

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

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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.

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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

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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

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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 SUIIT 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 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. 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.

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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	195,011	272,509
Governance costs:		
AGM	143	-
Audit fees	9,720	8,280
TOTAL COSTS	204,874	280,789

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 Communities	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

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- £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

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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.

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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.

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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.

