribing- Thriving Co as reported in 22-23 to be utilised in 23-24.

Suicide Prevention: Funding was made available by CWC to support a campaign aimed at preventing suicide in the City. The majority of delivery has taken place in 22/23 utilising £8,780. The remaining funds to be used in 23/24.

Service User Involvement Project (SUIT): Through a sub-contract with NACRO this project works alongside users and ex-users of drug treatment services to support them in influencing the design and delivery of drug treatment services and provides direct support to service users using a model based on abstinence-based recovery. The reserve of £31,721 will be used in future delivery, including supporting cost of living increases over the remaining 2 years of this contract that are not covered within the current budget.

STP - Engagement & Partnership/ICS: Funded through the newly emerged Integrated Care System this work is overseen by WVCA on behalf of the four Black Country CVS organisations. We employ a worker who delivers this work that commenced in 2020/21. The reserve of £61,652 is an operational saving and will be used in delivery during 2023/24.

Talent Match – CRF. Talent match ending during 2022-2023, at the point the project activities were gradually concluded. All Talent match project staff were made redundant costing WVCA a total of £25,774 in redundancy costs. All related funds were consolidated in to one. WVCA has a total of £28,317 as remaining reserves for the project to be used with remaining cost that relate to the project closure for example; document archiving etc.. to be agreed and used during 2023-2024.

Third Sector Consortium: Funded by the CCG this work involved a small consortium of three organisations supported by WVCA, which is the accountable body, working together to distributed and support effective messaging about health and social care provision, reduce admissions to A and E and to improve levels of re-ablement among elderly people leaving hospital. The reserve of £7,571 is the result of small underspends on monitoring during the five years of the project. No funds were available to continue delivery into 23/24 and this underspend will be utilised in consultation with partners.

Volunteers - BBO Bridges: Part of our offer to Volunteers, this project worked with those furthest from the workplace who want to use volunteering, alongside other support, to obtain employment. In the year the project worked intensely with c50 customers moving many of them on into further training and employment. As a result of good delivery, we were offered extensions on two occasions, and this was confirmed until March 2023. The project has now ended with a small underspend of £1,374 which will be utilised in similar activities.

Wolverhampton Volunteers Services: The project forms the basis of our volunteering offer and is outlined in the Trustees Annual Report under "Volunteers". The project works with some 250 organisations, providing volunteers and support. The balance of £7,758 will be used in future delivery.

Wolverhampton for Everyone (WE): A "movement" being championed by WVCA and other partners, with the aim of involving increasing numbers of citizens in a "people powered" city where they have full ownership of "place". There has been limited funded activity during 21/22 but the need for this work remains. In that spirit the reserve of 16.040, some was used in 2022/23 for continuation of this work. The payment of £2,500 was from Civic Square, a grant to host a "learning journey" for 12 local people

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

utilising ideas from “doughnut economics” to explore new grass approaches. A further £2,500 will be available in 23-24 to continue this work. Current remaining funds as at year ending March 2023 was £11,579.

Winter Pressures Fund: Allocated via the CCG for use over 2019/20 and 2020/21 in strengthening links between acute mental health provision and our social prescribing service. The funding body no longer exists and the work is now being delivered more effectively on a Black Country Wide basis under engagement and partnership (above). On that basis these funds will be transferred to unrestricted reserves and utilised in the delivery of our overall mission. Funding was allocated towards the end of the year to be allocated to partner organisations who will provide counselling, Peer Support and IAG to individuals. The unspent funds of £55,508 will be used in delivering the project into 23/24.

Orange Wolverhampton: This is a campaign to raise awareness of violence inflicted on Women and Girls, with a small amount made available to WVCA for delivery each year. The balance of £1,312 relates to unspent funds raised and reported on in previous years and will be utilised in publicising future Orange campaigns.

YOW – Children’s’ workforce: This fund is restricted for use in training the children’s’ workforce in the City. One training course has been delivered this year and the balance of £1,455 will be used in this way in the years ahead.

Heart of England: The Heart of England grant is a stand-alone project although it is working with Wolverhampton Volunteers, Wolverhampton for Everyone and Social Prescribing. A grant of £20K was secured towards year ending March 2023. Funds to be utilised during 23-24 on the project as set out in the grant terms.

Hope: Hope is a partnership between Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) and Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA) which has received funding to improve mental health due to isolation or other factors. As part of our work we have established a small grants programme which will support activities that will help to reduce isolation and loneliness. This funding opportunity is for grass roots community groups and small organisations to organise and run social groups and activities that will bring people together. Funding to be used during 2023-2024.

Kings Charles Coronation: Kings Charles Coronation fund was a funding to Support local community events held in relation to the Kings Coronation, funding will be used in the early months of 2023-2024.

Young People – Social Prescribing: WVCA were awarded funding to help support young refugees and migrants that are currently living in hotels in Wolverhampton. Funding was awarded just prior to year ending March 2023, with plans to utilise during 2023-2024. Currently WVCA has reserves of £55,000 to be utilised on project activities during 2023-2024.

Active Connectors: WVCA were given funding to work with partners in the community to reduce inactivity, tackle inequality and improve the lives of local residents. Black Country Community Connectors (Active Connectors) are engaging with local communities and community groups across 12 priority wards across the Black Country to enable people to move more.. Remaining reserves £11,085 will be used during 2023-2024.

WP – Adult Hospital Discharge: This Project was a pilot programme to demonstrate needs among patients recently discharged or due to be discharged from hospitals in the local communities. The projects starting late in the year and as a result continued into 2023-2024. Remaining reserves of £1,035 to be utilised on project activities during 2023-2024.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

15 Information regarding the members of the Board of Trustees

The names of persons who are members of the Board are given in the Report of the Board of Trustees.

Remuneration: Under the terms of the Memorandum of Association, neither member of the Board nor any connected person shall receive any remuneration from WVCA. Board members are offered reimbursement for travel expenses. The amounts involved are negligible.

16 Particulars of Employees

The average monthly headcount was 41 (45 in 2022).

The average number of full time equivalent persons employed by WVSC during the year was:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------|------|------|
| General activities | 37.2 | 41.3 |

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons was as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 1,163,329 | 1,219,653 |
| Social security costs | 110,002 | 104,073 |
| Other pension costs | 77,196 | 79,799 |
| Redundancy costs | 25,774 | 3,165 |
| | <u>1,376,301</u> | <u>1,406,690</u> |

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Key management remuneration | 129,888 | 127,579 |

One employee earned benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

Two members of staff were made redundant with grant funding meeting the majority of cost, the residual being met from unrestricted reserves through a fund transfer to Faith Engagement.

17 Pensions

Some of the employees of the charity are members of the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities Pension Fund, which is a multi-employer scheme. The Fund is financed by contributions paid by both employees and the charity, and by earnings received on investments. The scheme is a Defined Benefits Scheme. It has been closed to new members.

Contributions to the Scheme from the employees are payable at a variable rate according to graded rates of pensionable pay. The employer contribution rate rose in 2020/21 in response to the Actuarial Valuation for the scheme, from 23.3% to 24.2%, set for the three financial years until March 2023.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

Also, the charity is required to make additional Past Service Lump Sum contributions towards meeting the shortfall in the scheme, with WVSC share being calculated at the latest Actuarial revaluation (2019) as £77k. The amount payable for 2020/21 – 2022/23 was £11,736, of this £4,053 representing the 2022-23 share is recognised in these accounts.

It is assumed that the Administering Authority will continue to invest a significant proportion of the assets of the Fund in UK and overseas equities, and that these will produce a future investment return that exceeds the current yield available on bonds.

A stakeholder scheme was established in January 2016 and is offered to all employees who are not members of the West Midland Pension Scheme, subject to pension guidance in terms of eligibility.

18 Taxation

WVCA is not liable to tax on any of its income because of its charitable status.

19 Operating Lease Commitments

At 31st March 2023 WVCA had minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

| | 2023 | | 2022 | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | Land and Buildings | Other | Land and Buildings | Other |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Falling due: | | | | |
| Within one year | 25,000 | 2,946 | 25,000 | 2,836 |
| In one to two years | - | 1,782 | - | 1,730 |
| In two to five years | - | 449 | - | 2,231 |
| After 5 years | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>25,000</u> | <u>5,177</u> | <u>25,000</u> | <u>6,797</u> |

A twelve month commitment is disclosed in respect of land and buildings as WVSC has an option to terminate this on giving one year's notice. The landlord can terminate the lease in the event of default by WVCA.

Note that since the end of the financial year 22/23, WVCA has moved to new premises under a 5 year lease at £25,000 per annum with effect from 1 October 2023.

Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action

England & Wales - Charity number 700910

Accounts

Company number: 2288239
Registered charity number: 700910

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
(Limited by Guarantee)
(formerly Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council)

Report of the Board of Trustees and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------|
| Legal and Administrative Information | 1 |
| Board of Trustees Annual Report | 2-14 |
| Report of the independent auditors | 15-17 |
| Statement of financial activities - SOFA | 18 |
| Balance Sheet | 19 |
| Cash flow statement | 20 |
| Notes forming part of the financial statements | 21-35 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Legal and Administrative Information

2021-22

Charity Name

Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA)

Board of Trustees

Steve Clay (Chair)
Janet Clarke Lewis
Pamela Cole-Hudson
James Fox
Anne Marie Harrison
Patricia Mary Kemp
Sarah Deeming
Simeon Greene
Gurbax Kaur
Edna Masoha
Paul Tulley

Secretary and registered office

Ian Darch, 16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN

Key Management

Ian Darch, Chief Executive
Saffi Price, Deputy Chief Executive
Lynn Wetherill, Finance Manager

Company Number

2288239

Registered Charity Number

700910

Auditors

Muras Baker Jones Limited,
Regent House, Bath Avenue, Wolverhampton, WV1 4EG

Financial Statements

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements.

The Trustees, who are also Directors of Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action ("WVCA") for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements. The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that WVCA will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of WVCA and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of WVCA and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Structure, Governance and Management

Administrative Details

The day-to-day management of WVCA is ultimately the responsibility of the Chief Executive on behalf of the Trustees. The Chief Executive is also responsible, with the Board of Trustees, for the strategic direction of the organisation and delivery of its objectives.

Much of the day-to-day management is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive who is currently supported by a part time Operations Manager and a Central Administrator. A Finance Manager (25 hours pw) is supported by a Finance Officer (30 hours pw) and has overall responsibility to the CEO for finance systems and processes. A robust financial delegation system is in place with each project lead having day to day responsibility for their own budgets.

Governing Document

WVCA is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19th August 1988 and registered as a Charity on 24th November 1988. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being "wound up" members are each required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Articles of association were reviewed and changes agreed at the 2018 AGM. These changes were a response to difficulties in achieving quorums at some meetings thus hindering effective and prompt decision making. In essence the changes reduce the size of the Board and quoracy requirements, while also ensuring effective governance and board oversight. In early 22/23 members agreed to change the organisations name to Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA) and this is being actioned at the time of writing.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees

Although WVCA is a small to medium sized organisation, it is a complex one operating in what is an increasingly challenging environment. It is therefore important that the skills and competencies of the trustee body are at a high level. WVCA is also involved in a very diverse range of activities as outlined later in this report and therefore the trustee body needs to demonstrate a broad as well as a high level of skills in carrying out its governance role.

The changes agreed at the 2018 AGM maintains a Board structure which reflects our customers and the environment in which we operate. The current Board make up and quoracy requirements as outlined in the Articles of Association are as follows:

The minimum number of directors shall be 6 and the maximum number of directors shall be 12. This Board of Directors will be made up of:

- a) A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 Voluntary and Community Organisations operating in Wolverhampton who are members of Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action.
- b) Individuals, who can be invited to join the Board for their expertise including as "experts by experience"
- c) A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 other partners from the private, education, and public sectors. These directors are recruited to strengthen links across the City and provide specialist input into the Board. All trustees they must support our objectives.
- d) The City Council has observer status on the board and may invite any person to attend the charity's meetings (both directors and general meetings) as an observer without the power to vote. This observer will not be counted in the quorum.

The quorum shall be 3 or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the directors. This quorum must include at least 2 directors from a) and at least 1 from c) above.

The quorum must have Voluntary and Community Organisations in the majority. This is so that any changes or any issues requiring a vote will need to be supported by VCO members.

At the time of this report there is one vacancy on the Board but West Midland Police are currently considering the opportunity to become a partner member. We have worked hard to ensure that our Board membership reflects the diversity of Wolverhampton and at the time of writing 4 of our 11 Board members are people from minority ethnic communities.

The Trustees of the company are also the Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the Company's Articles they are known as members of the Management Committee.

Trustees' Induction and Training

As representatives of member organisations, key partners, or individuals most Trustees are familiar with the work of WVCA. Each new board member meets with the Chief Executive for an induction and is provided with a recently updated induction pack.

In addition, reports on specific activities are provided at board meetings and training/orientation sessions are organised for Trustees. The strategic direction of WVCA is regularly discussed at board meetings and

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

a revised strategic document was adopted in 2017/18. As indicated in last year's report the Board and senior staff meet in September 2021 in order to review and reset the organisation strategic priorities.

Organisational Structure

WVCA has a management committee of up to 12 members who meet bi monthly and are responsible, with the Chief Executive, for the strategic direction of the Charity. In addition, the City Council nominate a Councillor with observer status on the board. The structure underneath the board is as follows:

A sub-committee of the board (known as the Executive Committee and consisting of up to four Trustees) meets with the Chief Executive on an ad hoc basis as required. This sub-committee provides a forum for more detailed discussion on key issues and advises the board.

A Remuneration Committee consisting of the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive has been delegated by the Board to make salary adjustments in order maintain a fair and equitable salary structure within the organisation. Any changes to the salaries the Chief Executive or Deputy will be considered by the Executive Committee.

The Chief Executive has delegated responsibility from the board for the provision of services and the day-to-day operation of WVCA. The Chief Executive works closely with managers in executing these responsibilities. The structure below the Board comprises a number of elements as follows:

Senior Managers: The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive meet on a regular basis, with other senior managers as required, to establish that the organisation is delivering its mission, that it is doing so in a consistent and effective manner, and to make any operational adjustments that may be required.

Section Heads: Managers from each area of work meet, as required, with Senior Managers in order to oversee the effective delivery of the organisation's outcomes, to maintain a consistent approach across the organisation, to consider issues affecting the work of the organisation and the wider sector and to share information.

Staff meetings: Regular staff meetings provide a forum for ensuring a collective understanding of day-to-day matters in areas such as health and safety, and provide a forum for the Chief Executive and others to communicate matters of relevance to all staff.

Staff support: All staff meet regularly for supervision with their Line Managers. The Chief Executive manages the Deputy CEO, the Finance Manager and the Project Managers of Talent Match, the Social Prescribing project and Engagement & Partnership lead. The Deputy CEO manages the other section heads. The Chief Executive receives supervision from the Chair of the Board.

Financial delegation: Robust financial systems are in place, with levels of financial authority from the Board, through to the Chief Executive down to individual departments, within agreed budgets. Systems for authorising both income and expenditure are in place along with an effective credit control system. Regular reports to Board ensure overall financial prudence and allow for the management of any financial risk.

Partner Organisations

WVCA is a member The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), NAVCA and The Chamber of Commerce.

As an umbrella organisation for the sector, WVCA has a major strategic role in Wolverhampton and works with partners locally, sub-regionally and nationally in order to achieve shared outcomes. To this end WVCA works in partnership at a number of levels and these can be summarised as follows:

Voluntary Organisations and community groups: WVCA has a role in working with other VCO's to "champion" the sector. This involves working with organisations in response to issues affecting the sector

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

and carrying out a co-ordinating role to ensure that the sector is effectively represented at a strategic level across the city. At the most strategic level this includes membership of the "One Wolverhampton" Board, the Health and Well Being Board and Chairing the Inclusion Board. In addition WVCA has the role of facilitating the Wolverhampton VCSE Alliance.

Consortia Partners: Consortia working, both within the VCS and across sectors, is growing and developing as an accepted approach for achieving better outcomes for local people. WVCA have been leading the way in the development of consortia both across the City and beyond, which has resulted, over the past 5 years in over £10M being secured and spent with VCOs in Wolverhampton and the surrounding area.

In particular:

WVCA is the lead body for Talent Match: a lottery/ESF /Community Renewal Fund, resources Black Country project aimed at supporting people aged 18-29, who have been NEET for at least six months, nearer and into employment. Led by young people the project sub contracts to a range of in order to deliver some challenging outcomes.

In year we also bid successfully for Community Renewal Funds in order to establish and deliver employment and skills support through the 15 local partners in our Skills Connect Project

In addition we are the local lead body for a CRF funded "over 50s project led by Sandwell MBC, supporting a partnership of 4 local providers and overseeing the use of an Innovation fund of 50K

Black Country Together (BCT) was developed in 2013 by the four CVS's in order to support the delivery of services by the VCS on a sub-regional level. WVCA is one of the four members of the organisation. BCT currently oversees the delivery of a contract worth £2M, from the Arts council (subject to Business Plan) and acts as the accountable body for one strand of the Building Opportunities, European Social Inclusion Fund (families in poverty). Delivery of this commenced in mid-2016 and an extension to 2022 has recently been secured.

In year we were the lead body for the Preventative Partnership (Previously called the Third Sector Consortium), a group of three delivery partners funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group and working to reduce A and E attendance and improve level of re-ablement among older people leaving hospital. Sadly this project came to an end in April 2022 when funding was withdrawn.

We lead a consortium of VCOs to deliver "Girls Allowed" a project working with girls in gangs or at risk of becoming part of the gang culture.

We deliver the Cities Social Prescribing Service which brings together Health and Social Care services, people who are referred from those services in order to address loneliness, isolation, low level mental health issues and so on; and VCOs who provide the prescriptions.

We are also the accountable body for 100% digital; a short term CWC funded project with 6 other partners and aimed at increasing the digital skills of individuals and organisations, this was initially developed in 20/21 but was extended into the year under report.

WVCA also leads on the VCSE Alliance , which consists of representation from Voluntary and Community groups and organisations and has become a key focus to ensuring a strong and clear voice for the sector on a range of strategic and policy issues.

Statutory Sector: The Chief Executive of WVCA is a member of the One Wolverhampton Partnership and chairs the Cities inclusion Board, he meets regularly on a one to one basis with the Director of Public Health, Chief Super Intendent and other senior statutory sector colleagues.

WVCA, primarily through the Chief Executive and the YOW Project Manager, also represents the sector on a wide range of other forums. At the current time these include:

- ✓ Children and Families Together Board

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

- ✓ Community Cohesion Forum
- ✓ Black Country Grants Committee
- ✓ Safeguarding Boards
- ✓ The Healthier Futures Partnership Board (Integrated care system)
- ✓ Integrated Care Partnership
- ✓ Health and Well-being board
- ✓ Cross Sector Forum

WVCA also facilitates representation on a range of strategic and operational forums including:

- ✓ The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership
- ✓ The Place based Partnership
- ✓ Employment and Skills board
- ✓ Health and Well Being board
- ✓ Safeguarding boards

In addition, the Board and senior staff of WVCA work closely with statutory sector colleagues on a range of strategic matters such as the those relating to the Old School, social value, co-production, strategic funding and so on.

Risk Management

The risks facing WVCA can be considered under 3 broad headings as follows:

Financial

Internal Control Risks: The risk of financial mismanagement and, in the extreme, fraudulent activity:

Financial risks have increased in recent years as WVCA's role in leading complex consortia activities, such as Talent Match, and, in the year under report the community renewal fund (Skills Connect), has grown. These risks reached a peak in 20/21 with IMPACT: We have now withdrawn from that partnership, all funds owed have been paid to us and, other than the minor risk of future audit and clawback there are no remaining issues to deal with. The overall risk is reduced by having in place robust financial controls and policies and procedures for safe management of financial resources. In addition, WVCA has a robust and effective credit control system in place that serves to ease cash flow difficulties and minimise bad debts.

These systems, coupled with a small but very competent finance team means that we are working well in a complex environment. The financial outturn for the year under report, with a surplus of £39,684 on unrestricted funds and no significant overspend on restricted budgets, within an extremely challenging year would seem to support this.

Our continued membership of WMPF for long standing and ex staff members does present an on-going financial challenge as the level of contribution rates continue to increase. On the other hand only 3 staff remain within the fund and we had been concerned about a possible deficit needing to be paid once the last member leaves. Recent confirmation from WMPF that "upon termination the associated assets and liabilities will be subsumed by the guarantor – in this case WCC, is a very welcome clarification and significantly reduces medium terms risk. The remaining risk, aside from current affordability, is the applicable strain cost relating to the 3 remaining staff should they be made redundant after the age of 55. Our auto enrolment pension scheme, introduced for all other staff is running smoothly with good take up.

External Financial Risks:

WVCA's income is generated through grants, contracts and direct, paid for, services.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

The changing landscape; with the emerging role of the Integrated Care System, Brexit and the level to which EU funds are replaced via the Shared Prosperity Fund, the significant reduction in funds available through the City of Wolverhampton Council, including our need to retender for our existing I/S services, at prices from 5 years ago, have created a situation where there are opportunities but high levels of uncertainty. We are needing to navigate carefully through this landscape both for ourselves and the wider sector. The level of change is unprecedented and we are well placed to emerge strongly from this period. On the other hand the complexity of the environment does present an uncomfortable level of uncertainty and associated risk.

Operational

We work in an environment where the weight and complexity of legal requirements in areas such as health and safety, safeguarding, employment law, equal opportunities and GDPR is growing, In addition the "whole system approach" brings its own challenges for example the need for technical solutions to effective partnership working, (in our case the shared use of EMIS the IT platform used by GPs). This places all organisations at risk. In order to help manage this WVCA has a strong senior management structure. The Deputy Chief Executive working with the Operations Manager takes a lead on internal policies and procedures, many of these have been recently reviewed and a clear procedure for future review is in place.

The Board are ultimately responsible for overseeing this area of work and WVCA also has in place a number of staff-led committees including in the areas of health and safety, equality duties and recruitment. These committees are tasked with responding to the operational requirements of the legislative framework.

Our organisation has responded well to the COVID pandemic and continued service delivery throughout the pandemic

We have put in place a Hybrid working policy which is currently being trialled. We hope that this will give us the best of both worlds, with colleagues meeting regularly while at the same time being able to work effectively at home, saving some travel time by utilising TEAMS, Zoom and so on.

Finally covering our core costs, including the "core" team is a growing challenge, funders are not prepared to fund organisational infrastructure and are often unwilling to fund on the basis of full cost recovery. In light of this the Board are currently considering various options in terms of the makeup of the "core" team with the intention of balancing organisational need with affordability.

Personnel

Most organisations have a high level of dependency on their key staff. This is exacerbated within WVCA where the diversity of our activities and high levels of specialism among senior staff places us at significant risk if those staff were to leave through resignation or illness - in several areas there are no ready-made replacements that would be able to cover beyond the short term. With an established structure for sharing knowledge through, for example, the Section Heads Meetings, we are developing our ability to respond to any loss of a staff member, but it is envisaged that our reliance on key workers will continue to be high. Notice periods for the Chief Executive and Deputy are three months and for other managers it is two months (three months for Talent Match); this does reduce the risk of key posts being left unfilled for any significant time.

Staff turnover is historically low, consistently running near or below 10%, although, in common with many organisations this has seen some increase during the latter stages of the pandemic.

Staff sickness rates for this year averaged 6.95 days per employee (6.1 in 20/21). Unlike in previous years the most common causes of sickness absence were mental ill-health, digestive problems and COVID, in that order, reflecting the wider impacts of the COVID pandemic. That said 23 staff had no sickness absence and a further 19 had between 1 and 5 days. during the year. We do not have a sickness culture but it feels important that the year on year increase from an average of 4.1 days sickness (19/20) to 6.1 (20/21) does not become an upward trend and will be carefully monitored in 22/23.

As outlined above a review of the “core team” is underway. As part of that it is noted that the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive are approaching “normal” retirement age in the next year or so the board are acutely aware of the need to retain a degree of organisational memory moving forward.

Objectives and Activities

Following an away day in September 2021, involving the Board and senior staff, it was agreed that Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council would change its name and update its branding to better reflect our mission, vision, values and principles as we work together with the vibrant communities of Wolverhampton to cultivate a thriving and inclusive City. These are as follows:

Our vision

Our vision is the world we want to see. This is the reminder that everything we work hard to achieve is worth the effort because what we do is so much bigger than the 9-to-5.

Wolverhampton as a city where everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Wolverhampton as a city where the root causes of inequality are eradicated for good.

Wolverhampton as a city with a well-resourced and thriving voluntary, community and social enterprise sector that supports strong, diverse communities.

Our mission

If the vision is the future, the mission is today. Every day that we get up and fulfil a part of our mission, we're one-step closer to achieving our vision.

To provide unrivalled, dedicated support services to the voluntary and community sector.

To champion Wolverhampton's voluntary and community sector through our reach and influence.

To promote community action and develop opportunities for people to engage in volunteering.

To support people to have agency over their lives and influence decision-making processes that matter to them.

To enhance people's quality of life within Wolverhampton, especially for those who feel most excluded.

To develop partnerships which encourage co-design and co-production.

Our values

At WVCA, we're connected by a set of collective values, keeping us all working in the same direction. These values are:

Collaboration

Integrity

Inclusive

Supportive

Determination

Respect

Our Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles are a set of promises which our brand will always align with.

We can use them when we want to reinforce our belief system. Our principles are the guide by which we work and also how we evaluate our work.

We are all about people

The people of Wolverhampton are at the heart of every decision we make. We believe that every person should be given the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

We are change makers

We seek to understand the challenges people face. We work tirelessly to challenge discrimination and commit to combatting the root causes of inequality.

We seek to collaborate

We know we can achieve more by working in partnership with others. We are your trusted ally, always on hand with resources, experience and passion. We like to work with partners to find solutions. Together we can.

We take bold and innovative action

We are brave, and together we persevere to reach our goals, building a strong network that is agile and resilient.

We strive for progress

We use our diverse skills and experience to influence and drive forward change. We seek to support our partners to create pivotal and lasting transformation. Though our voice may be calm, our impact is loud.

Public Benefit

A thriving Voluntary and Community Sector" is a key aim of Central Government and is increasingly seen as part of the solution to the health and social care crisis facing the country. This will involve the groups and organisations that make up the sector playing a fuller role in delivering services, including public services. Recasting the relationship between people and government; empowering citizens; extending opportunities and communities coming together to make lives better are key to current political thinking. In recent times the development of Social Prescribing has seen a greater focus on our sector as the enthusiasm and need for "social prescriptions" grows. In this context WVCA:

- Supports the development of capacity within the sector to position it to play a fuller part in the delivery of services.
- Delivers Wolverhampton's Social Prescribing Service.
- Enables meaningful participation in the work of partners sub regionally, City-wide and at the neighbourhood level.

Principle 1: Identifiable Benefits

1a) Key benefits are:

- A strong and effective VCS in the city.
- A clear voice for citizens, specifically those who use public services to influence and improve those services and the policies that inform them.

1b) Related to our aims:

By supporting voluntary organisations to operate more effectively and by providing a clear voice for citizens, both through groups and as individuals, our benefits are directly related to our aims.

1c) Balanced against harm:

With reference to each benefit outlined above:

- A strong and effective VCS improves the quality of provision and choice to those who commission services. There are many services, both public and otherwise, that are delivered better by VCOs for a number of reasons including flexibility, reach and cost effectiveness. This is accepted and supported by all political parties at the time of writing.
- A clear voice for citizens helps to ensure that resources are used to best meet the needs of beneficiaries. It is possible that giving a disproportionate voice to one particular interest or point of view could be detrimental and thus WVCA works hard to ensure that a balanced picture, informed by a wide range of voices, is presented through the activities outlined in note 15 to the accounts.

Principle 2: Benefit to the public

2a) Beneficiaries appropriate to the aims:

Beneficiaries are “voluntary organisations” and the community within Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas. The vast majority of our work has been within Wolverhampton with these beneficiaries. Some cross boundary work has taken place within the Black Country and, less so, the West Midlands. In all this work Wolverhampton organisations and communities have benefited and remained our focus. Talent Match, the Preventative Partnership, Girls Allowed, Black Country Together, Social Prescribing and most recently work with the ICS provide a vehicle for supporting voluntary organisations to work together to deliver public services and provides some capacity building to help them do so. Any surpluses generated will be used to the benefit of the local community.

2b) Not restricted by geography or ability to pay:

WVCA's basic services remain free at the point of delivery although with the reduced availability of funding we do make charges for work beyond the core offer when this is feasible. No organisation within the area of benefit was denied a service because of inability to pay and we will continue to make every effort to maintain this approach albeit reductions in funding, for example to support organisations does limit our capacity to respond.

2c) People in poverty must not be excluded:

No charges are made to individuals for WVCA's services and thus people in poverty are not excluded. A flexible approach to delivery including visiting groups and individuals, providing information in written and electronic forms etc., also ensures that no-one is excluded as a result of poverty.

2d) Private benefit must be incidental:

WVCA gives grants to groups to help them achieve their charitable aims – these are not used to provide any personal benefit to group members. WVCA provides for expenses to be paid to volunteers including board members. These expenses are to cover the costs to the individuals of engaging in forums or carrying out specific tasks.

Fundraising

The majority of WVCA income is from Contracts and Grants. In the year under report we were not involved in any direct fundraising. Residual funds from our One City campaign in 20/21 will be distributed during 22/23 in line with the aims of that campaign.

Volunteers

WVCA operates the city's Volunteer Service (Wolverhampton Volunteers). The service places over 1000 new volunteers a year, with some 250 registered organisations offering placements. The service also supports our most vulnerable citizens through BBO (Building Better Opportunities), working more closely with them to help ensure they can use volunteering, training and other routes to move nearer and into employment.

Wolverhampton Volunteers has achieved the quality standard - the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA) - developed by Volunteer England, which focuses on the six core functions of a volunteer centre and of which only one is available in each locality.

The centre is increasingly becoming a hub for volunteering across the whole city, at the outbreak of COVID and the associated restrictions we worked closely with the local mutual aid group which led to a significant increase in the numbers of volunteers registered with us. This in turn led to some expansion of the Volunteer offer to include work with care homes and the City Council. We provide regular support sessions with placement providers to improve their knowledge and practice, and outreach where capacity allows.

In 2016/17 we secured EU funding to work intensively alongside people facing significant barriers to employment and for whom volunteering will be part of the solution. This aspect of the Volunteer service works with 50 people a year. Funding for this work has recently been extended until April 2023.

WVCA does offer opportunities for volunteering, primarily within Social Prescribing through, for example, befrienders and SUIT where volunteers are central to the delivery of the service. Opportunities elsewhere within the organisation are ad hoc but do regularly offer themselves. All volunteers within WVCA are supported by paid staff and offered expenses to cover costs associated with their volunteer roles.

Details of the various work strands that deliver the above are included in Note 15 to the accounts on page 28.

Overall Achievements, Performance and Financial Review

During the year there was a reduction in income to £3,048,567 (from £3,565,773). This decrease is primarily as a result in the reduction of resources for Talent Match as we withdrew from the IMPACT project and national lottery funds tapered as planned.

This year has seen a small increase in total unrestricted funds from £551,455 in March 2021 to £591,139. This includes a transfer from unrestricted funds of £42,320 offset by providing a subsidy of £14,822 to our Infrastructure project funded by the City Council, which is agreed each year by the board. Given the challenging financial environment during the year this is a positive outcome.

During the year we worked directly to support many hundreds of groups and organisations; engaged with and influenced a wide range of forums, strategies and initiatives across Wolverhampton and beyond and supported thousands of vulnerable and troubled individuals, both directly and through collaborations with a wide range organisations. Our success in securing 2 of the 8 Community Fund contracts out of some 150 applications across the Black Country is a significant achievement and has brought over £1M into our City. The vast bulk of this resource goes to VCS partners.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

We continue to lead the way in terms of innovation across the City, championing the development of social prescribing including making successful applications for funds to be utilised by partners in providing prescriptions. We see this as a growing area of work. More specifically we continue to work with partners within and across sectors to address areas such as co-production, whole system approaches to deliver and the on-going levels of inequality in our City. In particular our relationships with the integrated care system (ICS) are bearing significant fruit for the wider VCS including for example funds through "winter pressures" and those to tackle Health Inequalities would not previously have been shared in this way. The emerging Integrated Care System is a significant opportunity for our sector with widespread acknowledgement of its roll within the "whole system" approach.

Reserves Policy

The reserves considered in the Reserves Policy, are the "free reserves". These are the sum of the Unrestricted General Reserves, less Fixed Assets within Unrestricted Activity. These free reserves include designated funds. The rationale for WVCA's reserves is: to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to provide sustainability and continuity within times of income shortfall, and to enable WVCA to respond to key developments in the sector. The Trustees aim to build reserves which would enable WVCA to continue to fulfil its commitment to achievement of outcomes for at least 6 months, and to honour its liabilities at any point in time. For the 2021/22 accounts this policy gave us a figure to work towards of £782,123.

The net transfer of £11,536 into designated funds reflects the increased costs of any closure with that fund now standing at £173,549; along with the costs of our name change and rebranding, which was unbudgeted in the initial 21/22 budget of £5,528.

The net impact on reserves of the above, together with transfers from restricted funds, is an increase in general unrestricted reserves of £22,620.

As at 31 March 2022, WVCA's unrestricted reserves are £591,139 (£551,455 in 20/21). This includes £173,549 for closure costs and £5,528 for remaining rebranding costs (which together with £1,330 safety fund are included as designated funds), and a commitment towards a fixed asset of £1,500 leaving a residue of £410,562 (£387,192 in March 2021) as contribution towards the target of 6 months running costs, as directed by the reserves policy.

Plans for the future

Our Infrastructure and Volunteer Centre contracts are in place until December 2022. Our current services are being re-tendered in 5 lots but to the same total value as 5 years ago. While we fully intend to bid for all 5 and are hopeful of success, this split does increase the risk of losing part of the contract, in turn undermining the sustainability of those lots that we do win given our ongoing need to subsidise the costs of delivery in recent years. The reduction in value of the contract given current pressures including those relating to pressure on pay will also be a challenge and further illustrates the shrinking of our financial relationship with the Council at a time when the demand on WVCA and the wider sector is increasing.

SUIT has a sub contract in place with NACRO. The substantive contract between NACRO and CWC has just gone into its 2 year extension period until the end of 2023/24 and we are in the process of finalising discussions regarding our partnership over this extension period.

Talent Match funding, following success with CRF, is in place until December 2022. This project has worked with over 3000 young people over the past 8 years and is an important part of the support landscape. We will be working hard to secure on-going funding in the early months of 2022/23

Social Prescribing Funding is agreed year on year with PCNs which is a challenge. The re-organisation of the CCG and departure of many staff is currently an issue as we work to establish new relationships. The bulk of PCNs have committed to the service until the end of 23/24 but there is a need to re-negotiate

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

the element of our current contract that is funded through the CCG – something that we will do in the months ahead.

We do see a range of opportunities for our organisation, alongside the challenges, in the years ahead:

- ✓ Social Prescribing is an established part of the Wolverhampton Health and Social Care landscape. It is a core manifestation of public sector aspirations for a whole system approach and a key role for the VCS. To that end we do believe that this is likely to be a growing area of work.
- ✓ The Black Country Integrated care system is most likely to implement the whole system approach that is required if health and social care is to improve. We have developed excellent relationship with system leads and employ the worker leading on this work for the VCS. As anticipated last year funds for the sector are being increasingly made available through this route. To date we have led on the distribution of short term funds in Wolverhampton and we see this continuing in a more consistent manner into 22/23 and beyond.
- ✓ We have a very positive emerging relationship with the local hospital trust and we are currently awaiting the outcome of a joint application to the national NHS charity.
- ✓ There will be opportunities to expand our role in leading consortia following our success with the Community Renewal Fund which has secured over £1M for our sector and allowed us to develop a well-functioning partnership of 15 local organisation in delivering our Skills Connect project.

In summary: With the need to re-tender for our I/S and volunteer centre contracts and a lack of clarity regarding the future of Talent Match and Skills Connect there is still some in year uncertainty and we are working to a best case/worst case budget. Encouragingly projection are improving as we go through the year and we are well placed to pick up any short term shortfall via reserves if this becomes necessary.

Change presents opportunities, with our new look, a re-visited and clarified mission and vision, excellent links across and beyond the VCS and a top class reputation we are well placed to benefit.

Auditors

Messrs Muras Baker Jones Limited have signified their willingness to continue in office as auditors and this was agreed in principle at the most recent AGM.

Board of Trustees

Steve Clay (Chair)

Janet Clarke Lewis

Pamela Cole-Hudson

James Fox

Anne Marie Harrison

Patricia Mary Kemp

Sarah Deeming

Simeon Green

Gurbax Kaur

Edna Masoha

Paul Tulley (appointed 27 January 2022)

Rebecca Ann Barnsley resigned with effect from 13 May 2021, Ann Biddle resigned with effect from 18 November 2021.

**WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022**

Disclosure of information to the auditors


We, the trustees / directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

By order of the Board of Trustees



**Ian T Darch
Secretary
29 September 2022**



**Steve Clay
Chair
29 September 2022**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise a statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account), a balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 2 the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION for the year ended 31 March 2022

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
and Statutory Auditor

Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
WV1 4EG

29 September 2022

Muras Baker Jones Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds 2022 £ | Restricted Funds 2022 £ | Total Funds 2022 £ | Total Funds 2021 £ |
|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Income from charitable activities | 5 | 42,452 | 3,002,900 | 3,045,352 | 3,559,838 |
| Investment Income | | 3,215 | - | 3,215 | 5,935 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 45,667 | 3,002,900 | 3,048,567 | 3,565,773 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | 6 | 33,481 | 2,979,743 | 3,013,224 | 3,333,336 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 33,481 | 2,979,743 | 3,013,224 | 3,333,336 |
| NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE | 7 | 12,186 | 23,157 | 35,343 | 232,437 |
| Transfers between funds | 15 | 27,498 | (27,498) | - | - |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | | 39,684 | (4,341) | 35,343 | 232,437 |
| Total funds brought forward | | 551,455 | 1,018,475 | 1,569,930 | 1,337,493 |
| TOTAL FUNDS at 31 March 2022 | | 591,139 | 1,014,134 | 1,605,273 | 1,569,930 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

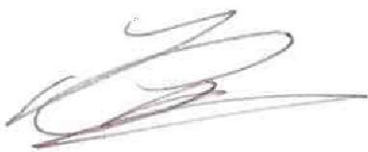
| | Note | £ | 2022 £ | £ | 2021 £ |
|---|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Fixed Assets: | | | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 8 | | 1,500 | | 2,250 |
| Investments | 9 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Current Assets: | | | | | |
| Debtors | 10 | 330,815 | | 392,115 | |
| Deposit Accounts | | 438,558 | | 435,542 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 1,036,757 | | 862,584 | |
| | | <u>1,806,130</u> | | <u>1,690,241</u> | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 12 | (202,358) | | (122,562) | |
| Net current assets | | | <u>1,603,772</u> | | <u>1,567,679</u> |
| Total net assets | | | <u>1,605,273</u> | | <u>1,569,930</u> |
| Charity Funds: | | | | | |
| General unrestricted fund | | | 410,732 | | 388,112 |
| Designated funds | | | 180,407 | | 163,343 |
| Restricted funds | | | <u>1,014,134</u> | | <u>1,018,475</u> |
| | | | <u>1,605,273</u> | | <u>1,569,930</u> |

The Directors are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. However, an audit is required in accordance with section s154 of the Charities Act 2011.

Directors' responsibilities:

- 1) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- 2) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of the accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 29 September 2022.



Steve Clay
Chair of Board of Trustees



Janet Clarke-Lewis
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Company Number: 2288239

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2022

| | Note | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|--|------|------------------|------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the year | | 35,343 | 232,437 |
| Adjustments for: | | | |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | | 750 | 750 |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | | (3,215) | (5,935) |
| Changes in: | | | |
| Trade and other debtors | | 61,300 | (127,138) |
| Trade and other creditors | | 79,796 | (27,856) |
| Cash generated from operations: | | <u>173,974</u> | <u>72,258</u> |
| Interest received | | 3,215 | 5,935 |
| Net cash from / (used in) operating activities | | <u>177,189</u> | <u>78,193</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Payment to acquire tangible fixed assets | | - | - |
| Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | 177,189 | 78,193 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | 1,298,126 | 1,219,933 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the year end | 11 | <u>1,475,315</u> | <u>1,298,126</u> |

1 Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

2 Liability of Members

WVCA is a company limited by guarantee. It does not have a share capital and the liability of each member is limited to the guarantee given by that member, which shall not exceed £1. There are no beneficial interests and under the terms of its Memorandum and Articles of Association any surplus can only be applied towards the promotion of WVCA's objectives, and no dividend or other form of distribution can be paid to its members.

3 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. WVCA meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Pension costs

Certain employees are members of the West Midlands Pension Fund ("WMPF"). The pension cost charge in the financial statements represents contributions due to this scheme in respect of earnings during the year, which are based on recommendations by the fund actuary.

The disclosures required by FRS 102 have not been included in the financial statements. WVCA is in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme, WMPF, and FRS 102 requires such organisations to identify their share of the pension scheme's assets and liabilities. However, within FRS 102 this is only to be achieved if "sufficient information" is available to do so. WVCA believes that an actuarial valuation would not be a reasonable use of public funds, and the directors therefore have decided not to provide this financial information on the balance sheet in the financial statements. WVCA manages contributions to its pension fund in line with the WMPF valuation recommendations, pension costs for all of the projects are fully budgeted for, and WVCA receives an actuarial valuation on the WMPF scheme on a three yearly basis. Issues around risk management of the pension fund are continually assessed through work with staff at WMPF, and at Board of Trustees' Meetings.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are normally capitalised where the cost exceeds £1,000, and are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset, on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Office equipment | over 5 years |
| Computers | over 4 years |
| Refurbishment on lease | over time remaining on the premises lease agreement |

The accounting for depreciation leads to a discrepancy between some financial statements submitted to funders, and the fund activity shown in the statutory accounts of WVCA. If a project has a funder which requires that a capital purchase is to be presented as a cash item rather than as a capitalised item, as required by Charity Accounting rules, then a discrepancy emerges between the amount claimed from the funder, and the fund accounting in the statutory accounts. Where this is the case, that particular discrepancy is referred to in the Trustees Report.

Accounting Policies (cont.)

Grants payable

Grants payable to local organisations are recognised in the financial statements when there is a commitment to make a payment.

Income

Revenue grants are received from various funders - see note 5 - in order to finance WVCA's activities and are accounted for in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

Where revenue grants are received which have donor-imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, any income received in advance is deferred.

Where revenue grants are received, which do not have donor imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, the income is accounted for when received.

Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Income from the provision of legal, payroll and other core services are accounted for when earned.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity, where they can be quantified.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT, where it cannot be recovered.

Expenditure on charitable activities consist of costs incurred in the direct delivery of services and the support costs which are allocated to each of these areas of service provision.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise grants and other incoming resources receivable, or generated for the objects of the charity, without further specific purpose, and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

4 Grants payable

| | Number | 2022 £ | Number | 2021 £ |
|---|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| CRF 50+ | 1 | 2,080 | - | - |
| CRF Skills Connect | 12 | 174,847 | - | - |
| 100% Digital | 6 | 49,500 | - | - |
| Third Sector Consortium Partners/Systems Resilience | 3 | 117,608 | 3 | 115,304 |
| Talent Match Partners | 6 | 747,938 | 5 | 1,149,339 |
| One City Fund grants | 1 | 2,000 | 37 | 85,090 |
| Girls Allowed Partners | 6 | 77,663 | 5 | 77,800 |
| Building Connections Partners | 1 | 7,664 | 4 | 19,841 |
| Social Prescribing Partner | 1 | 24,873 | 1 | 24,497 |
| Thriving Communities | 12 | 36,205 | - | - |
| Winter Pressures 2 | 4 | 16,729 | - | - |
| | 53 | 1,257,107 | 55 | 1,471,871 |

5 Income from Charitable Activities

| | Unrestricted 2022 £ | Restricted 2022 £ | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Active Black Country | - | 3,250 | 3,250 | - |
| Arts Council | - | 43,920 | 43,920 | - |
| Black Country Consortium | - | 8,852 | 8,852 | - |
| Big Lottery Fund Grants (BLF) | - | 741,796 | 741,796 | 726,997 |
| Community Renewal Fund | - | 470,129 | 470,129 | - |
| ESF grants | - | 267,307 | 267,307 | 1,318,864 |
| BLF/ESF joint funded programme | - | 54,936 | 54,936 | 67,588 |
| BLF/DCMS* joint funded programme | - | - | - | 30,391 |
| City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) | - | 288,899 | 288,899 | 177,908 |
| Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/NHS | - | 927,470 | 927,470 | 713,803 |
| Co-op Foundation | - | 1,045 | 1,045 | 9,990 |
| Department of Health | - | - | - | 41,184 |
| Comic Relief | - | 56,916 | 56,916 | 100,000 |
| Police and Crime Commission | - | - | - | 114,550 |
| Creative Black Country | - | - | - | 6,500 |
| Donation | - | 380 | 380 | 79,836 |
| Non Grant Income | 42,452 | 138,000 | 180,452 | 172,227 |
| | 42,452 | 3,002,900 | 3,045,352 | 3,559,838 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

6 Breakdown of Costs of Charitable Activity

| | Staff Costs | Other Charitable Costs | Support Costs | Total 2022 | Total 2021 |
|---|------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Core Activities | | 4,472 | 18,305 | 22,777 | 31,152 |
| Infrastructure Support incl Trading | 6,182 | 2,819 | 1,703 | 10,704 | (23,221) |
| | 6,182 | 7,291 | 20,008 | 33,481 | 7,931 |
| CRF 50+ | 3,995 | 2,080 | 599 | 6,674 | - |
| CRF Skills Connect | 11,597 | 175,415 | 1,740 | 188,752 | - |
| 100% Digital | - | 56,999 | - | 56,999 | - |
| Engagement & Partnership/ICS | 45,823 | 3,626 | 9,253 | 58,702 | 34,302 |
| Faith Engagement | 3,956 | 83 | 200 | 4,239 | 13,707 |
| Girls Allowed | 6,235 | 77,663 | 6,500 | 90,398 | 88,456 |
| Infrastructure Support | 94,591 | 2,163 | 18,700 | 115,454 | 116,197 |
| Life Chances | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mental Health | 846 | 399 | - | 1,245 | 816 |
| One City Fund | - | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | 85,095 |
| Preventative Partnership | - | - | - | - | - |
| Public Health Transformation | - | - | - | - | 481 |
| Service User Involvement | 84,830 | 5,091 | 30,309 | 120,230 | 117,748 |
| Social Enterprise Wolverhampton | - | - | - | - | - |
| Social Prescribing | 507,941 | 51,871 | 51,352 | 611,164 | 533,540 |
| Thriving Communities | - | 36,930 | - | 36,930 | - |
| Covid-19 response | - | - | - | - | 41,527 |
| Building Connections | - | 12,682 | - | 12,682 | 25,545 |
| Suicide Prevention | - | 550 | - | 550 | - |
| Talent Match - Big Lottery | 254,931 | 568,971 | 97,386 | 921,288 | 536,091 |
| Talent Match - Impact (ESF/YEI) | 10,406 | 240,664 | 16,237 | 267,307 | 1,323,650 |
| Talent Match - PCC | - | 4,964 | - | 4,964 | 139,232 |
| Talent Match - CRF | 86,310 | 95,536 | 12,946 | 194,792 | - |
| Third Sector Consortium: Systems Resilience | - | 126,720 | - | 126,720 | 126,954 |
| Third Sector Partnership | - | - | - | - | 227 |
| Volunteer Services Bridges | 49,058 | 2,764 | 5,048 | 56,870 | 66,009 |
| Volunteer Services | 46,043 | 1,481 | 15,154 | 62,678 | 61,290 |
| Space to Connect | - | - | - | - | 4,424 |
| Space to Connect 2 | 4,866 | 5,513 | - | 10,379 | 656 |
| Winter Pressures 2 | - | 20,062 | - | 20,062 | - |
| Wolverhampton for Everyone | 1,778 | 6,379 | - | 8,157 | 8,778 |
| YOW - Orange Wolverhampton | - | 452 | - | 452 | - |
| YOW - Children's Workforce | - | 55 | - | 55 | 680 |
| TOTAL RESTRICTED | 1,213,206 | 1,501,113 | 265,424 | 2,979,743 | 3,325,405 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 1,219,388 | 1,508,404 | 285,432 | 3,013,224 | 3,333,336 |

6a Support Cost Breakdown by activity

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 187,302 | 208,434 |
| Property | 55,654 | 55,023 |
| Office | 30,238 | 35,177 |
| Depreciation | 750 | 750 |
| Professional fees | 3,988 | 2,284 |
| Support Costs | <u>277,932</u> | <u>301,668</u> |
| Governance costs: | | |
| AGM | - | - |
| Audit fees | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| TOTAL COSTS | <u><u>285,432</u></u> | <u><u>309,168</u></u> |

Basis of allocation of costs:

Staff costs: These are the staffing costs associated with work undertaken in the specific project areas as listed in note 6. Most staff work wholly in one project area, and their staff costs are allocated to that project. If their time is shared between projects, then the staffing cost is split accordingly. The staffing cost comprises gross salary plus on costs, including pension costs where applicable.

Other charitable costs: These are costs within the projects, incurred in the pursuance of the aims and objectives of each project. These costs are specific only to the project which they are allocated to.

Support Costs: These are costs which are incurred in the running of the organisation. They would include for example, core staff costs, rent, insurance, heat and light, IT support, repairs and maintenance, and any other costs which are associated with core staff executing their tasks, which are required in order to support all the projects and contracts within the organisation.

These costs are calculated on a budget basis, at the beginning of the financial year, and allocated as per numbers of full-time staff members in each project, or in accordance with grant agreement arrangements. Any support costs which are not recovered in the actual year, are seen as an additional core service support cost.

7 Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| This is stated after charging: | | |
| Rentals under operating leases | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Auditors remuneration | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| Depreciation: owned fixed assets | 750 | 750 |

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

| | £ | £ | £ |
|------------------------|--------|-------|--------------|
| Cost | | | |
| 31 March 2021 | 34,996 | 5,250 | 40,246 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| 31 March 2022 | 34,996 | 5,250 | 40,246 |
| Depreciation: | | | |
| 31 March 2021 | 34,996 | 3,000 | 37,996 |
| Charge for the year | - | 750 | 750 |
| 31 March 2022 | 34,996 | 3,750 | 38,746 |
| Net book value: | | | |
| 31 March 2021 | - | 2,250 | 2,250 |
| 31 March 2022 | - | 1,500 | 1,500 |

9 Fixed Assets Investments

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

People in Partnership (Wolverhampton) Community Interest Company

Nature of the business: The Company was incorporated on 12 July 2011 and has not traded during the year 2021-22. Initially WVCA held 100% of the holding, however the articles were amended and subsequently changes resulted in WVCA only holding 25%. However subsequent gifting of two shares have made it so that WVCA now holds 75% of the active holding.

| Class of share | % Holding |
|----------------|-----------|
| Ordinary | 75 |

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|
| Aggregate capital and reserves | 4 | 4 |

Black Country Together C.I.C.

Black Country Together CIC was founded 31 January 2013, by the four Councils for Voluntary Service in the Black Country each with 25% membership, with the aim of increasing levels of funding coming into our sub-region and fostering greater co-operation and collaboration between voluntary organisations and local statutory agencies both within and across borough boundaries.

BCT CIC is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. It is actively trading generating an income of £1,603,392 in the year ended 30 June 2021 which resulted in a small surplus of £1,651 for the year. The balance sheet at 30 June 2021, the most recent set of accounts, showed net assets of £4,406. Ian Darch, WVCA CEO, is a director of BCT CIC.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

10 Debtors

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Debtors | 277,320 | 304,743 |
| Payments in advance | 53,495 | 87,372 |
| | <u>330,815</u> | <u>392,115</u> |

11 Cash and Cash Equivalents

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Funds on deposit at bank | 438,558 | 435,542 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 1,036,757 | 862,584 |
| | <u>1,475,315</u> | <u>1,298,126</u> |

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Other creditors | 33,348 | 104,427 |
| Accruals & Deferred income | 169,010 | 18,135 |
| | <u>202,358</u> | <u>122,562</u> |

13 Analysis of Deferred Income

Funder of Deferred Income

| | 01.04.2021 | Received | Released | 31.03.2022 |
|-------|------------|----------|----------|------------|
| NAVCA | - | 3,000 | - | 3,000 |

14 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total 2022 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed Assets | 1,501 | - | - | 1,501 |
| Current Assets | 432,684 | 180,407 | 1,193,039 | 1,806,130 |
| Current Liabilities | (23,453) | - | (178,905) | (202,358) |
| | <u>410,732</u> | <u>180,407</u> | <u>1,014,134</u> | <u>1,605,273</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

15 Reserves and Reconciliation of Movement in Funds

| | 31 March 2021 | Transfers | Incoming Resources | Outgoing Resources | 31 March 2022 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted funds: | | | | | |
| General unrestricted funds | 388,112 | 5,962 | 45,667 | 29,009 | 410,732 |
| Designated funds | 163,343 | 21,536 | - | 4,472 | 180,407 |
| | 551,455 | 27,498 | 45,667 | 33,481 | 591,139 |
| Restricted funds: | | | | | |
| CRF 50+ | - | - | 6,674 | 6,674 | - |
| CRF Skills Connect | - | - | 223,455 | 188,752 | 34,703 |
| 100% Digital | - | - | 74,999 | 56,999 | 18,000 |
| Engagement & Partnership/ICS | 4,056 | - | 70,536 | 58,702 | 15,890 |
| Faith Engagement | 2,848 | 1,391 | - | 4,239 | - |
| Girls Allowed | 34,156 | - | 56,916 | 90,398 | 674 |
| Infrastructure Support | 22,033 | 14,834 | 100,000 | 115,454 | 21,413 |
| Life Chances | 11,868 | (11,868) | - | - | - |
| Mental Health | 66,980 | - | - | 1,245 | 65,735 |
| One City Fund | 4,740 | - | - | 2,000 | 2,740 |
| Preventative Partnership | - | - | 100,000 | - | 100,000 |
| Public Health Transformation | 9,843 | (9,843) | - | - | - |
| Service User Involvement (SUIT) | 23,954 | - | 133,000 | 120,230 | 36,724 |
| Social Prescribing | 85,533 | - | 640,793 | 611,164 | 115,162 |
| Social Prescribing - Thriving Communities | - | 49 | 43,920 | 36,930 | 7,039 |
| SP - Building Connections | 12,731 | (49) | - | 12,682 | - |
| Suicide Prevention | - | - | 7,500 | 550 | 6,950 |
| Talent Match - Big Lottery | 662,884 | - | 744,046 | 921,288 | 485,642 |
| Talent Match - Impact (ESF/YEI) | - | - | 267,307 | 267,307 | - |
| Talent Match - PCC | 4,964 | - | - | 4,964 | - |
| Talent Match - CRF | - | - | 240,000 | 194,792 | 45,208 |
| Third Sector Consortium:Systems Resilience | 5,798 | - | 128,493 | 126,720 | 7,571 |
| Third Sector Partnership | 12 | (12) | - | - | - |
| Volunteer Services Bridges | 1,934 | - | 54,936 | 56,870 | - |
| Volunteer Services | 7,246 | - | 60,000 | 62,678 | 4,568 |
| Space to Connect 2 | 9,334 | - | 1,045 | 10,379 | - |
| Winter Pressures Fund | 22,000 | (22,000) | - | - | - |
| Winter Pressures Fund 2 | - | - | 46,400 | 20,062 | 26,338 |
| Wolverhampton for Everyone | 15,197 | - | 2,500 | 1,657 | 16,040 |
| WE - The 'F' Words | 6,500 | - | - | 6,500 | - |
| YOW - Orange Wolves | 881 | - | 380 | 452 | 809 |
| YOW - Children's Workforce | 2,983 | - | - | 55 | 2,928 |
| | 1,018,475 | (27,498) | 3,002,900 | 2,979,743 | 1,014,134 |
| | 1,569,930 | - | 3,048,567 | 3,013,224 | 1,605,273 |

Note: Reserves and Reconciliation of Movements in funds – Transfers between funds:

In 2021-22 there were transfers of funds between unrestricted and restricted funds. Core transferred reserves of £14,822 to Infrastructure Support. This reflects the Board's decision to support the capacity building service with organisational reserves, up to an annually agreed value. In addition £1,391 was transferred to Faith Engagement to support the retention of links until the autumn.

In addition within unrestricted funds there was a transfer from general reserves to the designated funds for operational liabilities of £11,536 as a result of increased liabilities included in the closure costs designated reserve, and for £10,000 to cover the costs of our name change and re-branding including consultancy costs and new signage.

As summarised below reserves relating to Winter Pressures fund (£22,000), Life Chances (£11,868) and Public Health Transformation (£9,843) were transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds where they will be used in delivering our charitable aims. £12 was transferred from Third Sector Partnership to Infrastructure support, again as outlined below.

Purpose of Funds The information provided below is a brief summary on each fund and how the funded activities contribute to WVCA aims and objectives.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General Unrestricted Fund: This is used to fund some core activities that are not fully funded through our infrastructure support contract with CWC. It is also held to enable activities to continue for a period of time in the event of sudden loss of funding, in line with the Trustees' reserves policy. Movement on the level of these reserves is dependent on WVCA's ability to recover its core operating costs from support cost charges to projects together with earned income and bank interest. In the year under report this fund showed a net increase of £39,684. This increase was caused by a number of factors: some under-recovery of core costs; the need to cover unbudgeted re branding costs and an increase in the anticipated costs of any organisation closure offset by earned income and transfers from restricted reserves, as described above.

Designated Funds: The balance in designated funds is £180,407. This represents £1,330 for improving safety within the organisation for staff and visitors, £5,528 for remaining re-branding costs and £173,549 for operational liabilities/closure costs including increased redundancy liabilities since last year. Please see reference to reserves policy in the TAR.

For the year ended 31 March 2022 earned income totalled £45,667 (£44,679 in 20/21). The combination of support costs recovered through the agreed charges to projects, earned income and required movements to other funds meant unrestricted reserves including designated funds increased by £39,684 (£21,550 increase in 20/21) to £591,139. Within that there was a transfer of £21,536 into funds designated for rebranding costs and closure costs to reflect increases in lease and redundancy liabilities. Current unrestricted reserves therefore cover closure costs and approximately 3 months continuation costs, compared to the 6 months target set out by the reserves policy.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds represent funding received for specific projects and activities in support of WVCA's overall objectives

Community Renewal Fund: Over 50s: A Black Country Wide project led by Sandwell MBC and aimed at moving people over 50 nearer and into employment; WVCA is the local lead for Wolverhampton overseeing delivery by 4 providers. Funds are to enable us to carry out this oversight role and the £6,674 allocated in year for this has been fully spent.

Community Renewal Fund: Skills Connect: Funding secured by WVCA on behalf of a local partnership of VCOs. The project aims to support citizens to move nearer and into employment and runs until December 2022. Funds are paid in advance against an agreed profile. The reserve of £34,703 represents an underspend against profile. The profile was however set when the project was to run for only 6 months – this has been extended to 10 months and funds will be used during the extended period.

100% digital: Funding made available to WVCA from CWC in order to fund activity by a small local consortium in support local people and organisations to develop their IT skills. An initial allocation of £49,999 was fully utilised and reported on during the year. An additional allocation of 25K was made towards the year end – the reserve relates to part of that second tranche of funds and it will be spent in delivery during the first few months of 22/23

Engagement & Partnership/ICS: Funded through the newly emerged Integrated Care System this work is overseen by WVCA on behalf of the four Black Country CVS organisations. We employ a worker who delivers this work that commenced in 2020/21. The reserve of £15,890 is an operational saving and will be used in delivery during 2022/23.

Faith Engagement: Funding from City of Wolverhampton Council to develop stronger links with Faith Organisations, focusing on raising awareness of safeguarding. This work initially straddled 2018/19 and 2019/2020 but was extended into 2021/22. During the year the 20/21 balance was supplemented by £1,391 from reserves which allowed the worker to complete outstanding activities. This work is now complete.

Girls Allowed: This project was funded from the Tampon Tax Fund through a partnership between HM Government and Comic Relief until August 2020 and was extended through additional funds from Comic Relief to the end of December 2021. The project worked to support girls at risk of being drawn into gangs. WVCA was the accountable body with the bulk of the activity and funding being subcontracted to VCS partners. The remaining balance of £674 will be used to cover any residual costs or activities in line with the projects aims.

Infrastructure Support: This service provides a wide range of support to local VCOs including in the areas of funding, governance, safeguarding, policies, GDPR, information etc. This also incorporates the former YOW support worker whose focus is on organisations working with Children and Young People. This post also has a significant role in safeguarding within the City, particularly supporting CWC colleagues and the role of the CEO in strategic work with partners, including CWC. During the year we supported many hundreds of organisations and attended dozens of strategic forums across a very wide range of issues. These activities receive a £100K pa contract from City of Wolverhampton Council although this has not covered the full cost of the service for several years. In this year the board agreed to subsidise this work from unrestricted funds to the amount of £14,822 (20/21 £15,198). The reserve of £21,413 is held for partnership working with CWC. There is also a pension liability within this fund.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

In 22/23 we will need to retender for this service. Part of the tender focuses on partnership working and it is our intention to incorporate this reserve, less outstanding liabilities, into our proposal by way of added value.

Life Chances: A grant of £30K was secured in order to develop a business case for a social investment model to deliver interventions to reduce demand on hospital services. The initial work was completed and reported on but unfortunately the business case was not progressed by the funder. The balance of £11,686 relates to funding allocated to the CCG, the work was carried out but the funding not required. In light of this and the structural changes that mean there is no longer the same local CCG structure it is proposed that this resource be transferred to unrestricted reserves where they will be used in the broader delivery of our mission.

Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHE): This project was funded through a contract with CWC for several years but the funding was withdrawn in 2017/18. Some further funding was made available by the CCG for specific pieces of work in the year to March 2020. Reserves currently stand at £65,735. There is a pension liability within this project and some reserves are being used to cover the associated costs moving forward. Remaining funds will be available to support peer led MH groups in the years ahead.

One City Fund: This fund relates to four connected fundraising campaigns carried out in conjunction with the City of Wolverhampton Council as part of the city's response to the COVID pandemic. All fundraising activities ended in 2019/20. The remaining balance of £2,740 relates to funds raised but not distributed. The distribution of these funds, in line with the aims of each of the campaigns will take place during 2022/23

Public Health Transformation: A joint 2 year project with the City Council funded through Public Health over 2014-16 and aimed at developing greater co-ordination of activity across the Health and Social Care Landscape. A lack of engagement at a strategic level caused the project to stall and that has meant that not all funds have been utilised. The grant was provided by Wolverhampton Public Health, a body that no longer exists. In light of this and the length of time that has now elapsed this resource of £9,843 will be transferred to unrestricted reserves, where they will be used in the broader delivery of our mission.

Preventative Partnership: £100,000 was awarded to WVCA from NHSE via the Integrated Care System, this money was paid in advance of delivery commencing. The focus of the funding is on preventing ill health. The funds will primarily be used to support partner organisations working in the town centre to improve levels of physical activity. These partners will work with 9-11 year olds in schools, their families and the wider community. Stage one will involve co-producing interventions with children and their families and stage two will focus on the delivery of those interventions WVCA will use 10K of the funding to provide oversight and governance. The work will be complete by March 2024.

Service User Involvement Project (SUIT): Through a sub-contract with NACRO this project works alongside users and ex-users of drug treatment services to support them in influencing the design and delivery of drug treatment services and provides direct support to service users using a model based on abstinence based recovery. The reserve of £36,724 will be used in future delivery, including supporting cost of living increases over the remaining 2 years of this contract that are not covered within the current budget.

Social Prescribing: The project works with "patients" to identify alternative approaches to tackling issues such as low level depression, isolation and frequent GP contact that can better be tackled by diversion to activities within the VCS such as wellbeing sessions, group activities, exercise etc., rather than by medical interventions. During the year the project supported in the region of 1500 customers facing loneliness, isolation and mental ill health. In the year under report the project was funded

through a combination of PCN (Networks of GPs), and the CCG. An in-year surplus of £29,629 was as a result of operational savings which equate to less than 5% of the budget. The total surplus of £115,162 will be spent in delivering the wider social Prescribing vision, including filling gaps in prescriptions in the years ahead and in supporting unfunded cost of living increases.

Thriving Communities/Building Connections: Jointly funded by the National Lottery Communities Fund and Central Government (building connections) and the Arts Council (Thriving communities) these grants were used to provide and support activities for customers that are aimed at tackling loneliness and isolation. The use of the surplus of £7,039 relating to Thriving Communities is currently being agreed with the Art Council – it is likely that it will be spent on delivering activities, in line with the project aims, during 2022/23. The transfer of £49 took place in order to cover a very small spend on the Building Connections project spent on an activity that also helped to deliver Thriving Communities outcomes

Suicide Prevention: Funding was made available by CWC to support a campaign aimed at preventing suicide in the City. The majority of deliver will take place in 22/23 utilising the £6,950 carried forward

Talent Match/NLCF: The project is Black Country wide and, following a three year extension from the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) has been operating for eight years. Its key focus is on mentoring those young people who are furthest from the workplace including young offenders, many of whom are referred from prison, providing a range of support tailored to the young person's needs. WVCA employ the Talent Match core staff team but the bulk of the resources are spent with partners who run Talent Match hubs, host staff and provide other funded interventions through a preferred supplier network. Key to the project is that young people are central to all decision making. We have needed to balance expenditure between NLCF and ESF/IMPACT over the three year extension. We decided not to continue as part of an ESF (IMPACT) extension as a result of conflicting priorities across the two programmes and therefore ESF funding for delivery came to an end on 30/06/2021. A successful application to the Community Renewal Fund has further extended the timescale for delivery until Nov/Dec 2022. NLCF have allowed us to carry funding forward in order to facilitate this extended timescale and the year-end balance of £485,642 will therefore be used in delivering during the period 04/22 – 12/22.

Talent Match/ IMPACT: As above Talent Match was also part of IMPACT, an ESF/YEI funded project delivered in partnership with the four Black Country Local Authorities. Following our decision to withdraw from IMPACT, delivery ceased during the year and all resources were fully utilised.

Talent Match – PCC: During 2019/20 funding was secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner, for one year, allowing us to employ additional mentors across the project and supporting c100 young people. The balance of £4,964 was fully utilised during the year in line with the projects aims.

Talent Match – CRF. Funding was secured in year to allow Talent Match to continue working with young people using the same model as outlined above. The balance of £45,208 will be used in delivering the project in 2022/23

Third Sector Consortium: Funded by the CCG this work involved a small consortium of three organisations supported by WVCA, which is the accountable body, working together to distributed and support effective messaging about health and social care provision, reduce admissions to A and E and to improve levels of re-ablement among elderly people leaving hospital. The reserve of £7,571 is the result of small underspends on monitoring during the five years of the project. No funds were available to continue delivery into 21/22 and this underspend will be utilised in consultation with partners.

Third Sector Partnership: This funding has been used to support the smooth running of what was previously known as the third sector partnership. This partnership has been superseded by the VCSE

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

Alliance, which is facilitated by WVCA as part of its Infrastructure Project, therefore the £12 balance will be transferred to Infrastructure support.

Volunteers - BBO Bridges: Part of our offer to Volunteers, this project works with those furthest from the workplace who want to use volunteering, alongside other support, to obtain employment. In the year the project worked intensely with c50 customers moving many of them on into further training and employment. As a result of good delivery we have been offered extensions on two occasions and now have funding confirmed until April 2023.

Wolverhampton Volunteers: The project forms the basis of our volunteering offer and is outlined in the Trustees Annual Report under "Volunteers". The project works with some 250 organisations, providing volunteers and support. The balance of £4,568 will be used in future delivery.

Winter Pressures Fund: Allocated via the CCG for use over 2019/20 and 2020/21 in strengthening links between acute mental health provision and our social prescribing service. The funding body no longer exists and the work is now being delivered more effectively on a Black Country Wide basis under engagement and partnership (above). On that basis these funds will be transferred to unrestricted reserves and utilised in the delivery of our overall mission.

Winter Pressures Fund 2: Funding was allocated towards the end of the year to be allocated to partner organisations who will provide counselling, Peer Support and IAG to individuals. The unspent funds of £26,338 will be used in delivering the project into 22/23.

Wolverhampton for Everyone (WE): A "movement" being championed by WVCA and other partners, with the aim of involving increasing numbers of citizens in a "people powered" city where they have full ownership of "place". There has been limited funded activity during 21/22 but the need for this work remains. In that spirit the reserve of £16,040, will be used in 2022/23 to continue this work. The payment of £2,500 was from Civic Square, a grant to host a "learning journey" for 12 local people utilising ideas from "doughnut economics" to explore new grass approaches. A further £2,500 will be available in 22/23 to continue this work.

WE: Spaces to Connect: Funding from DCMS via the Co-op to increase opportunities for people to engage with each other including as "digital buddies". The balance of £9,334, along with a small underspend from an early "space to connect" project has been fully utilised in delivery during the year

WE: The 'F' Words: Funding from Creative Black Country in order to deliver arts based activities through Wolverhampton for Everyone. All resources were spent on delivery during the year.

Orange Wolverhampton: This is a campaign to raise awareness of violence inflicted on Women and Girls, with a small amount made available to WVCA for delivery each year. The balance of £809 relates to unspent funds raised and reported on in in previous years and will be utilised in publicising future Orange campaigns.

YOW – Children's' workforce: This fund is restricted for use in training the children's' workforce in the City. One training course has been delivered this year and the balance of £2,928 will be used in this way in the years ahead.

16 Information regarding the members of the Board of Trustees

The names of persons who are members of the Board are given in the Report of the Board of Trustees.

Remuneration: Under the terms of the Memorandum of Association, neither member of the Board nor any connected person shall receive any remuneration from WVCA. Board members are offered reimbursement for travel expenses. The amounts involved are negligible.

17 Particulars of Employees

The average monthly headcount was 45 (48 in 2021).

The average number of full time equivalent persons employed by WVCA during the year was:

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--------------------|------|------|
| General activities | 41.3 | 42.6 |

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons was as follows:

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 1,219,653 | 1,226,378 |
| Social security costs | 104,073 | 98,248 |
| Other pension costs | 79,799 | 79,144 |
| Redundancy costs | 3,165 | 688 |
| | <u>1,406,690</u> | <u>1,404,458</u> |

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Key management remuneration | 127,579 | 125,406 |

One employee earned benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

Two members of staff were made redundant with grant funding meeting the majority of cost, the residual being met from unrestricted reserves through a fund transfer to Faith Engagement.

18 Pensions

Some of the employees of the charity are members of the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities Pension Fund, which is a multi-employer scheme. The Fund is financed by contributions paid by both employees and the charity, and by earnings received on investments. The scheme is a Defined Benefits Scheme. It has been closed to new members.

Contributions to the Scheme from the employees are payable at a variable rate according to graded rates of pensionable pay. The employer contribution rate rose in 2020/21 in response to the Actuarial Valuation for the scheme, from 23.3% to 24.2%, set for the three financial years until March 2023.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

Also, the charity is required to make additional Past Service Lump Sum contributions towards meeting the shortfall in the scheme, with WVCA share being calculated at the latest Actuarial revaluation (2019) as £77k. The amount payable for 2020/21 – 2022/23 was £11,736, of this £3,910 representing the 2021-22 share is recognised in these accounts.

It is assumed that the Administering Authority will continue to invest a significant proportion of the assets of the Fund in UK and overseas equities, and that these will produce a future investment return that exceeds the current yield available on bonds.

A stakeholder scheme was established in January 2016 and is offered to all employees who are not members of the West Midland Pension Scheme, subject to pension guidance in terms of eligibility.

19 Taxation

WVCA is not liable to tax on any of its income because of its charitable status.

20 Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 March 2022 WVCA had minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

| | 2022 | | 2021 | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | Land and Buildings | Other | Land and Buildings | Other |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Falling due: | | | | |
| Within one year | 25,000 | 2,836 | 25,000 | 3,549 |
| In one to two years | - | 1,730 | - | 2,610 |
| In two to five years | - | 2,231 | - | 3,287 |
| After 5 years | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>25,000</u> | <u>6,797</u> | <u>25,000</u> | <u>9,446</u> |

A twelve month commitment is disclosed in respect of land and buildings as WVCA has an option to terminate this on giving one year's notice. The landlord can terminate the lease in the event of default by WVCA.

21 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions disclosable in respect of the year ended 31 March 2022.

Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action

England & Wales - Charity number 700910

Accounts

Company number: 2288239
Registered charity number: 700910

**WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Report of the Board of Trustees and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

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Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------|
| Legal and Administrative Information | 1 |
| Board of Trustees Annual Report | 2-15 |
| Report of the independent auditors | 16-18 |
| Statement of financial activities - SOFA | 19 |
| Balance Sheet | 20 |
| Cash flow statement | 21 |
| Notes forming part of the financial statements | 22-36 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL
Legal and Administrative Information

2020-21

Charity Name

Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC)

Board of Trustees

Steve Clay (Chair)
Janet Clarke Lewis
Pamela Cole-Hudson
James Fox
Anne Marie Harrison
Ann Biddle
Patricia Mary Kemp
Sarah Deeming
Simeon Greene
Gurbax Kaur
Edna Masoha

Secretary and registered office

Ian Darch, 16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN

Key Management

Ian Darch, Chief Executive
Saffi Price, Deputy Chief Executive
Lynn Wetherill, Finance Manager

Company Number

2288239

Registered Charity Number

700910

Auditors

Muras Baker Jones Limited,
Regent House, Bath Avenue, Wolverhampton, WV1 4EG

Financial Statements

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements.

The Trustees, who are also Directors of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council ("WVSC") for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements. The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that WVSC will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of WVSC and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of WVSC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Structure, Governance and Management

Administrative Details

The day-to-day management of WVSC is ultimately the responsibility of the Chief Executive on behalf of the Trustees. The Chief Executive is also responsible, with the Board of Trustees, for the strategic direction of the organisation and delivery of its objectives.

Much of the day-to-day management is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive who is currently supported by a part time Operations Manager and a Central administrator/HR Manager. A Finance Manager (25 hours pw) is supported by a Finance Officer (30 hours pw) and has overall responsibility to the CEO for finance systems and processes. A robust financial delegation system is in place with each project lead having day to day responsibility for their own budgets.

Governing Document

WVSC is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19th August 1988 and registered as a Charity on 24th November 1988. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being "wound up" members are each required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Articles of association were reviewed and changes agreed at the 2018 AGM. These changes were a response to difficulties in achieving quorums at some meetings thus hindering effective and prompt decision making. In essence the changes reduce the size of the Board and quoracy requirements, while also ensuring effective governance and board oversight.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees

Although WVSC is a small to medium sized organisation, it is a complex one operating in what is an increasingly challenging environment. It is therefore important that the skills and competencies of the trustee body are at a high level. WVSC is also involved in a very diverse range of activities as outlined later in this report and therefore the trustee body needs to demonstrate a broad as well as a high level of skills in carrying out its governance role.

The changes agreed at the 2018 AGM maintains a Board structure which reflects our customers and the environment in which we operate. The current Board make up and quoracy requirements as outlined in the Articles of Association are as follows:

The minimum number of directors shall be 6 and the maximum number of directors shall be 12. This Board of Directors will be made up of:

- a) A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 Voluntary and Community Organisations operating in Wolverhampton who are members of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council.
- b) Individuals, who can be invited to join the Board for their expertise including as "experts by experience"
- c) A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 other partners from the private, education, and public sectors. These directors are recruited to strengthen links across the City and provide specialist input into the Board. All trustees they must support our objectives.
- d) The City Council has observer status on the board and may invite any person to attend the charity's meetings (both directors and general meetings) as an observer without the power to vote. This observer will not be counted in the quorum.

The quorum shall be 3 or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the directors. This quorum must include at least 2 directors from a) and at least 1 from c) above.

The quorum must have Voluntary and Community Organisations in the majority. This is so that any changes or any issues requiring a vote will need to be supported by VCO members.

At the time of this report there are no vacancies on the Board. We have worked hard to ensure that our Board membership reflects the diversity of Wolverhampton and at the time of writing 4 of our 11 Board members are people from minority ethnic communities.

The Trustees of the company are also the Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the Company's Articles they are known as members of the Management Committee.

Trustees' Induction and Training

As representatives of member organisations, key partners, or individuals most Trustees are familiar with the work of WVSC. Each new board member meets with the Chief Executive for an induction and is provided with a recently updated induction pack.

In addition, reports on specific activities are provided at board meetings and training/orientation sessions are organised for Trustees. The strategic direction of WVSC is regularly discussed at board meetings and a revised strategic document was adopted in 2017/18. This will be revised by the board and senior staff, with input from stakeholders, during 2021/22.

Organisation Structure

WVSC has a management committee of up to 12 members who meet bi monthly and are responsible, with the Chief Executive, for the strategic direction of the Charity. In addition, the City Council nominate a Councillor with observer status on the board. The structure underneath the board is as follows:

A sub-committee of the board (known as the Executive Committee and consisting of up to four Trustees) meets with the Chief Executive on an ad hoc basis as required. This sub-committee provides a forum for more detailed discussion on key issues and advises the board.

A Remuneration Committee consisting of the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive has been delegated by the Board to make salary adjustments in order maintain a fair and equitable salary structure within the organisation. Any changes to the salaries the Chief Executive or Deputy will be considered by the Executive Committee.

The Chief Executive has delegated responsibility from the board for the provision of services and the day-to-day operation of WVSC. The Chief Executive works closely with managers in executing these responsibilities. The structure below the Board comprises a number of elements as follows:

Senior Managers: The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive meet on a regular basis, with other senior managers as required, to establish that the organisation is delivering its mission, that it is doing so in a consistent and effective manner, and to make any operational adjustments that may be required.

Section Heads: Managers from each area of work meet, as required, with Senior Managers in order to oversee the effective delivery of the organisation's outcomes, to maintain a consistent approach across the organisation, to consider issues affecting the work of the organisation and the wider sector and to share information.

Staff meetings: Regular staff meetings provide a forum for ensuring a collective understanding of day-to-day matters in areas such as health and safety, and provide a forum for the Chief Executive and others to communicate matters of relevance to all staff.

Staff support: All staff meet regularly for supervision with their Line Managers. The Chief Executive manages the Deputy CEO, the Finance Manager and the Project Managers of Talent Match, the Social Prescribing project and Engagement & Partnership lead. The Deputy CEO manages the other section heads. The Chief Executive receives supervision from the Chair of the Board.

Financial delegation: Robust financial systems are in place, with levels of financial authority from the Board, through to the Chief Executive down to individual departments, within agreed budgets. Systems for authorising both income and expenditure are in place along with an effective credit control system. Regular reports to Board ensure overall financial prudence and allow for the management of any financial risk.

Partner Organisations

WVSC is a member The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), NAVCA and The Chamber of Commerce.

As an umbrella organisation for the sector, WVSC has a major strategic role in Wolverhampton and works with partners locally, sub-regionally and nationally in order to achieve shared outcomes. To this end WVSC works in partnership at a number of levels and these can be summarised as follows:

Voluntary Organisations and community groups: WVSC has a role in working with other VCO's to "champion" the sector. This involves working with organisations in response to issues affecting the sector and carrying out a co-ordinating role to ensure that the sector is effectively represented at a strategic level across the city. At the most strategic level this includes membership of the City Board and Charing the Inclusion Board. In addition WVSC has the role of facilitating the Third Sector Partnership.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Consortia Partners: Consortia working, both within the VCS and across sectors, is growing and developing as an accepted approach for achieving better outcomes for local people. WVSC have been leading the way in the development of consortia both across the City and beyond.

In particular:

WVSC is the lead body for Talent Match: a lottery/ESF funded, Black Country project aimed at supporting people aged 18-29, who have been NEET for at least six months, nearer and into employment. Led by young people the project sub contracts to a range of VCOs in order to deliver some challenging outcomes.

Black Country Together (BCT) has been developed by the four CVS's in order to support the delivery of services by the VCS on a sub-regional level. WVSC is one of the four members of the organisation. BCT currently oversees the delivery of a contract worth £2M, from the Arts council (subject to Business Plan) and acts as the accountable body for one strand of the Building Opportunities, European Social Inclusion Fund (families in poverty). Delivery of this commenced in mid-2016 and an extension to 2022 has recently been secured.

We are the lead body for the Preventative Partnership (Previously called the Third Sector Consortium), a group of three delivery partners funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group and working to reduce A and E attendance and improve level of re-ablement among older people leaving hospital.

We lead a consortium of VCOs to deliver "Girls Allowed" a project working with girls in gangs or at risk of becoming part of the gang culture.

We deliver the Cities Social Prescribing Service which brings together Health (and Social Care) services, people who are referred from those services in order to address loneliness, isolation, low level mental health issues and so on; and VCOs who provide the prescriptions.

We are also the accountable body for 100% digital; a short term CWC funded project with 6 other partners and aimed at increasing the digital skills of individuals and organisations. This is viewed as a precursor to future larger partnership based bids focusing on employment and skills.

Third Sector Partnership: WVSC leads on the Third Sector Partnership (TSP), which consists of representation from Voluntary and Community groups and organisations and has become a key focus to ensuring a strong and clear voice for the sector on a range of strategic and policy issues.

Statutory Sector: The Chief Executive of WVSC is a member of the City Board and Chair of the Inclusion Board (one of three City Board sub boards), working closely with statutory sector colleagues in reviewing and overseeing the delivery of Wolverhampton's City Strategy.

WVSC, primarily through the Chief Executive and the YOW Project Manager, also represents the sector on a wide range of other forums. At the current time these include:

- ✓ Children and Families Together Board
- ✓ Community Cohesion Forum
- ✓ Black Country Grants Committee
- ✓ Safeguarding Boards
- ✓ The Healthier Futures Partnership Board (Integrated care system)
- ✓ Integrated Care Partnership
- ✓ Cross Sector Forum

Through the Third Sector Partnership, WVSC also facilitates representation on a range of strategic and operational forums including:

- ✓ The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership
- ✓ Employment and Skills board
- ✓ Health and Well Being board
- ✓ Safeguarding boards

In addition, the Board and senior staff of WVSC work closely with statutory sector colleagues on a range of strategic matters such as the those relating to the Old School, social value, co-production, strategic funding and so on.

Risk Management

The risks facing WVSC can be considered under 3 broad headings as follows:

Financial

Internal Control Risks: The risk of financial mismanagement and, in the extreme, fraudulent activity:

These internal risks have increased significantly in recent years as WVSC's role in leading complex consortia activities, such as Talent Match, has grown. The decision to engage with IMPACT, an ESF funded programme led to further risks associated with a complex funding stream, this risk has been exacerbated as the focus of local accountable body (Dudley MBC) has hardened around quantity rather than quality of outcomes. This has favoured work with those nearer to the workplace and disadvantaged Talent Match whose focus is on those facing the greatest barriers to employment. The increased complexity has required a significant strengthening of our internal checks and controls and carefully considered flexibility in our relationships with sub-contractors, for example with regard to payment terms, including some payments in advance to smaller organisations. Particularly with regard to IMPACT we have strengthened our finance capacity within the Talent Match/ IMPACT project and increased involvement at CEO level, with regular internal meetings and ongoing reconciliation and other checks.

The overall risk is reduced by having in place robust financial controls and policies and procedures for safe management of financial resources. In addition, WVSC has a robust and effective credit control system in place that serves to ease cash flow difficulties and minimise bad debts.

These systems, coupled with a small but very competent finance team means that we are working well in a complex environment. The financial outturn for the year under report, with a surplus of £21,550 (£10,766 in 2019/20) on unrestricted funds and no significant or unauthorised overspend in any of the restricted budget areas would seem to support this.

Our continued membership of WMPF for long standing and ex staff members does present an on-going financial challenge that will be with us for many years and we have needed to negotiate more manageable rates and penalties with the scheme. This challenge would be more acute were we to suffer any significant reduction in our size as the financial burden would become a greater proportion of income. Our auto enrolment pension scheme, introduced for all other staff is running smoothly with good take up.

External Financial Risks:

WVSC's income is generated through grants, contracts and direct, paid for, services.

The main risk continues to be the changing role of local authorities and the reduction in the funding they make available to WVSC and other third sector organisations, the impact has included us continuing to subsidise our Infrastructure work from earned income. Part of our response to this has been to access EU funds to supplement Talent Match activity and to allow the Volunteer Centre to cover its costs while working with some customers in a more intensive fashion. The EU regime brings additional risks, not least the risk of "clawback" that we need to work hard to avoid. Beyond 2021/22 "Brexit" will mean the removal of a funding stream growing in importance to us. We have recently been involved in consultations with central government (Office for Civil Society) with regard to what will replace EU funds following any departure.

Operational

We work in an environment where the weight and complexity of legal requirements in areas such as health and safety, safeguarding, employment law, equal opportunities and GDPR is growing, and this places all

organisations at risk. In order to help manage this WVSC has a strong senior management structure. The Deputy Chief Executive working with the Operations Manager takes a lead on internal policies and procedures, many of these have been recently reviewed and a clear procedure for future review is in place. The appointment of a Central Administrator with significant HR experience and duties has seen improvements in recruitment and HR processes with less input required from senior managers. We also receive support from Roots, a specialist HR Company, on any complex HR issues.

The Board are ultimately responsible for overseeing this area of work and WVSC also has in place a number of staff-led committees including in the areas of health and safety, equality duties and recruitment. These committees are tasked with responding to the operational requirements of the legislative framework.

Our organisation has responded well to the COVID pandemic:

We have continued service delivery throughout the pandemic and our offices have remained open and providing face to face meetings for the most vulnerable, apart from a brief period during the initial lockdown.

This included swiftly implemented the use of Zoom and TEAMS in order to continue service delivery across all areas of our work

We swiftly put in safety mechanisms to ensure adherence to space and hygiene requirement, which means that we have had no transmission of Covid within the workplace.

We have led the way for our sector in providing information and support to groups and, particularly in the early stages, vulnerable individuals.

We recruited several hundred volunteers to support the provision of food and testing services.

At the time of writing we are encouraging all staff to attend the office for part of the week, while retaining controls on numbers in the building to allow for adequate physical distancing. Face to face meetings are increasing and available across all projects. The additional tools that we have used over the past months such as Zoom and TEAMS do increase the options for home working. In light of this we are in the process of establishing a hybrid working policy that will aim to achieve a good balance between colleagues working from home with its associated advantages and being in the office or other base in order to ensure high levels of connectivity and companionship.

Personnel

Most organisations have a high level of dependency on their key staff. This is exacerbated within WVSC where the diversity of our activities and high levels of specialism among senior staff places us at significant risk if those staff were to leave through resignation or illness - in several areas there are no ready-made replacements that would be able to cover beyond the short term. With an established structure for sharing knowledge through, for example, the Section Heads Meetings, we are developing our ability to respond to any loss of a staff member, but it is envisaged that our reliance on key workers will continue to be high. Notice periods for the Chief Executive and Deputy are three months and for other managers it is two months (three months for Talent Match); this does reduce the risk of key posts being left unfilled for any significant time.

Staff turnover is historically low, consistently running near or below 10%, although, in common with many organisations this has seen some increase during the latter stages of the pandemic.

Staff sickness rates for this year averaged 6.1 days per employee (4.7 in 19/20). Of the total days of absence (303) more than half (163) were as the result of surgery, involving 2 staff. If these two episodes are not included then sickness rates fall to an average of 3 days per employee. Just over 50% (25) staff had no days off sick during the year.

Objectives and Activities

A strategic document clarifying our objectives and how our activities meet these was completed in 2017/18 and remains in place (this is due to be reviewed during 21/22). In developing this trustees considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Values:

We believe:

- 1) Everyone should be given the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
- 2) That the Voluntary and Community Sector has an important role in ensuring that people facing disadvantage or discrimination are not left behind.
- 3) In community action and volunteering as a route to full citizenship.
- 4) That we can achieve more by working in partnership with others.

Our Mission Statement:

"WVSC works to maintain and develop a thriving and diverse voluntary and Community Sector"

In order to achieve this, the following objectives have been agreed by the Board of Trustees:

- 1) Work with groups and organisations, enabling them to provide high quality support and services.
- 2) Promote and champion Wolverhampton's VCS locally, regionally and nationally.
- 3) Develop opportunities for people to engage in volunteering.
- 4) Support groups of people to influence the decision making processes that matter to them.

How we do what we do

Our flexibility and experience enables us to use different methodologies to support service users. These methodologies include:

- 1) Being a **provider of support** to existing or new VCS organisations.

This work is funded through our Infrastructure contracts with WCC, subsidised by "earned income".

This includes:

- ✓ One to one support
 - ✓ Training
 - ✓ Funding advice
 - ✓ Provision of information
 - ✓ Specialist Support in areas such as safeguarding, governance etc.
 - ✓ Recruiting volunteers for organisations and supporting those organisations to retain and develop their volunteer workforce.
- 2) As a **developer, member or supporter of VCS consortia**, enabling groups of VCS organisations (and statutory providers) to work effectively together.

This includes:

- ✓ Developing the City's Social Prescribing Service, which is successfully linking primary care provision and social prescribing via link workers, in order to improve health outcomes for individuals and reduce pressure on traditional health provision
- ✓ Supporting and championing the Cities Learning Partnership of VCOs
- ✓ Championing the sector's role at system level (ICS)

- 3) Working as a **responsible body or managing agent** to VCS organisations and projects, providing whatever support is needed to win and manage specific commissions.

This includes overseeing the following consortia:

- ✓ Talent Match, which is our largest project and supports young people across the Black Country who are furthest from the workplace, to get nearer and into employment,
- ✓ Girls Allowed, which supports young women and girls in Wolverhampton to avoid engagement with gangs and gang activity,
- ✓ System Resilience, which support people to make better choices about their health care, keep themselves well and avoid returns to hospital after discharge.
- ✓ 100% digital project, with 6 delivery partners working to increase digital skills
- ✓ Building Connections - aimed at tackling loneliness.

- 4) As a **representative for the voluntary and community sector** on a wide range of local, regional and national bodies, involved in strategic thinking and planning of services and investments that will impact on priority groups in our area.

This includes:

- ✓ Chairing strategic bodies (Inclusion Board)
- ✓ Sitting on bodies such as the City Board, safeguarding forums, Integrated Care Partnership, Cross sector forum and Children and families together board.
- ✓ Sitting on the board of the Black Country wide Healthier Partnerships Board (ICS) and Black Country Grants panel

- 5) As a **champion and promoter of the sector as a whole**, promoting and providing channels of communications across the hundreds of VCS organisations in our area.

This includes:

- ✓ Providing communication within the VCS and between it and public sector bodies
- ✓ Making the sector aware of funding opportunities
- ✓ Raising awareness of in areas such as social investment
- ✓ Operating the Third Sector Partnership
- ✓ Speaking on behalf of the wider sector and organising representation from the sector on strategic forums.

- 6) Being a **direct provider of services to end users**, (only) in cases where this work cannot be done more effectively by other organisations. .

- ✓ SUIT supports people who use drug treatment services, this work is delivered as a sub-contractor to NACRO as part of the Recovery Near You Partnership.
- ✓ Social Prescribing does provide some direct support to customers but its aim is to utilise (and build) the range of "Social Prescriptions" delivered by VCOs in the City

Who do we work with?

We work where there is an identified need as defined by the changing priorities in our own and our partners' needs assessment work. These include at present:

- Voluntary organisations and community groups that deliver services and support to the local community.
- Communities or groups setting up or developing their own voluntary or community organisations.
- Those wishing to volunteer or take social action.
- Individuals in need, where WVSC is best placed to deliver a direct service including:
 - The unemployed and especially the young unemployed.
 - Those involved in drug and substance misuse.
 - Those suffering from mental illness
 - Those with an offending background
 - Other people who use Health and well-being services
 - Other groups of people who may be vulnerable
 - Those wishing to influence public services
- Local Public bodies including Wolverhampton Council, CCG, The Police, Colleges and the University.
- Sub regional and regional bodies including the STP, NAVCA and most recently the national VVS emergency response partnership

Why people and organisations choose to work with us

- We employ a model of local growth and development that uses national, regional and local resources to provide quality local services that in turn generate local economic multipliers by providing employment, training and organisational support to local community and voluntary sector bodies.
- We have relationships with priority groups in the community, we can support improved reach and influence.
- We understand the long term value of building social capital.
- We always work in partnership across the VCS, the statutory sector and service users. We are expert in developing and supporting the many different models of partnership, social enterprise and joint venture that are needed.
- We are expert in planning and delivery models based on co-design and co-production. Such methodologies are efficient and effective ways of working across sectors and community groups.
- We provide support that leads to the provision of services that are effective and efficient when compared to other models of provision.

Public Benefit

A thriving "Third Sector" is a key aim of Central Government and is increasingly seen as part of the solution to the health and social care crisis facing the country. This will involve the groups and organisations that make up the sector playing a fuller role in delivering services, including public services. Recasting the relationship between people and government; empowering citizens; extending opportunities and communities coming together to make lives better are key to current political thinking. In recent times the development of Social Prescribing has seen a greater focus on our sector as the enthusiasm and need for "social prescriptions" grows. In this context WVSC:

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

- Supports the development of capacity within the sector to position it to play a fuller part in the delivery of services.
- Delivering Wolverhampton's Social Prescribing Service.
- Enables meaningful participation in the work of partners sub regionally, City-wide and at the neighbourhood level.

Principle 1: Identifiable Benefits

1a) Key benefits are:

- A strong and effective Third Sector in the city.
- A clear voice for citizens, specifically those who use public services to influence and improve those services and the policies that inform them.

1b) Related to our aims:

By supporting voluntary organisations to operate more effectively and by providing a clear voice for citizens, both through groups and as individuals, our benefits are directly related to our aims.

1c) Balanced against harm:

With reference to each benefit outlined above:

- A strong and effective Third Sector improves the quality of provision and choice to those who commission services. There are many services, both public and otherwise, that are delivered better by the Third Sector for a number of reasons including flexibility, reach and cost effectiveness. This is accepted and supported by all political parties at the time of writing.
- A clear voice for citizens helps to ensure that resources are used to best meet the needs of beneficiaries. It is possible that giving a disproportionate voice to one particular interest or point of view could be detrimental and thus WVSC works hard to ensure that a balanced picture, informed by a wide range of voices, is presented through the activities outlined in note 15 to the accounts.

Principle 2: Benefit to the public

2a) Beneficiaries appropriate to the aims:

Beneficiaries are "voluntary organisations" and the community within Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas. The vast majority of our work has been within Wolverhampton with these beneficiaries. Some cross boundary work has taken place within the Black Country and, less so, the West Midlands. In all this work Wolverhampton organisations and communities have benefited and remained our focus. Talent Match, the Preventative Partnership, Girls Allowed, Black Country Together, Social Prescribing and most recently work with the ICS provide a vehicle for supporting voluntary organisations to work together to delivery public services and provides some capacity building to help them do so. Any surpluses generated will be used to the benefit of the local community.

2b) Not restricted by geography or ability to pay:

WVSC's basic services remain free at the point of delivery although with the reduced availability of funding we do make charges for work beyond the core offer when this is feasible. No organisation within the area of benefit was denied a service because of inability to pay and we will continue to make every effort to maintain this approach.

2c) People in poverty must not be excluded:

No charges are made to individuals for WVSC's services and thus people in poverty are not excluded. A flexible approach to delivery including visiting groups and individuals, providing information in written and electronic forms etc., also ensures that no-one is excluded as a result of poverty.

2d) Private benefit must be incidental:

WVSC gives grants to groups to help them achieve their charitable aims – these are not used to provide any personal benefit to group members. WVSC provides for expenses to be paid to volunteers including board members. These expenses are to cover the costs to the individuals of engaging in forums or carrying out specific tasks.

Fundraising

The majority of WVSC income is from Contracts and Grants. In the year under report we were involved in fund raising activities to support the city's response to the pandemic, as described below.

One City Fund: In partnership with City of Wolverhampton Council we embarked on a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds to be distributed to voluntary organisations in the City who were responding to the COVID outbreak. Activities commenced in late 19/20 and continued well into the year under report.

In essence WVSC agreed to act as the accountable body for funds, receiving contributions from businesses and individuals ensuring that they were distributed fairly and in line with the campaigns agreed approach. Some organisation were selected prior to the campaign and named, in addition there was an open call for applications that were then considered by an independent panel. The process was established in line with guidance from the Fundraising regulator. Specifically checks were be carried out on each beneficiary including the provision of banking details and the receipt of documentation signed by senior staff or board members, monitoring will be in carried out that is proportionate to the funds allocated – no organisation will receive more than £5,500 - a report confirming the funds have been used as agreed will be required from each beneficiary. Go Cardless, which collected the majority of donations, made a charge of 0.5% – all other funds went to beneficiaries apart from a small surplus which will be used in line with the funds' advertised aims. WVSC will not benefit financially and contributed £10,000 to the fund – this donation was made from funds received from the CCG to support our work in responding to Covid.

Volunteers

WVSC operates the city's Volunteer Service (Wolverhampton Volunteers). The service places over 1000 new volunteers a year, with some 350 registered organisations offering placements. The service also supports our most vulnerable citizens through BBO (Building Better Opportunities) working more closely with them to help ensure they can use volunteering, training and other routes to move nearer and into employment.

Wolverhampton Volunteers has achieved the quality standard - the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA) - developed by Volunteer England, which focuses on the six core functions of a volunteer centre and of which only one is available in each locality.

The centre is increasingly becoming a hub for volunteering across the whole city, at the outbreak of COVID 19 and the associated restrictions we worked closely with the local mutual aid group which led to a significant increase in the numbers of volunteers registered with us. This in turn led to some expansion of the Volunteer offer to include work with care homes and the City Council. We provide regular support sessions with placement providers to improve their knowledge and practice, and outreach where capacity allows.

In 2016/17 we secured EU funding to work intensively alongside people facing significant barriers to employment and for whom volunteering will be part of the solution. This aspect of the Volunteer service works with 50 people a year. Funding for this work has recently been extended until April 2023.

WVSC does offer opportunities for volunteering, primarily within Social Prescribing through for example befrienders and SUIT where volunteers are central to the delivery of the service. Opportunities elsewhere within the organisation are ad hoc but do regularly offer themselves.

Details of the various work strands that deliver the above are included in Note 15 to the accounts on page 29.

Overall Achievements, Performance and Financial Review

During the year there was an increase in income to £3,565,773 (from £3,318,123). This increase is primarily as a result of the continued growth of the Social Prescribing project. We continue to seek new opportunities to deliver our aims and objectives, and anticipate additional success during 2021/22, particularly in terms of accountable body's roles.

Our largest project in terms of income, Talent Match, is due to end at the end of 21/22, although funding applications are being made to allow us to continue this work. The bulk of this funding is money in-money out although there will be some impact on funds available for "core" and if no replacement funds are secured we will need to reduce our core costs.

This year has seen a modest increase in the unrestricted balance carried forward of £21,550 (£10,766 in 2019/20) – this is a result of a one off historical adjustment of £32,193. The deficit in infrastructure support was agreed by the Board at the beginning of the year and is more than offset by unrestricted earned income.

During the year we worked directly to support many hundreds of groups and organisations; engaged with and influenced a wide range of forums, strategies and initiatives across Wolverhampton and beyond and supported thousands of vulnerable and troubled individuals, both directly and through collaborations with a wide range organisations. As part of this we played an important role in the Covid response as outlined under Note 15 (purpose of funds).

Our work was delivered well against its targets and contracts. Talent Match met its National Lottery Targets and is well regarded by the funder, beneficiaries and partners. We have exited from IMPACT where the clash of ideologies with the Local Accountable Body (LAB) become untenable and at the time of writing are negotiating a final payment for our work.

We continue to lead the way in terms of innovation across the City, championing the development of social prescribing including making successful applications for funds to be utilised by partners in providing prescriptions. We see this as a growing area of work. More specifically we continue to work with partners within and across sectors to address areas such as co-production, whole system approaches to deliver and the on-going levels of inequality in our City.

We have significant support from the VCS, to continue to develop our role in leading consortia and see this as an important part of the future. At the time of writing we are awaiting the outcome of an application to the Community Renewal Fund led by us in partnership with 15 local VCOs with a value in excess of 700K. This is a pilot for the larger Shared Prosperity Fund that we intend to apply to with VCO colleagues.

The emerging Integrated Care System is a significant opportunity for our sector with widespread acknowledgement of its roll within the "whole system" approach. We are leading for the sector in this work which is already beginning to bear fruit in the form of funding allocations to our sector, for example through system wide mental health transformation.

The year has been dominated by the Covid pandemic and this is referred to elsewhere. Our response has increased our standing within the City and beyond and our leadership role relatively secure as a result. As we emerge from the restrictions we will need to be fleet of foot, flexible and innovative if we are to grasp the opportunities for our organisation and our sector within what is a changing landscape.

Reserves Policy

The reserves considered in the Reserves Policy, are the "free reserves". These are the sum of the Unrestricted General Reserves, less Fixed Assets within Unrestricted Activity. These free reserves include designated funds. The rationale for WVSC's reserves is: to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to provide sustainability and continuity within times of income shortfall, and to enable WVSC to respond to key developments in the sector. The Trustees aim to build reserves which would enable WVSC to continue to fulfil its commitment to achievement of outcomes for at least 6 months, and to honour its liabilities at any point in time. For the 2020/21 accounts this policy gave us a figure to work towards of £920,068. Within this amount, funds of £162,013 (2019/20 £145,571) are closure costs, which are represented as part of designated funds, and £758,055 are the running costs for 2021-22 as required by the reserves policy.

As at 31 March 2021, WVSC's unrestricted reserves are £551,455 (£529,905 in March 2020). This includes £162,013 for closure costs (which together with £1,330 safety fund are included as designated funds), and a commitment towards a fixed asset of £2,250 leaving a residue of £387,192 (£383,004 in March 2020) as contribution towards the target of 6 months running costs, as directed by the reserves policy.

Plans for the future

Our Infrastructure and Volunteer Centre contracts are in place until 2021/22. While we do not see any significant challenge in terms of this contract were it to be re-tendered, the current uncertainty with regard to the financial situation of Councils is a concern. We subsidise the contract financially but the role that it supports is key to our aims and objectives

SUIT has a sub contract in place with NACRO until 2022/23 with the option of an extension until 2024/25. Relationships with NACRO are good and we expect the extension option to be operated with the funder and between us and NACRO

Talent Match funding is also in place until 2021/22 – an application to the Community Renewal Fund has been shortlisted and we are awaiting the final result. An application to the shared prosperity fund is in the planning stage.

Social Prescribing Funding is agreed year on year with PCNs which is a challenge. The re-organisation of the CCG and departure of many staff is currently an issue as we work to establish new relationships. The PCNs have agreed to fund the young people link workers until 22/23 and we anticipate the same agreement for adults – part of the funding comes from the CCG and we will need to negotiate its continuation beyond 21/22. Overall we do see this as a growing area of work.

The landscape is still dominated by the impact of COVID-19. The epidemic has highlighted the frailty of the Health and Social Care System and there is a growing acknowledgement that the VCS is an important part of the solution, focusing as it primarily does, on prevention. Herein lies a key focus in the years ahead. More specifically:

- ✓ Social Prescribing is likely to expand, at the time writing we have just recruited 2 SP workers to work with young people by way of a pilot and NHSE anticipate significant growth – we are well placed to benefit.
- ✓ The Black Country Integrated care system is most likely to implement the whole system approach that is required. We sit on the board and employ the worker leading on this work for the VCS. IAs anticipated last year funds for the sector are being made available and the CVS organisations are central to this.
- ✓ We have a very positive emerging relationship with the local hospital trust and a joint application to the national NHS charity is being planned

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

- ✓ There will be opportunities to expand our role in leading consortia and our application, with 15 partners, to the Community renewal fund has been shortlisted - this augers well for a substantive application with our local sector to the Shared Prosperity fund which replaces EU funding.
- ✓ Wolverhampton for Everyone is an important developing movement and we are at its heart – funding though will be required in order to sustain the work and a lottery application, in partnership with a similar movement in Dudley is underway

In summary: Funds for 2021/22 are in place and finances for the year fairly robust. We face a significant challenge for 2022/23 and beyond with less security around key funds than has been the case in recent years, at the same time the changing landscape and “fall out” from Covid presents significant opportunities. During the year ahead the Board will be meeting to review the situation at that time and options for the future.

Auditors

Messrs Muras Baker Jones Limited have signified their willingness to continue in office as auditors and this was agreed in principle at the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Board of Trustees

Steve Clay (Chair)
Janet Clarke Lewis
Pamela Cole-Hudson
James Fox
Anne Marie Harrison
Ann Biddle
Patricia Mary Kemp
Sarah Deeming
Simeon Green (appointed 23 February 2021)
Gurbax Kaur (appointed 11 March 2021)
Edna Masoha (appointed 11 March 2021)

Mike Hastings resigned with effect from 23 February 2021, Rebecca Ann Barnsley resigned with effect from 13 May 2021.

Disclosure of information to the auditors

We, the trustees / directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

By order of the Board of Trustees



Ian T Darch
Secretary
18 November 2021



Steve Clay
Chair
18 November 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise a statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account), a balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 2 the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In planning and designing our audit tests we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Our assessment of these risks includes consideration of the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment and the charity performance along with the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of risks and irregularities. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, Charities Act, UK tax legislation and other laws and regulations identified as risk areas identified from our discussions with management.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

We communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

After consideration of the above risks we then carried out audit procedures including the following:

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of trustees meetings;
- reviewing correspondence with H M Revenue & Customs;
- enquiring of management and reviewing any correspondence with legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that the laws and regulations are from financial transactions the less likely it is that we would be aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Muras Baker Jones Limited
Chartered Accountants
and Statutory Auditor

Regent House
Bath Avenue
Wolverhampton
WV1 4EG

18 November 2021

Muras Baker Jones Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2021
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)**

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds 2021 £ | Restricted Funds 2021 £ | Total Funds 2021 £ | Total Funds 2020 £ |
|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Income from charitable activities | 5 | 38,744 | 3,521,094 | 3,559,838 | 3,311,445 |
| Investment Income | | 5,935 | - | 5,935 | 6,678 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 44,679 | 3,521,094 | 3,565,773 | 3,318,123 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | 6 | 7,931 | 3,325,405 | 3,333,336 | 3,243,094 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 7,931 | 3,325,405 | 3,333,336 | 3,243,094 |
| NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE | 7 | 36,748 | 195,689 | 232,437 | 75,029 |
| Transfers between funds | 15 | (15,198) | 15,198 | - | - |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | | 21,550 | 210,887 | 232,437 | 75,029 |
| Total funds brought forward | | 529,905 | 807,588 | 1,337,493 | 1,262,464 |
| TOTAL FUNDS at 31 March 2019 | | 551,455 | 1,018,475 | 1,569,930 | 1,337,493 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

| | Note | £ | 2021 £ | £ | 2020 £ |
|--|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Fixed Assets: | | | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 8 | | 2,250 | | 3,000 |
| Investments | 9 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Current Assets: | | | | | |
| Debtors | 10 | 392,115 | | 264,977 | |
| Deposit Accounts | | 435,542 | | 429,758 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 862,584 | | 790,175 | |
| | | <u>1,690,241</u> | | <u>1,484,910</u> | |
| Creditors : amounts falling due within one year | 12 | (122,562) | | (150,418) | |
| Net current assets | | | <u>1,567,679</u> | | <u>1,334,492</u> |
| Total net assets | | | <u>1,569,930</u> | | <u>1,337,493</u> |
| Charity Funds: | | | | | |
| General unrestricted fund | | | 388,112 | | 383,004 |
| Designated funds | | | 163,343 | | 146,901 |
| Restricted funds | | | <u>1,018,475</u> | | <u>807,588</u> |
| | | | <u>1,569,930</u> | | <u>1,337,493</u> |

The Directors are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. However, an audit is required in accordance with section s154 of the Charities Act 2011.

Directors' responsibilities:

- 1) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- 2) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of the accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 November 2021.



Steve Clay
Chair of Board of Trustees



Janet Clarke-Lewis
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Company Number: 2288239

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2021

| Note | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the year | 232,437 | 75,029 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | 750 | - |
| Other interest receivable and similar income | (5,935) | (6,678) |
| Changes in: | | |
| Trade and other debtors | (127,138) | 42,848 |
| Trade and other creditors | (27,856) | 32,278 |
| Cash generated from operations: | <u>72,258</u> | <u>143,477</u> |
| Interest received | 5,935 | 6,678 |
| Net cash from / (used in) operating activities | <u>78,193</u> | <u>150,155</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Payment to acquire tangible fixed assets | - | (3,000) |
| Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 78,193 | 147,155 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | <u>1,219,933</u> | <u>1,072,778</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the year end | <u>11</u> <u>1,298,126</u> | <u>1,219,933</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

1 Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

2 Liability of Members

WVSC is a company limited by guarantee. It does not have a share capital and the liability of each member is limited to the guarantee given by that member, which shall not exceed £1. There are no beneficial interests and under the terms of its Memorandum and Articles of Association any surplus can only be applied towards the promotion of WVSC's objectives, and no dividend or other form of distribution can be paid to its members.

3 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. WVSC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Pension costs

Certain employees are members of the West Midlands Pension Fund ("WMPF"). The pension cost charge in the financial statements represents contributions due to this scheme in respect of earnings during the year, which are based on recommendations by the fund actuary.

The disclosures required by FRS 102 have not been included in the financial statements. WVSC is in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme, WMPF, and FRS 102 requires such organisations to identify their share of the pension scheme's assets and liabilities. However, within FRS 102 this is only to be achieved if "sufficient information" is available to do so. WVSC believes that an actuarial valuation would not be a reasonable use of public funds, and the directors therefore have decided not to provide this financial information on the balance sheet in the financial statements. WVSC manages contributions to its pension fund in line with the WMPF valuation recommendations, pension costs for all of the projects are fully budgeted for, and WVSC receives an actuarial valuation on the WMPF scheme on a three yearly basis. Issues around risk management of the pension fund are continually assessed through work with staff at WMPF, and at Board of Trustees' Meetings.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are normally capitalised where the cost exceeds £1,000, and are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset, on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Office equipment | over 5 years |
| Computers | over 4 years |
| Refurbishment on lease | over time remaining on the premises lease agreement |

The accounting for depreciation leads to a discrepancy between some financial statements submitted to funders, and the fund activity shown in the statutory accounts of WVSC. If a project has a funder which requires that a capital purchase is to be presented as a cash item rather than as a capitalised item, as required by Charity Accounting rules, then a discrepancy emerges between the amount claimed from the funder, and the fund accounting in the statutory accounts. Where this is the case, that particular discrepancy is referred to in the Trustees Report.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

Accounting Policies (cont.)

Grants payable

Grants payable to local organisations are recognised in the financial statements when there is a commitment to make a payment.

Income

Revenue grants are received from various funders - see note 5 - in order to finance WVSC's activities and are accounted for in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

Where revenue grants are received which have donor-imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, any income received in advance is deferred.

Where revenue grants are received, which do not have donor imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, the income is accounted for when received.

Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Income from the provision of legal, payroll and other core services are accounted for when earned.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity, where they can be quantified.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT, where it cannot be recovered.

Expenditure on charitable activities consist of costs incurred in the direct delivery of services and the support costs which are allocated to each of these areas of service provision.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise grants and other incoming resources receivable, or generated for the objects of the charity, without further specific purpose, and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

4 Grants payable

| | Number | 2021 £ | Number | 2020 £ |
|---|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Self-Help Groups - Mental Health Empowerment | - | - | 1 | 1,095 |
| Third Sector Consortium Partners/Systems Resilience | 3 | 115,304 | 3 | 115,304 |
| Talent Match Partners | 5 | 1,149,339 | 5 | 1,243,736 |
| One City Fund grants | 37 | 85,090 | - | - |
| Girls Allowed Partners | 5 | 77,800 | 7 | 100,467 |
| Building Connections Partners | 4 | 19,841 | 6 | 22,323 |
| Social Enterprise Wolverhampton Peer Mentoring | - | - | 12 | 3,000 |
| Social Prescribing Partner | 1 | 24,497 | 1 | 24,497 |
| | 55 | 1,471,871 | 35 | 1,510,422 |

5 Income from Charitable Activities

| | Unrestricted 2021 £ | Restricted 2021 £ | Total 2021 £ | Total 2020 £ |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Big Lottery Fund Grants (BLF) | - | 726,997 | 726,997 | 717,481 |
| ESF grants | - | 1,318,864 | 1,318,864 | 1,351,160 |
| BLF/ESF joint funded programme | - | 67,588 | 67,588 | 65,688 |
| BLF/DCMS* joint funded programme | - | 30,391 | 30,391 | 32,391 |
| City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) | - | 177,908 | 177,908 | 230,333 |
| Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) | - | 713,803 | 713,803 | 478,809 |
| Co-op Foundation | - | 9,990 | 9,990 | 6,305 |
| Department of Health | - | 41,184 | 41,184 | 84,884 |
| Comic Relief | - | 100,000 | 100,000 | 45,141 |
| The Barrow Cadbury Trust | - | - | - | 1,200 |
| Police and Crime Commission | - | 114,550 | 114,550 | 114,550 |
| Creative Black Country | - | 6,500 | 6,500 | |
| Donation | - | 79,836 | 79,836 | 962 |
| Non Grant Income | 38,744 | 133,483 | 172,227 | 182,541 |
| | 38,744 | 3,521,094 | 3,559,838 | 3,311,445 |

* Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

6 Breakdown of Costs of Charitable Activity

| | Staff Costs | Other Charitable Costs | Support Costs | Total 2021 | Total 2020 |
|---|------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Core Activities | - | - | 31,152 | 31,152 | 13,616 |
| Infrastructure Support incl Trading | 5,815 | (30,739) | 1,703 | (23,221) | 13,772 |
| | 5,815 | (30,739) | 32,855 | 7,931 | 27,388 |
| Active Citizens Fund | - | - | - | - | 354 |
| Engagement & Partnership/ICS | 25,902 | 3,602 | 4,798 | 34,302 | - |
| Faith Engagement | 10,955 | 752 | 2,000 | 13,707 | 13,428 |
| Girls Allowed | 4,118 | 77,838 | 6,500 | 88,456 | 123,278 |
| Infrastructure Support | 96,907 | 2,181 | 17,109 | 116,197 | 115,134 |
| Life Chances | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mental Health | 816 | - | - | 816 | 17,973 |
| One City Fund | - | 85,095 | - | 85,095 | - |
| Public Health Transformation | - | 481 | - | 481 | - |
| Service User Involvement | 84,265 | 3,174 | 30,309 | 117,748 | 124,434 |
| Social Enterprise Wolverhampton | - | - | - | - | 19,655 |
| Social Prescribing (CCG) | 399,690 | 43,034 | 49,632 | 492,356 | 312,811 |
| Social Prescribing (DoH) | 30,028 | 7,435 | 3,721 | 41,184 | 88,453 |
| Covid-19 response | - | 41,527 | - | 41,527 | - |
| Building Connections | - | 25,545 | - | 25,545 | 24,556 |
| Talent Match - Big Lottery | 375,247 | 50,510 | 110,334 | 536,091 | 645,292 |
| Talent Match - Impact (ESF/YEI) | 58,708 | 1,236,037 | 28,905 | 1,323,650 | 1,352,945 |
| Talent March - PCC | - | 139,232 | - | 139,232 | 84,904 |
| Third Sector Consortium: Systems Resilience | - | 126,954 | - | 126,954 | 122,217 |
| Third Sector Partnership | - | 227 | - | 227 | 783 |
| Volunteer Services Bridges | 55,446 | 2,711 | 7,852 | 66,009 | 67,280 |
| Volunteer Services | 45,651 | 486 | 15,153 | 61,290 | 62,181 |
| Space to Connect | 197 | 4,227 | - | 4,424 | 1,890 |
| Space to Connect 2 | - | 656 | - | 656 | - |
| Wolverhampton for Everyone | 2,279 | 6,499 | - | 8,778 | 36,337 |
| YOW - Orange Wolverhampton | - | - | - | - | 1,324 |
| YOW - Children's Workforce | - | 680 | - | 680 | 477 |
| TOTAL RESTRICTED | 1,190,209 | 1,858,883 | 276,313 | 3,325,405 | 3,215,706 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 1,196,024 | 1,828,144 | 309,168 | 3,333,336 | 3,243,094 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

6a Support Cost Breakdown by activity

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 208,434 | 186,066 |
| Property | 55,023 | 54,601 |
| Office | 35,177 | 31,417 |
| Depreciation | 750 | - |
| Professional fees | 2,284 | 1,958 |
| Support Costs | <u>301,668</u> | <u>274,042</u> |
| Governance costs: | | |
| AGM | - | - |
| Audit fees | 7,500 | 7,320 |
| TOTAL COSTS | <u>309,168</u> | <u>281,362</u> |

Basis of allocation of costs:

Staff costs: These are the staffing costs associated with work undertaken in the specific project areas as listed in note 6. Most staff work wholly in one project area, and their staff costs are allocated to that project. If their time is shared between projects, then the staffing cost is split accordingly. The staffing cost comprises gross salary plus on costs, including pension costs where applicable.

Other charitable costs: These are costs within the projects, incurred in the pursuance of the aims and objectives of each project. These costs are specific only to the project which they are allocated to.

Support Costs: These are costs which are incurred in the running of the organisation. They would include for example, core staff costs, rent, insurance, heat and light, IT support, repairs and maintenance, and any other costs which are associated with core staff executing their tasks, which are required in order to support all the projects and contracts within the organisation.

These costs are calculated on a budget basis, at the beginning of the financial year, and allocated as per numbers of full-time staff members in each project, or in accordance with grant agreement arrangements. Any support costs which are not recovered in the actual year, are seen as an additional core service support cost.

7 Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| This is stated after charging: | | |
| Rentals under operating leases | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Auditors remuneration | 7,500 | 7,320 |
| Depreciation: owned fixed assets | 750 | - |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

| | Refurb on lease | Computers and office equipment | Total |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Cost | | | |
| 31 March 2020 | 34,996 | 5,250 | 40,246 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| 31 March 2021 | <u>34,996</u> | <u>5,250</u> | <u>40,246</u> |
| Depreciation: | | | |
| 31 March 2020 | 34,996 | 2,250 | 37,246 |
| Charge for the year | - | 750 | 750 |
| 31 March 2021 | <u>34,996</u> | <u>3,000</u> | <u>37,996</u> |
| Net book value: | | | |
| 31 March 2020 | - | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 31 March 2021 | - | 2,250 | 2,250 |

9 Fixed Assets Investments

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

People in Partnership (Wolverhampton) Community Interest Company

Nature of the business: The Company was incorporated on 12 July 2011 and has not traded during the year 2020-21. Initially WVSC held 100% of the holding, however the articles were amended and subsequently changes resulted in WVSC only holding 25%. However subsequent gifting of two shares have made it so that WVSC now holds 75% of the active holding.

| Class of share | % Holding | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ordinary | 75 | |
| | 2020 | 2019 |
| Aggregate capital and reserves | 4 | 4 |

Black Country Together C.I.C.

Black Country Together CIC was founded 31 January 2013, by the four Councils for Voluntary Service in the Black Country each with 25% membership, with the aim of increasing levels of funding coming into our sub-region and fostering greater co-operation and collaboration between voluntary organisations and local statutory agencies both within and across borough boundaries.

BCT CIC is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. It is actively trading generating an income of £1,857,223 in the year ended 30 June 2020 which resulted in a small deficit of £1,196 for the year. The balance sheet at 30 June 2020, the most recent set of accounts, showed net assets of £2,755. Ian Darch, WVSC CEO, is a director of BCT CIC.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

10 Debtors

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Debtors | 304,743 | 176,288 |
| Payments in advance | 87,372 | 88,689 |
| | <u>392,115</u> | <u>264,977</u> |

11 Cash and Cash Equivalents

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Funds on deposit at bank | 435,542 | 429,758 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 862,584 | 790,175 |
| | <u>1,298,126</u> | <u>1,219,933</u> |

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income | - | - |
| Other creditors | 104,427 | 103,716 |
| Accruals | 18,135 | 46,702 |
| | <u>122,562</u> | <u>150,418</u> |

13 Analysis of Deferred Income

No deferred income 31 March 2021 (2020 none).

14 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total 2021 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed Assets | 2,251 | - | - | 2,251 |
| Current Assets | 405,313 | 163,343 | 1,121,585 | 1,690,241 |
| Current Liabilities | (19,452) | - | (103,110) | (122,562) |
| | <u>388,112</u> | <u>163,343</u> | <u>1,018,475</u> | <u>1,569,930</u> |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

15 Reserves and Reconciliation of Movement in Funds

| | 31 March 2020 | Transfers | Incoming Resources | Outgoing Resources | 31 March 2021 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted funds: | | | | | |
| General unrestricted funds | 383,004 | (31,640) | 44,679 | 7,931 | 388,112 |
| Designated funds | 146,901 | 16,442 | - | - | 163,343 |
| | 529,905 | (15,198) | 44,679 | 7,931 | 551,455 |
| Restricted funds: | | | | | |
| Engagement & Partnership/ICS | - | - | 38,358 | 34,302 | 4,056 |
| Faith Engagement | 2,647 | - | 13,908 | 13,707 | 2,848 |
| Girls Allowed | 22,612 | - | 100,000 | 88,456 | 34,156 |
| Infrastructure Support | 22,548 | 15,198 | 100,484 | 116,197 | 22,033 |
| Life Chances | 11,868 | - | - | - | 11,868 |
| Mental Health | 67,796 | - | - | 816 | 66,980 |
| One City Fund | - | - | 89,835 | 85,095 | 4,740 |
| Public Health Transformation | 10,324 | - | - | 481 | 9,843 |
| Service User Involvement (SUIT) | 8,702 | - | 133,000 | 117,748 | 23,954 |
| Social Prescribing (CCG) | 79,945 | (16,527) | 514,471 | 492,356 | 85,533 |
| Social Prescribing (DoH) | - | - | 41,184 | 41,184 | - |
| Covid-19 response | - | 16,527 | 25,000 | 41,527 | - |
| Building Connections | 7,885 | - | 30,391 | 25,545 | 12,731 |
| Talent Match - Big Lottery | 471,978 | - | 726,997 | 536,091 | 662,884 |
| Talent Match - Impact (ESF/YEI) | 4,786 | - | 1,318,864 | 1,323,650 | - |
| Talent March - PCC | 29,646 | - | 114,550 | 139,232 | 4,964 |
| Third Sector Consortium:Systems Resilience | 6,778 | - | 125,974 | 126,954 | 5,798 |
| Third Sector Partnership | 239 | - | - | 227 | 12 |
| Volunteer Services Bridges | 355 | - | 67,588 | 66,009 | 1,934 |
| Volunteer Services | 8,545 | (9) | 60,000 | 61,290 | 7,246 |
| Space to Connect | 4,415 | 9 | - | 4,424 | - |
| Space to Connect 2 | - | - | 9,990 | 656 | 9,334 |
| Winter Pressures Fund | 22,000 | - | - | - | 22,000 |
| Wolverhampton for Everyone | 19,975 | - | 4,000 | 8,778 | 15,197 |
| WE - The 'F' Words | - | - | 6,500 | - | 6,500 |
| YOW - Orange Wolves | 881 | - | - | - | 881 |
| YOW - Childen's Workforce | 3,663 | - | - | 680 | 2,983 |
| | 807,588 | 15,198 | 3,521,094 | 3,325,405 | 1,018,475 |
| | 1,337,493 | - | 3,565,773 | 3,333,336 | 1,569,930 |

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

Note: Reserves and Reconciliation of Movements in funds – Transfers between funds:

In 2020-21 there were transfers of funds between unrestricted and restricted funds. Core transferred reserves of £15,198 to Infrastructure Support. This reflects the Board's decision to support the capacity building service with organisational reserves, up to an annually agreed value.

In addition within unrestricted funds there was a transfer from general reserves to the designated funds for operational liabilities of £16,442. This is as a result of increased liabilities included in the closure costs designated reserve.

Purpose of Funds The information provided below is a brief summary on each fund and how the funded activities contribute to WVSC aims and objectives.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General Unrestricted Fund: This is used to fund some core activities that are not fully funded through our infrastructure support contract with CWC – this includes partnership working across the sector and with statutory sector, some capacity building and advocacy within the sector which isn't funded through the WCC grant, payroll, newsletter, website, and general infrastructure support services. All the above are also provided to projects/restricted fund activities within WVSC. It is also held to enable activities to continue for a period of time in the event of sudden loss of funding, in line with the Trustees' reserves policy. Movement on the level of these reserves is dependent on WVSC's ability to recover its core operating costs from support cost charges to projects together with earned income, bank interest and any shortfalls on restricted funds. In the year under report this fund showed a net increase of £5,108, bolstered by the writing off of a one-off adjustment relating to a change in government advice regarding the VAT status of Link from 6 years ago, a pre-cursor to Healthwatch.

Designated Funds: The balance in designated funds is £163,343. This represents £1,330 for improving safety within the organisation for staff and visitors, and £162,013 for operational liabilities/closure costs. The increase of £16,442 transferred from general unrestricted funds is in order to cover increased redundancy liabilities. Please see reference to reserves policy in the TAR.

For the year ended 31 March 2021 earned income totalled £44,679 (£51,402 in 2019/20) – bolstered by the one-off adjustment. The combination of support costs recovered through the agreed charges to projects, earned income and required movements to other funds meant unrestricted reserves including designated funds increased by £21,550 to £551,455. Within that there was a transfer of £16,442 into funds designated for closure costs to reflect increases in lease and redundancy liabilities. Current unrestricted reserves therefore cover closure costs and approximately 3 months continuation costs, compared to the 6 months target set out by the reserves policy.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds represent funding received for specific projects and activities in support of WVSC's overall objectives

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

Engagement & Partnership/ICS: Funded through the newly emerged Integrated Care System this work is overseen by WVSC on behalf of the four Black Country CVS organisations. We employ a worker who delivers this work that commenced in 2020/21. The reserve of £4,056 is an operational saving and will be used in delivery during 2021/22.

Faith Engagement: Funding from City of Wolverhampton Council to develop stronger links with Faith Organisations, focusing on raising awareness of safeguarding. This work initially straddled 2018/19 and 2019/2020 but was extended into 2021/22. During that time we reached out faith organisations across the City and have worked with many of them to improve their practices in areas such as safeguarding and provided information and support to help them in their roles. The outstanding balance of £2,848 (along with a small amount from unrestricted reserves) will be utilised during 2021/22 as the project closes down.

Girls Allowed: This project was funded from the Tampon Tax Fund through a partnership between HM Government and Comic Relief until August 2021 and was extended through additional funds from Comic Relief to the end of December 2021. The project is working to support girls at risk of being drawn into gangs. WVSC is the accountable body with the bulk of the activity and funding being subcontracted to VCS partners. The carried forward balance of £34,156 will be utilised in project delivery until December 2021.

Infrastructure Support: This service provides a wide range of support to local VCOs including in the areas of funding, governance, safeguarding, policies, GDPR, information etc. This also incorporates the former YOW support worker focused on organisations working with Children and Young People and with a significant role in safeguarding within the City, particularly supporting CWC colleagues and the role of the CEO in strategic work with partners, including CWC. During the year we supported many hundreds of organisations and attended dozens of strategic forums across a very wide range of issues. These activities receive a £100K pa contract from City of Wolverhampton Council although this has not covered the full cost of the service for several years. In this year the board agreed to subsidise this work from unrestricted funds to the amount of £15,198. The reserve of £22,033 is held for partnership working with CWC and training in the sector, including on the development of Wolverhampton for Everyone and the compact. There is also a pension liability in this area.

Aside from these liabilities remaining funds will be spent on partnership working, specifically focusing on Wolverhampton for Everyone, an emerging WVSC supported movement in the City.

Life Chances: A grant of £30K was secured in order to develop a business case for a social investment model to deliver intervention to reduce demand on hospital services. The initial work was completed and reported on but unfortunately the business case was not progressed by the funder. The balance relates to funding allocated to the CCG, the work was carried out but the funding not required. In light of this the remaining balance of £11,868 will be used to deliver work aimed at reducing demand on hospital services when, as anticipated, opportunities arise.

Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHE): This project was funded through a contract with CWC for several years but the funding was withdrawn in 2017/18. Some further funding was made available by the CCG for specific pieces of work in the year to March 2020. Reserves currently stand at £66,980. There is a pension liability within this project and some reserves are being used to cover the associated costs moving forward. Remaining funds will be available to support peer led MH groups in the years ahead.

One City Fund: This fund relates to four connected fundraising campaigns carried out in conjunction with the City of Wolverhampton Council as part of the city's response to the pandemic, as described in the "Fundraising" section of the Trustees' Annual Report section of this document. Following

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

distributions of grants on the basis of named organisations and grant applications there are balances totalling £4,780 which will be distributed in line with the stated aims of each campaign round during 2021/22, with the breakdown by campaign as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Round 1 – Severe Financial Hardship | £ 428 |
| Round 2 – Feeding Our City | £ 0 |
| Round 3 – No Place Like Home | £ 500 |
| Round 4 – Stay Connected | £3,812 |

Public Health Transformation: A joint 2 year project with the City Council funded through Public Health over 2014-16 and aimed at developing greater co-ordination of activity across the Health and Social Care Landscape. A lack of engagement at a strategic level caused the project to stall and that has meant that not all funds have been utilised. The grant was provided by Wolverhampton Public Health, a body that no longer exists. In light of this the remaining unspent funds of £9,843 will continue to be made available to support the developing social prescribing service which has similar aims to this fund, this will include purchasing IT equipment for people who are isolated and alone so that, with training, they can increase their use of technology.

Service User Involvement Project (SUIT): Through a sub-contract with NACRO this project works alongside users and ex-users of drug treatment services to support them in influencing the design and delivery of drug treatment services and provides direct support to service users using a model based on abstinence based recovery. During the year, partly as a result of Covid restrictions, a surplus of £15,252 was generated leaving a balance of £23,954 which will be spent in line with the service aims.

Social Prescribing: The project works with “patients” to identify alternative approaches to tackling issues such as low level depression, isolation and frequent GP contact that can better be tackled by diversion to activities within the VCS such as wellbeing sessions, group activities, exercise etc., rather than by medical interventions. During the year the project supported in the region of 1500 customers facing loneliness, isolation and mental ill health. Under the year under report the project was funded through a combination of PCN (Networks of GPs), the CCG and the DoH. An in-year surplus of £5,588 occurred as a result of operational savings of £22,115 which were partly offset by a decision to provide additional funding to the SP Covid Relief fund in order to continue digital support to customers beyond the initial time scale. The remaining surplus of £85,533 will be spent in delivering the service and filling gaps in prescriptions in the years ahead.

Building Connections: Jointly funded by the National Lottery Communities Fund and Central Government this grant was utilised in the year to help tackle loneliness. The funding period was extended to July 2021 and the balance of £12,731 will be spent during that extension. WVSC is the accountable body and the bulk of activities are delivered by VCS organisations. This is another example of WVSC supporting collaborative working through consortia. The work is managed via the Social Prescribing project and helps it to deliver its aims.

Talent Match/NLCF: The project is Black Country wide and following a three year extension from the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) has been operating for seven years. Its key focus is on mentoring those young people who are furthest from the workplace including young offenders, many of whom are referred from prison., providing a range of support tailored to the young person’s needs., WVSC employ the Talent Match core staff team but the bulk of the resources are spent with partners who run Talent Match hubs, host staff and provide other funded interventions through a preferred supplier network. Key to the project is that young people are central to all decision making. We have needed to balance expenditure between NLCF and ESF “match” over the three year extension. We have decided not to continue as part of an ESF (IMPACT) extension as a result of conflicting priorities

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

across the two programmes and therefore EF funding for delivery will come to an end on 30/06/2021. NLCF have allowed us to carry funding forward for use in future years and the year-end balance of £662,884 will therefore be used to in delivering the final nine months of the project, ending 31/03/2022.

Talent Match/ IMPACT: Talent Match is also part of IMPACT, an ESF/YEI funded project delivered in partnership with the four Black Country Local Authorities. Currently funded until June 2021 this project provides the match funding that had been required for the continuation of the core Talent Match Project. It also allows us to work with some non- offenders over the project lifetime.

Talent Match – PCC: During 2019/20 funding was secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner, for one year, allowing us to employ additional mentors across the project and supporting c100 young people. The remaining balance of £4,964 is being used in supporting these young people during the early part of 2021/22.

Third Sector Consortium: Funded by the CCG this work involves a small consortium of three organisations supported by WVSC, which is the accountable body, working together to distributed and support effective messaging about health and social care provision, reduce admissions to A and E and to improve levels of re-ablement among elderly people leaving hospital. Targets in all these areas were met to the funder's satisfaction and funding has been extended for a further year (2021/22). The balance of £5,798 is as a result of a small underspend on monitoring and it is anticipated that all underspends will be spent in project delivery in the years ahead.

Third Sector Partnership: This funding has been used to support the smooth running of the third sector partnership, including funds for administration, room hire and refreshments. The partnership provides a forum for the wider VCS and in the year under report has temporarily morphed in to a range of on-line support sessions or "gatherings". No specific funds have been allocated to this work although it does form part of our contractual agreement for providing infrastructure support. The balance of £12 is the residue from funding previously made available specifically for the TSP and will be used to support ongoing delivery.

Volunteers - BBO Bridges: Part of our offer to Volunteers, this project works with those furthest from the workplace who want to use volunteering, alongside other support, to obtain employment. In the year the project worked intensely with c50 customers moving many of them on into further training and employment. As a result of good delivery we have been offered extensions on two occasions and now have funding confirmed until April 2023.

Payments are made against profile and the resulting balance of £1,934 will be used in the delivery of the service during 2021/22.

Wolverhampton Volunteers: The project forms the basis of our volunteering offer and is outlined in the Trustees Annual Report under "Volunteers". The project works with some 350 organisations, providing volunteers and support. The balance of £7,246 will be used in future delivery.

Space to Connect: This funding was secured by colleagues in the volunteer centre in 2019/20 and has been fully spent. Funds were used to establish the availability and need for community spaces where people, groups and organisations can meet. The small overspend of £9 has been covered by the Volunteer Centre reserve.

Winter Pressures Fund: Allocated via the CCG for use over 2019/20 and 2020/21 the funds are to be used in developing stronger links between acute Mental Health services and our Social Prescribing project, with any unused funds to be used in developing befriending services in the City. The onset of COVID 19 led to a delay in carrying out this work and so the funds of £22,000 will be carried forward to deliver in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

WE Spaces to Connect: Funding from the Co-op to increase opportunities for people to engage with each other. The balance of £9,334 will be spent on this activity as part of Wolverhampton for Everyone during 2021/22.

Wolverhampton for Everyone (WE): A “movement” being championed by WVSC and other partners, with the aim of involving increasing numbers of citizens in a “people powered” city where they have full ownership of “place”. The reserve of £15,197 will be used in 2021/22 to continue the work while we seek more permanent funding.

WE The ‘F’ Words: Funding from Creative Black Country in order to deliver arts based activities through Wolverhampton for Everyone. The balance of £6,500 will be spent in line with the project aims during 2021/22.

Orange Wolverhampton: This is a campaign to raise awareness of violence inflicted on Women and Girls. The balance of £881 relates to unspent funds raised and reported on in 2019/20 and will be utilised in publicising future Orange campaigns.

YOW – Children’s’ workforce: This fund is restricted for use in training the children’s’ workforce in the City. One training course has been delivered this year and the balance of £2,983 will be used in this way in the years ahead.

16 Information regarding the members of the Board of Trustees

The names of persons who are members of the Board are given in the Report of the Board of Trustees.

Remuneration: Under the terms of the Memorandum of Association, neither member of the Board nor any connected person shall receive any remuneration from WVSC. Board members are offered reimbursement for travel expenses. The amounts involved are negligible.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

17 Particulars of Employees

The average monthly headcount was 48 (45 in 2020).

The average number of full time equivalent persons employed by WVSC during the year was:

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------|------|------|
| General activities | 42.6 | 39.5 |

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons was as follows:

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 1,226,378 | 1,101,138 |
| Social security costs | 98,248 | 87,382 |
| Other pension costs | 79,144 | 84,548 |
| Redundancy costs | 688 | - |
| | <u>1,404,458</u> | <u>1,273,068</u> |

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Key management remuneration | 125,406 | 122,082 |

No employees earned benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 during the year.

18 Pensions

Some of the employees of the charity are members of the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities Pension Fund, which is a multi-employer scheme. The Fund is financed by contributions paid by both employees and the charity, and by earnings received on investments. The scheme is a Defined Benefits Scheme. It has been closed to new members.

Contributions to the Scheme from the employees are payable at a variable rate according to graded rates of pensionable pay. The employer contribution rate rose in 2020/21 in response to the Actuarial Valuation for the scheme, from 23.3% to 24.2%, set for the three financial years until March 2023. Also, the charity is required to make additional Past Service Lump Sum contributions towards meeting the shortfall in the scheme, with WVSC share being calculated at the latest Actuarial revaluation (2019) as £77k. The amount payable for 2020/21 – 2022/23 was £11,736, of this £3,773 representing the 2020/21 share is recognised in these accounts.

It is assumed that the Administering Authority will continue to invest a significant proportion of the assets of the Fund in UK and overseas equities, and that these will produce a future investment return that exceeds the current yield available on bonds.

A stakeholder scheme was established in January 2016 and is offered to all employees who are not members of the West Midland Pension Scheme, subject to pension guidance in terms of eligibility.

WOLVERHAMPTON VOLUNTARY SECTOR COUNCIL

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year

19 Taxation

WVSC is not liable to tax on any of its income because of its charitable status.

20 Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 March 2021 WVSC had minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

| | 2021 | | 2020 | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | Land and Buildings | Other | Land and Buildings | Other |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Falling due: | | | | |
| Within one year | 25,000 | 3,549 | 25,000 | 3,510 |
| In one to two years | - | 2,610 | - | 2,996 |
| In two to five years | - | 3,287 | - | 1,216 |
| After 5 years | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>25,000</u> | <u>9,446</u> | <u>25,000</u> | <u>7,722</u> |

A twelve month commitment is disclosed in respect of land and buildings as WVSC has an option to terminate this on giving one year's notice. The landlord can terminate the lease in the event of default by WVSC.

21 Related Party Transactions

Steve Clay is the CEO of YMCA Black Country, and a director of WVSC. WVSC purchased services totalling £5,392 from YMCA as part of Talent Match through ESF compliant procurement arrangements, there was no balance owing between WVSC and YMCA at 31 March 2021.

Pamela Cole-Hudson is the CEO of Gazebo Theatre in Education Company, and is a director of WVSC. Gazebo is a funded partner in the Talent Match Black Country and in 2020-21 was funded £295,972 through this partnership agreement. In addition services totalling £5,800 were purchased from Gazebo as part of Talent Match during the year. Gazebo also received a grant payment of £2,397 through the One City Fund, a fundraising campaign in response to the pandemic run in conjunction with City of Wolverhampton Council. As at 31 March 2021 Gazebo Theatre in Education Company held a net balance of £23,349 of Talent Match hub funds, in line with the partner funding agreements, which will ultimately be repaid to WVSC. In addition WVSC owed Gazebo £2,500 for other services. The net balance therefore is £20,849 of funds held by Gazebo.

Mike Hastings, while not directly involved in commissioning activity, was the Director of Operations at Wolverhampton CCG and a director of WVSC. The CCG provide funding to WVSC for a number of projects. During 2020-21 the CCG provided funding totalling £675,745, of which the CCG owed WVSC £43,804 as at 31 March 2021.

Ian Darch, CEO of WVSC, is a director of Black Country Together CIC, a company limited by guarantee. Ian also sits on the Healthier Futures Partnership Board (the Black Country and West Birmingham Integrated Care System) which awarded funds to BCT CIC, the majority of which was passported to WVSC to employ a member of staff to work across the Black Country. WVSC was due funding of £42,624 as at 31 March 2021 relating to this and to Ian's work as a lead director of BCT CIC.