

The Vine Centre

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100608

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2015-02-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Vine Centre Ltd 193 Crumlin Road Belfast Bt14 7aa BT14 7AA
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Website	www.vinecentre.org

Activities

Purposes: 4) The Charity's objects ('Objects') shall be undertaken as a practical demonstration of God's love for those living in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast (hereinafter called 'the area of benefit'). The objects of the Centre are specifically to: (a) Relieve poverty, by providing advice and information services which seek to maximize the incomes of individuals in poverty, and alleviate the financial hardship of those in debt; (b) Advance education, by providing training programmes and educational courses which seek to enable people of all ages to increase their knowledge, enhance their educational attainment, and develop employable skills; (c) Promote good health, by providing childcare services and related programmes which improve the physical, emotional and intellectual wellbeing of children and build the capacity of parents to make informed choices about parenting, visitation and support to those experiencing isolation or crisis as a result of mental health problems, and activities which enable local people to make positive choices about their health and lifestyle; (d) Advance the Christian religion by providing spiritual support to those experiencing bereavement, personal crisis or isolation, and by providing activities for those with no existing church connection who wish to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ; (e) Promote good citizenship and community development, by providing local people with opportunities to positively contribute to the wellbeing of others in their community as volunteers, providing advice and information which empowers people to understand and exercise their rights as citizens, and working in partnership with other interested local agencies and individuals to achieve the physical, social and economic regeneration of the area.

What the charity does: The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of religion, The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The advancement of citizenship or community

development,The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information,Community development,Community enterprise,Counselling/support,Cross-border/cross-community,Economic development,Education/training,Playgroup/after schools,Relief of poverty,Religious activities,Urban development,Volunteer development,Welfare/benevolent

Who the charity helps: Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse),Adult training,Carers,Children (5-13 year olds),Ethnic minorities,General public,Men,Mental health,Older people,Parents,Physical disabilities,Preschool (0-5 year olds),Sensory disabilities,Specific areas of deprivation,Tenants,Unemployed/low income,Voluntary and community sector,Volunteers,Women

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,364,614	£1,347,978	£-47,831	31

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Anne Marie Simpson		
Mr Joseph Fittis		
Mr Thomas Dickson		
Mr Timothy Fitzsimons		
Mrs Evelyn Winifred Coleman		
Mrs Gwen Simmons		
Mrs Patricia Kennedy		

The Vine Centre

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100608

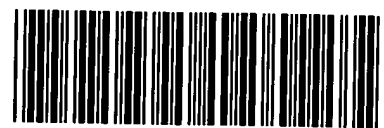
Accounts

Registered number: NI032293
Charity number: NIC100608

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees	Mr Joseph Fittis, Chairman Mr Timothy Fitzsimons Mrs Evelyn Coleman Mr Thomas Dickson Mrs Anne Marie Simpson Mrs Gwen Simmons Mrs Patricia Kennedy
Company registered number	NI032293
Charity registered number	NIC100608
Registered office	193 Crumlin Road Belfast BT14 7DX
Company secretary	Stephen Reid
Centre Manager	Stephen Reid
Independent auditors	UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited Suite 2.06 Custom House Custom House Square Belfast Antrim BT1 3ET
Solicitors	Hewitt & Gilpin Thomas House 14 - 16 James Street South Belfast BT2 7GA

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charitable company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 22 April 1997. This was amended, with the consent of the Charity Commission, by a special resolution of members dated 26 February 2015.

The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under the registration number NIC100608, and accepted by HMRC as a charity under the reference XR13743.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

All of the Trustees are members of the charitable company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of the company being wound up. None of the Trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. The following Trustees held office during the period:

Mr Timothy Fitzsimons
Barbara McIlwrath
Evelyn Coleman
Thomas Dickson
Anne Marie Simpson
Gwen Simmons
Patricia Kennedy
Joseph Fittis, Chairman

The Board of Trustees is comprised of the following:

- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Immanuel Presbyterian Church;
- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Crumlin Road Presbyterian Church;
- 2 representatives nominated by any organisations who are affiliated members of the Centre;
- 2 user representatives nominated by individual members of the Centre.

These nominations are subject to the approval of members at the Annual General Meeting. In the case of affiliated organisations and user representatives, if the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies there shall be an election to determine who amongst the nominees is appointed.

At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the Trustees, being those who have been longest in office since their election, are required to retire and submit themselves for re-nomination and re-election. Vacancies which arise through retirement or removal may be filled by the Trustees at a general meeting. In the event of a casual vacancy, due to death or resignation, the Trustees may appoint a replacement, who will be required to retire and seek re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. In addition, the Trustees may co-opt individuals who have specific knowledge or skills which the board judge to be relevant to the charity's ongoing activities, as long as such co-options do not exceed one third of the elected Trustees.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Board of Trustees is the ultimate controlling party of the charity, and is responsible for all aspects of corporate governance within the charitable company. The Board meets a minimum of 10 times each year to define and agree strategic priorities for the charity, monitor progress and review the resources available to sustain the charitable company. The day to day running of the organisation is carried out by the Centre Manager, Stephen Reid.

d. Financial risk management

The Trustees continue to regularly review any major risks arising from or impacting on the activities of the charitable company. They are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary and consider that the financial systems and controls in place are appropriate to the size of the charity and the nature of its operations.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Introduction

This Trustees Report documents the work of the Centre, which has been continued over the year in question as it was originally conceived 55 years ago, as a practical demonstration of God's love for the people of the area, and a fulfilment of Paul's injunction to serve one another as Christ served us.

In 1970, that service took the form of support to local people who literally found themselves on the frontline of the Troubles, with families having to leave their homes at short notice due to political violence in the area, with all the attendant challenges that presented.

In 2025, it finds its expression in a variety of ways; providing locally accessible, affordable childcare for working families, helping local people on low or fixed incomes maximise their household income and make more effective use of the money they have, helping individuals deal with their debts, supporting people who experience disruption to or additional pressure on their household income, making it easier for local families to access a wide range of early intervention support for both adults and children, helping individuals gain new skills and increase their employability, providing social activities for parents and older people, and supporting those who have experienced addiction achieve recovery and rebuild their lives.

In last year's Trustee Report, we talked about seeing evidence of increasing number of people living more precariously - with greater instability, or potential instability, in their daily lives.

We have seen continuing evidence of this in the past year.

Our catchment area contains a high number of individuals and families living on low or fixed incomes, who have seen their disposable income being eroded by rising costs, leaving them with the challenge of managing their household finances within greater constraints, and the inability to deal with contingencies and emergencies when they arise.

We also continue to see more people with poor mental and physical health, more people whose reliance on substances to get by has resulted in addiction, more people experiencing social isolation and loneliness due to the absence of social networks, and families struggling to get support for a child, or to effectively parent when they work irregular hours.

There is absolutely no doubt that the COVID 19 pandemic has had a significant, lasting impact in people's lives, particularly in terms of their sense of physical and mental wellbeing.

In the United States, people have recently been talking about an 'epidemic of loneliness', with much attention given to research showing that people spend more time on their own or can name fewer people they would categorise as close friends. Whilst the idea of an epidemic may be a little grandiose, there is absolutely no doubt that loneliness and social isolation are real issues, and that the lack of social interaction and social connection is no longer an issue associated, as it often was, with older people living alone, but now extends to children and young people.

In March, the Northern Ireland Executive published a report entitled Individual Wellbeing in Northern Ireland, which measured wellbeing against five metrics – loneliness, self-efficacy, personal wellbeing and locus of control. When it came to loneliness, the percentage of respondents from North Belfast who said that they 'often' or 'always' felt lonely was almost twice the Northern Ireland average.

As an organisation, we remain committed to not only addressing these immediate issues, but also to work in partnership with other organisations and local people to build greater resilience in individuals and create pathways through which they can improve their circumstances, knowledge and skills.

This is consistent with our commitment to making a broad offer to local people, in terms of the programmes, activities and services that we provide, and that this work has continued to have a positive impact in our community.

We hope this Report demonstrates this.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Introduction (continued)

As always, the Board wishes to express its gratitude to four groups of people, without whom the work presented in this Report would not be possible.

Firstly, all those who financially support the work of the Centre, whether that be through grant funding, donations or paying for our childcare services.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank them all for the confidence they have shown in the Centre over the year covered by this Report. We continue to do our best to repay that confidence by demonstrating good stewardship of the resources made available to us, by deploying them to ensure the effective delivery of programmes, activities and services, the maintenance of the Centre as a facility, and the long term sustainability of the Centre as an organisation.

Secondly, the team of staff and volunteers who deliver our programmes, activities and services.

Everything detailed in this report is dependent on people – without the skills, knowledge and commitment of the staff we employ, and the volunteers who freely give their time to help us, none of the things detailed here would happen.

That commitment is reflected in the fact that, during the year, we made a number of long service awards to people who have now been with the Centre for 20 years. At a time when this sector has been experiencing challenges in terms of the recruitment and retention of staff, and given recurrent uncertainty that often accompanies funding, we count ourselves fortunate that we have been able to attract and retain talented people ready to give of their best for local people.

As a Board, we are also deeply grateful to those who freely give of their time and life experience to volunteer with the Centre. Whilst nothing we do is wholly dependent on volunteers for delivery, their involvement in programmes such as our Homework Club lends them character that enhances the experience for those accessing them.

These are the faces that people see when they use the Centre, the people who determine the experience that people have when they use the Centre, and the people whose efforts ensure positive outcomes for those users. In our experience, people value not only what you do, but the way in which they are treated.

Thirdly, the many organisations who we work in partnership with.

Our aim is to make a broad offer to local people in terms of the programmes, activities and services we deliver, but we recognise that no single organisation can meet the range of need that exists in our community.

Collaborative working, either in formal networks or through ongoing referral or signposting, undoubtedly enhances outcomes for local people, whether that be through collective planning and better co-ordinated delivery, or by increasing connectivity to make it easier for people to get the help they need as and when they need it.

As this report illustrates, the Centre is actively involved in a range of local, citywide and regional partnerships, covering activities such as advice, childcare and early intervention support for families, which enhance the outcomes we can achieve for local people.

We hope to further develop and deepen these relationships in the years to come.

Finally, and most importantly, are the people who use the programmes, activities and services we offer.

The Centre would not have existed for over half a century, or have any rationale for its continued existence, if local people did not find relevance and value in what we do.

As this report hopefully illustrates, the Centre as a facility continues to be well used; we estimate that 430 adults and children accessed one of our programmes, activities or services in a typical week during the year.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Introduction (continued)

This hopefully reflects the fact that people feel they are treated well when they come to us, and that they get some tangible benefit from doing so. This is important, because we continue to find that, however much advertising or promotion we do, word of mouth remains the most important driver for people coming to the Centre, and that a positive experience, and a positive outcome, for a relative, friend or neighbour is the best endorsement we can hope for.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Centre was established in 1970 by members of the congregations of local churches, as a practical demonstration of God's love for those living in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

The specific objects of the Centre, as set out in our Articles of Association, are to:

- 1. Relieve poverty**, by providing advice and information services which seek to maximise the incomes of individuals in poverty, and alleviate the financial hardship of those in debt;
- 2. Advance education**, by providing training programmes and educational courses which seek to enable people of all ages to increase their knowledge, enhance their educational attainment, and develop employable skills;
- 3. Promote good health**, by providing childcare services and related programmes which improve the physical, emotional and intellectual wellbeing of children and build the capacity of parents to make informed choices about parenting, visitation and support to those experiencing isolation or crisis as a result of mental health problems, and activities which enable local people to make positive choices about their health and lifestyle;
- 4. Advance the Christian religion**, by providing spiritual support to those experiencing bereavement, personal crisis or isolation, and by providing activities for those with no existing church connection who wish to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- 5. Promote good citizenship and community development**, by providing local people opportunities to positively contribute to the wellbeing of others in their community as volunteers, providing advice and information which empowers people to understand and exercise their rights as citizens, and working in partnership with other interested local agencies and individuals to achieve the physical, social and economic regeneration of the area.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

Advice Services

The Centre has been providing high quality, impartial advice, advocacy and information to local people for five decades.

The core of our provision remains our generalist advice service, which covers issues such as benefit entitlement, consumer rights, and housing and employment issues.

Our service is primarily offered on a face-to-face basis, as we have found personal contact to be the most effective approach for many of our clients. Whilst this remains our default option, following the experience of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, we also offer clients who prefer it the option of a telephone appointment. In addition to the service available from the Centre, we also provided advice through a number of outreach locations during the year, such as Grove Housing Association on the Shore Road, Whitecity Community Centre, Greater Shankill Community Council and Ashton Community Trust's family support services.

During the year, staff dealt with a total of 3,974 enquiries on behalf of 1,280 clients. 91% of the enquiries dealt with by staff were benefit related.

The high level of benefit related work is attributable to the significant concentration of low income households within our catchment area: seven of the ten Super Output Areas in Belfast with the highest percentage of households in relative poverty (where equalised household income is 60% or less of the Northern Ireland average) can be found clustered on either side of the Crumlin Road. Low income households are generally more dependent on benefits for part of their weekly household income, and more likely to have to access the benefits system if their financial circumstances change. Under Welfare Reform, the system has become more complex for clients to navigate, most notably in terms of having to make and maintain their claim to benefit.

In this context, assisting with claims and maximising household income through eligible benefit entitlement remains the key piece of work our advisors undertake on behalf of clients; during the year, we assisted clients in making 472 new claims and maintaining 533 existing claims. In those cases where we know the outcome, staff helped clients secure £3,299,799 in additional benefit entitlement.

67% of benefit related enquiries staff dealt with during the year were around sickness and disability benefits, or benefits for older people; the remaining 33% were Universal Credit (UC) related. As the migration of people from legacy benefits to Universal Credit continues, we are seeing increased numbers of clients with UC enquiries; to address this growing need, we continue to offer a weekly Universal Credit Clinic, where local people can drop in on a Monday and get assistance with making or maintaining their claim. In addition to our staff team, this clinic was supported by a volunteer law student from the University of Ulster.

Clients continue to report very high levels of satisfaction with the service we provide. In our most recent client satisfaction survey:

- 100% of respondents said that they were 'very satisfied' with the level of service we provided;
- 100% said that they found staff 'very helpful' in their dealings with them;
- 100% said that they would 'certainly recommend' our service to someone else who needed advice;
- 77% said that the outcome of their case was 'better than expected'.

In cases where we had helped clients to secure additional income, respondents told us that this money had enabled them to:

- Cope better with day-to-day household costs such as food and utilities;
- Live more independently, particularly in terms of accessing transport to do a range of things such as travelling to employment, shopping and attending medical appointments;
- Reduce the pressures of caring for an ill family member;
- Experience reduced levels of stress and anxiety.

In addition to the work they do directly for clients, advisors also made referrals to other services, including local

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

social supermarket projects and food banks for access to food in emergencies, housing support, support with addiction, education and training opportunities, and the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service for representation at appeals.

Since June 2019, we have been an active partner in the delivery of Debt Action, the regional money and debt advice service, which is funded by the Department of Communities and co-ordinated on a regional level by Advice NI. This has enabled us to employ a Money Advisor, who can provide people from the North Belfast and Shankill areas with advice on potential strategies to address their debt, negotiate with creditors on their behalf, and help them plan and manage their finances more effectively going forward.

We, like many other advice providers involved in delivering the service, have experienced issues around the recruitment and retention of staff; however, during the period the post was occupied, our advisor dealt with 22 clients, and negotiated debts totalling £185,234 on their behalf.

We also continued to offer a Family Finances Service for families with children under 18, funded through the Belfast Outcomes Group's Family Support Programme by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust. This service is accessible through referral by any of the ten Family Support Hubs operating in the Belfast Trust area, and aims to address any debt that the family may have, build the capacity of families to manage their household finances more effectively, and maximise household income by identifying and securing any unclaimed benefit entitlement that the family may have.

During the year, the service dealt with 85 families and helped them negotiate debts totalling £503,136.

The Centre has continued to play an active role in the North Belfast Advice Partnership, which was established in 2003 as a vehicle for independent advice organisations in North Belfast to collaborate in a more strategic way around advice provision, with the aim of maximising the impact of available resources and ensuring that local people have access to comprehensive, high quality advice, information and advocacy across this part of the city. In addition to delivering some of the services the Partnership offers its clients, such as debt advice, we continue to act as lead partner for grant funding received collectively by the Partnership.

This includes the continued delivery of the Partnership's Volunteer Development Programme, which was again funded by the Executive Office's North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme, administered by the Community Relations Council. This programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Association, and this year involved 48 local people undertaking training around welfare rights provided by Advice NI and the Partnership itself. A number of attendees were people working in other areas of the community sector who wanted to gain a basic understanding of the benefits system, so that they could recognise issues which might arise with their own service users and signpost them to appropriate support; building a potential network of community navigators for advice services is an idea that we wish to explore and develop further in future.

This funding also supported the delivery of 20 Money Talks workshops, attended by 139 participants. These workshops were designed to be short, interactive sessions offering people information and tips on how they could use their money effectively, whilst raising awareness of the support available to local people in terms of benefits, money advice and food support across the local community. These workshops have been delivered to a range of groups across North Belfast and the Shankill, including users of The Virtual Larder and Ashton Community Trust's Pantry, Twaddell Women's Group and the Sailorstown Regeneration Group.

During the year we have continued to work with Ardoyne Association to deliver our own social supermarket initiative, The Virtual Larder, funded by Belfast City Council. This provided temporary food support, in the form of supermarket vouchers issued over a six week period, to local people who were experiencing disruption to, or pressure on, their household income for a number of reasons, including being in the Assessment Period for Universal Credit, having lost employment or experienced a reduction in income, or experiencing additional pressures due to their own health or caring responsibilities.

Those being supported were also provided with access to a range of wraparound support, such as benefit checks (and assistance with any claims if eligible entitlement was identified), money management workshops, debt advice, training and employability support, and other community based programmes.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

Users were primarily, but not exclusively, clients of advice services. In total the project supported 215 households, containing 207 adults and 300 children, the majority of whom (98%) lived in the Oldpark, Court and Castle District Electoral Areas which are the primary catchment area for our advice services.

In terms of wraparound support those households accessed a total of 313 service interventions:

- 160 people accessed generalist advice – support included completing an initial benefit entitlement check, identification of new benefit entitlement and completion of any relevant claims, help to maintain existing claims, and referral to specialist support (Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service);
- 51 people accessed financial advice – either a two hour Money Talks workshop, delivered on a group basis, or a one-to-one session addressing their own household finances;
- 82 people accessed community support – this included signposting to a variety of local community programmes, such as a gardening course, and exploring volunteering opportunities in the local area;
- 18 accessed health & wellbeing support – this included a Slow Cooker course and programmes promoting positive mental health;
- 2 people accessed family support – via referral to their local Family Support Hub.

This project continues to draw on the extensive experience that advisors have gained from talking to people about their personal circumstances, particularly their household finances, and encourages advisors to think more holistically about the needs of people presenting and how they might be met.

Childcare

Childcare remains an important component of the Centre's offer to local people, not only in terms of providing an affordable, locally accessible service to local parents, and the positive contribution it makes to the development of the children in our care, but also in terms of the contribution that childcare provision, as a social enterprise, makes to the overall sustainability of the Centre.

We offer childcare through:

- Bulrush Day Nursery, with 39 places for babies and children up to primary school age, which offers, in the words of our most recent inspection report by the Belfast Trust, a 'warm and welcoming' setting for children.
- Vine Afterschools Club, with places for up to 48 primary school aged children each day, which opens on a part time basis during the school year, and on a full time basis during periods of school closure, and offers a wide range of child led, play activity.

Occupancy within our Afterschools Club continues to be impacted by the fact that many parents have continued to work from home since the pandemic and therefore did not need childcare provision, or needed it on a reduced basis, particularly if their children were older. As a consequence, occupancy levels have been much slower to recover than those in the Nursery, which have remained high across the year, with continuing demand for places.

Across the year, we provided our service to 127 local families, with a total of 140 children attending. At the end of March 2025, we had 94 children on the registers for our two settings.

Afterschools staff collected children from 9 local primary schools across North Belfast and the Shankill.

Most the families who used our service during the year are working families, accessing places on a fee-paying basis. We also provide childcare on a session basis to children referred by social work teams through the Belfast Trust's Sponsored Daycare Scheme or Looked After Children Service.

When the Centre began providing childcare as a social economy initiative in 2005, one of our objectives was to create employment opportunities in the area. During the year, our childcare provision has sustained 16.7 FTE posts, in childcare and ancillary roles, with the majority of staff drawn from our catchment area as an organization.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

Family Support Hub

The Centre continues to act as the lead body for the Upper North Belfast Family Support Hub, which has been operational since January 2016.

The Hub is one of 29 across Northern Ireland, and 10 in the Belfast Trust area, established by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. Each Hub is a multi-agency network of statutory, voluntary and community organisations who collaborate to provide a simple voluntary referral mechanism whereby families with children under 18 who need early intervention support can be connected to suitable support, in an effort to reduce the number of families requiring formal social services involvement.

The Upper North Belfast Hub area covers the part of North Belfast bounded the Crumlin Road to the south, and the Antrim Road to the east. It contains a diverse range of communities, including some of the most deprived areas in the city.

During the year, the Hub received a total of 262 service requests, of which 243 (93%) were successfully processed. 97% of service requests were processed to completion within four weeks of receipt.

This was the first year in which we received service requests from all 9 electoral wards covered by the Hub. However, the vast majority of service requests (89%) continue to come from families living in the three Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in our catchment area, which suggests a strong, continuing correlation between the issues presented to the Hub and wider issues of multiple deprivation in those areas.

73% of the service requests we processed resulted in at least one service being provided to families requesting support. In total, 297 adults and children accessed 376 service interventions, provided by 28 organisations. The support accessed by families included home based family support, help with the cost of living, money advice, counselling, art therapy, mentoring for children and young people and support for children with disabilities. 87% of children and adults who engaged in services completed the intervention, and 76% of families who responded reported a positive experience of the services they had accessed.

50% of the services accessed during the year were those specifically requested on the Service Request Form. The fact that half of the services families were connected to were not those originally requested can be evidence of need that the Hub cannot meet, but it also demonstrates the importance of the conversation between the Hub Co-ordinator and a parent after a Request has been made, when a more nuanced assessment of the family's circumstances can be made, and more relevant, or additional, forms of support for the family identified.

Thanks to funding from Belfast City Council's Hardship Fund, during the latter half of the year we were able to provide families who presented with practical needs, and who were engaged in other services, with financial support in the form of supermarket vouchers. In total, by 31 March, we had provided support totalling £9,050 to 40 families, with support continuing until the end of June.

Since its inception, the Hub has been a coalition of the willing, dependent for its success on organisations who bring their knowledge and expertise, and most importantly the services they can offer, to the table to support local families. At the end of the year, 78 organisations and agencies were affiliated to the Hub as core or associate members.

Lifelong Learning

We remain committed to promoting a culture of Lifelong Learning amongst local people, providing opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills, gain qualifications to improve their employability, help their children with their homework, maintain good physical and mental wellbeing, or simply keep their minds active.

During the year 25 people gained a total of 38 qualifications in Literacy, Numeracy and Information & Communication Technology, through City & Guilds Essential Skills classes delivered in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College. After a very successful year last year in terms of retention, completion and exam success,

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

this was a more challenging year, with only 53% of those who initially registered for a class completing and gaining a qualification, compared to 68% the previous year. However, we also saw a higher than usual number gaining more than one qualification as a result of classes, and in a couple of cases participants registered for and completed classes in all three subjects, which demonstrated a significant commitment on their part.

At the end of the year, we had three classes running, with 21 people attending.

Our weekly Healthy Living Group for older women continued to meet during the year, with 30 women registered and regularly attending. With funding from the Public Health Agency, the group took part in a range of activity designed to promote better mental and physical wellbeing, which included reminiscence, craft activities and personal development.

14 children were registered with our Homework Club from primary school aged children, with an average of 14 children attending each week to do their homework in a quiet setting, with access to technology if needed and the assistance of staff and volunteers, including two student volunteers recruited through Queen's University's Student Volunteer Programme.

23 people accessed support through our Work Club during the year, where they received assistance with job search, completing applications, putting together a CV and preparing for job interviews. 3 people gained employment as a result of the support they received – 2 within the retail sector, and 1 within the hospitality sector.

Our Little Sparks Toddler Group also continued to meet every Wednesday between September and March, with 28 families registered and an average attendance of 12 adults and children each week.

Pastoral Support

Our Pastoral Support programme, which began in 2008, has continued to extend the reach of the Centre by engaging those in our local community who are experiencing isolation or crisis. The programme recognises that the needs of people are not only practical, but spiritual and emotional, and that many people in our community do not have someone close who they can share their problems with. Those problems can include depression and other mental health issues, loneliness and social isolation, the impact of bereavement, the breakdown of relationships and domestic violence.

Home visitation remains at the centre of the programme, and over the course of the year our Pastoral Support Worker made 402 visits to a total of 79 people living in the local community.

Our Worker has also continued to work intensively with individuals wanting to free themselves from addictions or compulsive behaviours, through the Persons in Recovery programme. At the core of this is the Recovery Course, a 12 Step programme which returns to the original biblical inspiration that motivated Bill Wilson to establish Alcoholics Anonymous in the 1930's.

The aim of the programme is to help those engaged on the journey to stay clean and make a full recovery from their addiction, through the provision of holistic support. Following completion of the Recovery Course, the Worker will support individuals in getting help from the local Community Addiction Team, in seeking admission to a residential rehabilitation programme, and in accessing other support services that might be relevant to them. Anyone accessing support does so in the knowledge that it will be there, in its various forms, for as long as they need it and that the door will remain open to them at all times, even if they have had a slip or relapse.

In total, 27 people were supported in these various ways through the programme during the year, with 15 new people being supported. 5 of those new people also completed the Recovery Course offered as part of the programme.

Our Grapevine Senior Citizens Lunch Club also continued to meet, with 13 people registered and an average of 10 people attending every week for a meal and a programme of activity including crafts, singing and quizzes.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

In December, 245 adults and children living in the area received hampers at Christmas, containing food, toys and other Christmas gifts, an initiative made possible by the continued support of individuals, church groups, congregations within Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and a donation of toys and children's gifts from Cool FM/Downtown Radio's CASH 4 KIDS APPEAL. We estimate the value of this support at £9,290.

c. Grant-making policies

Trustees make grants to third parties in line with the terms of their letters of offer.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

A review of the activities has been included in 'Activities undertaken to achieve objectives' above.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charitable company that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months expenditure which is £337,000 - £674,000. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The charitable company finished the year with a surplus of £16,636 (2024: deficit £81,237) and reserves of £1,457,843 (2024: £1,441,207). £403,194 (2024: £361,066) of reserves were unrestricted and £1,054,649 (2024: £1,080,141) were restricted. The financial performance during the year has resulted in a financial position which the Trustees believe leaves the charitable company in a sustainable financial position for the year ahead, given funding secured, and expectations of other income that will be generated.

During the year and at the year end all the general funds under the control of the charitable company were unrestricted income funds. Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Restricted funds are accounted for separately. The Trustees confirm that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the charitable company and that the funds are not excessive, given the assets, commitments and size of the organisation.

Members' liability

The Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 25 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Mr Joseph Fittis
Chairman

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Vine Centre Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 Auditors' 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows.

The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. As part of the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercised professional judgement and maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit. We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with Trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector and we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We obtained an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal controls.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used, including managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included but were not limited to agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 Auditors' Report.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Michael Fitch (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited, Statutory Auditors
Suite 2.06
Custom House
Custom House Square
Belfast
Antrim
BT1 3ET

25 September 2025

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	5,976	21,460	27,436	27,881
Charitable activities	5	494,692	808,211	1,302,904	1,167,645
Other income	7	34,275	-	34,275	28,720
Total income		534,943	829,671	1,364,614	1,224,246
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	10	492,815	855,163	1,347,978	1,305,483
Total expenditure		492,815	855,163	1,347,978	1,305,483
Net movement in funds		42,128	(25,492)	16,636	(81,237)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		361,066	1,080,141	1,441,207	1,522,444
Net movement in funds		42,128	(25,492)	16,636	(81,237)
Total funds carried forward		403,194	1,054,649	1,457,843	1,441,207

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 21 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: NI032293


BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	16	971,580	1,009,342
		<u>971,580</u>	<u>1,009,342</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	17	102,821	59,595
Cash at bank and in hand		431,273	398,709
		<u>534,094</u>	<u>458,304</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(47,831)	(26,439)
Net current assets		<u>486,263</u>	<u>431,865</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,457,843</u>	<u>1,441,207</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>1,457,843</u>	<u>1,441,207</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>1,457,843</u></u>	<u><u>1,441,207</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	20	1,054,649	1,080,141
Unrestricted funds	20	403,194	361,066
Total funds		<u><u>1,457,843</u></u>	<u><u>1,441,207</u></u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 25 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr Joseph Fittis
 Chairman

The notes on pages 21 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	33,074	(16,617)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(510)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(510)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from financing activities		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	32,564	(16,617)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	398,709	415,326
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>431,273</u>	<u>398,709</u>

The notes on pages 21 to 37 form part of these financial statements

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. General information

Vine Centre Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and registered in Northern Ireland under company registration number NI032293. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under number NIC100608 and is a registered charity with HMRC under number XR13743.

The charitable company's registered office is situated at 193 Crumlin Road, Belfast, BT14 7AA.

The principal activities of the company is the reliefment of poverty, advancement of religion and education, promotion of good health, citizenship and community development.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Vine Centre Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The charitable company's activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and financial position are set out in the Trustees' Report. The financial position of the charity, along with its policies and processes for maintaining current activity, managing its funding and its financial risk management are also set out in the Trustees' Report.

The charitable company meets its day-to-day working capital requirements through income from charitable activities. The current economic conditions, create some uncertainty over the levels of these that will be available in future periods, although the members are of the opinion that they will continue to provide adequate funds.

The charitable company's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in operating performance, show that the charity will be able to operate within its current facilities.

After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income, including donations, is recognised once the charitable company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Fees receivable, including Nursery and Afterschools fees, charges for services and use of premises are recognised as income in the period in which the service is provided.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charitable company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the charitable company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% straight line

2.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charitable company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.9 Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.11 Pensions

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charitable company to the fund in respect of the year.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charitable company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the charitable company's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, include:

- The estimation of useful economic lives of tangible fixed assets

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future periods affected.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Donations	5,976	21,460	27,436

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	7,431	20,450	27,881

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 6)	-	808,211	808,211
Nursery Fees	332,924	-	332,924
Afterschools Fees	114,965	-	114,965
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	46,803	-	46,803
Total 2025	<u>494,692</u>	<u>808,211</u>	<u>1,302,903</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 6)	-	731,746	731,746
Nursery Fees	295,660	-	295,660
Afterschools Fees	94,158	-	94,158
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	46,080	-	46,080
Total 2024	<u>435,898</u>	<u>731,746</u>	<u>1,167,644</u>

All income from charitable activities are from activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6. Grants received for specific projects

	2025	2024
	£	£
Department for Communities: North Belfast Advice Partnersip	123,358	108,243
Department for Communities: Crumlin Ward Initiative	162,370	153,674
Department for Communities: Secondment costs	-	18,819
Belfast City Council: Generalist Advice	274,239	263,328
Belfast City Council: Welfare Reform Support Project	30,904	7,816
Belfast City Council: Revenue Grant	20,629	20,000
Belfast City Council: Summer Scheme	-	1,500
Belfast City Council: Social Supermarket Funding	49,500	33,710
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Outcomes Group Funding	19,178	17,919
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Family Support Hub	64,945	60,991
Education Authority: Annual Registration Grant	2,400	2,981
Health & Social Care Board: Fair Play Small Grant Scheme	12,789	5,418
Health & Social Care Board: Holiday Grant Scheme	-	3,343
Health & Social Care Board: Minor Refurbishment Grant	-	1,950
Advice NI/Department for Communities: Debt Action	16,593	13,374
Advice NI/Department for Communities: Debt Modernisation Grant	4,893	-
Irish Temperance League Trust: Core Grant	3,000	3,000
Public Health Agency: Making Life Better Through Short Term Funding	3,200	2,710
Newington Housing Association: Training/Money Management Materials	8,057	-
Community Relations Council: Strategic Good Relations Programme	12,156	11,970
Dankse Bank: Annual Christmas Appeal	-	1,000
	808,211	731,746

7. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted	Total
	funds	funds
	2025	2025
	£	£
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	10,846	10,846
ATM income	12,000	12,000
Rental income	11,429	11,429
Total 2025	34,275	34,275

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. Other incoming resources (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	10,894	10,894
ATM income	6,000	6,000
Rental income	11,826	11,826
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total 2024	28,720	28,720
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

8. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Organisations 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Grants to third parties (note 9)	370,852	370,852
	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Grants to Organisations 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants to third parties (note 9)	354,077	354,077
	<hr/>	<hr/>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. Grants to third parties

	2025	2024
	£	£
Ardoyne Association	39,344	41,325
Ballysillan Community Forum	59,896	59,918
Advice Space Belfast	75,045	72,133
Ligoneil Improvement Association	87,447	78,781
Lower Oldpark Community Association	76,492	68,140
Tar Isteach	32,628	33,780
	370,852	354,077

10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	492,815	855,163	1,347,978

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	492,063	813,420	1,305,483

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Grant funding of activities 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	704,501	370,852	272,625	1,347,978
	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Grant funding of activities 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	683,639	354,077	267,767	1,305,483

12. Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Auditor's remuneration	8,040	7,800
Depreciation	38,273	39,100
Staff pension costs	10,999	11,540
	57,312	58,440

13. Auditors' remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the charitable company's auditor for the audit of the charitable company's annual accounts	4,740	4,600
Fees payable to the charitable company's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	3,300	3,200

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14. Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	605,551	598,248
Social security costs	36,486	37,416
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	10,999	11,540
	653,036	647,204

The average number of persons employed by the charitable company during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
	34	33

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

15. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2024	1,748,225	393,102	2,141,327
Additions	-	510	510
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,748,225</u>	<u>393,612</u>	<u>2,141,837</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	755,421	376,563	1,131,984
Charge for the year	34,965	3,308	38,273
At 31 March 2025	<u>790,386</u>	<u>379,871</u>	<u>1,170,257</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	<u>957,839</u>	<u>13,741</u>	<u>971,580</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>992,804</u>	<u>16,538</u>	<u>1,009,342</u>

17. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	10,462	20,432
Prepayments and accrued income	26,563	27,984
Grants receivable	65,796	11,179
	<u>102,821</u>	<u>59,595</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank overdrafts	24,958	7,025
Trade creditors	12,601	8,424
Other taxation and social security	770	807
Other creditors	2,043	2,925
Accruals and deferred income	7,459	7,258
	<u>47,831</u>	<u>26,439</u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	7,260	7,269
Resources deferred during the year	7,459	7,260
Amounts released from previous periods	(7,260)	(7,269)
	<u>7,459</u>	<u>7,260</u>

19. Financial instruments

	2025 £	2024 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	<u>431,273</u>	<u>398,709</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and in hand.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	361,066	534,943	(492,815)	403,194
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,080,141	829,671	(855,163)	1,054,649
Total of funds	1,441,207	1,364,614	(1,347,978)	1,457,843

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	381,080	472,049	(492,063)	361,066
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,141,365	752,196	(813,420)	1,080,141
Total of funds	1,522,445	1,224,245	(1,305,483)	1,441,207

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
General funds	361,066	534,943	(492,815)	403,194
Restricted funds	1,080,141	829,671	(855,163)	1,054,649
	<u>1,441,207</u>	<u>1,364,614</u>	<u>(1,347,978)</u>	<u>1,457,843</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General funds	381,080	472,049	(492,063)	361,066
Restricted funds	1,141,365	752,196	(813,420)	1,080,141
	<u>1,522,445</u>	<u>1,224,245</u>	<u>(1,305,483)</u>	<u>1,441,207</u>

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	58,023	913,557	971,580
Current assets	364,255	169,840	534,095
Creditors due within one year	(19,083)	(28,748)	(47,831)
Difference	(1)	-	1
Total	<u>403,194</u>	<u>1,054,649</u>	<u>1,457,843</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

22. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	61,078	948,264	1,009,342
Current assets	314,414	143,890	458,304
Creditors due within one year	(14,426)	(12,013)	(26,439)
Total	<u><u>361,066</u></u>	<u><u>1,080,141</u></u>	<u><u>1,441,207</u></u>

23. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<u>16,636</u>	<u>(81,237)</u>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	38,273	39,100
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(43,226)	37,829
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	21,391	(12,309)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u><u>33,074</u></u>	<u><u>(16,617)</u></u>

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand	<u>431,273</u>	<u>398,709</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>431,273</u></u>	<u><u>398,709</u></u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	398,709	32,564	431,273
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	(7,025)	(17,933)	(24,958)
	<u>391,684</u>	<u>14,631</u>	<u>406,315</u>

26. Pension commitments

The charitable company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charitable company to the fund and amounted to £10,999 (2024: £11,540). At the year end, the amount outstanding to the fund was £Nil (2024: £Nil).

27. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2025 the charitable company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	209	502
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	209
	<u>209</u>	<u>711</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	502	502
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

28. Related party transactions

During the year, there were no related party transactions.

29. Controlling party

The charitable company is controlled by the Board of Trustees.

30. PAASE disclosure

In common with many other businesses of this size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

31. Post balance sheet events

The Trustees have assessed events occurring after the reporting period and concluded that there are no adjusting or non-adjusting events requiring disclosure in the financial statements.

The Vine Centre

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100608

Accounts

Registered number: NI032293
Charity number: NIC100608

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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VINE CENTRE LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Trustees Mr Joseph Fittis, Chairman
Mr Timothy Fitzsimons
Mrs Barbara McIlwrath (resigned 26 October 2023)
Mrs Evelyn Coleman
Mr Thomas Dickson
Mrs Anne Marie Simpson
Mrs Gwen Simmons
Mrs Patricia Kennedy

**Company registered
number** NI032293

**Charity registered
number** NIC100608

Registered office 193 Crumlin Road
Belfast
BT14 7DX

Company secretary Stephen Reid

Centre Manager Stephen Reid

Independent auditors UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited
Suite 2.06
Custom House
Custom House Square
Belfast
Antrim
BT1 3ET

Solicitors Hewitt & Gilpin
Thomas House
14 - 16 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 7GA

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the company for the 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 22 April 1997. This was amended, with the consent of the Charity Commission, by a special resolution of members dated 26 February 2015.

The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under the registration number NIC100608, and accepted by HMRC as a charity under the reference XR13743.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

All of the Trustees are members of the Company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of the company being wound up. None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. The following Trustees held office during the period:

Mr Timothy Fitzsimons
Barbara McIlwrath
Evelyn Coleman
Thomas Dickson
Anne Marie Simpson
Gwen Simmons
Patricia Kennedy
Joseph Fittis, Chairman

The Board of Trustees is comprised of the following:

- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Immanuel Presbyterian Church;
- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Crumlin Road Presbyterian Church;
- 2 representatives nominated by any organisations who are affiliated members of the Centre;
- 2 user representatives nominated by individual members of the Centre.

These nominations are subject to the approval of members at the Annual General Meeting. In the case of affiliated organisations and user representatives, if the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies there shall be an election to determine who amongst the nominees is appointed.

At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the Trustees, being those who have been longest in office since their election, are required to retire and submit themselves for re-nomination and re-election. Vacancies which arise through retirement or removal may be filled by the Trustees at a general meeting. In the event of a casual vacancy, due to death or resignation, the Trustees may appoint a replacement, who will be required to retire and seek re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. In addition, the Trustees may co-opt individuals who have specific knowledge or skills which the board judge to be relevant to the charity's ongoing activities, as long as such co-options do not exceed one third of the elected Trustees.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Board of Trustees is the ultimate controlling party of the charity, and is responsible for all aspects of corporate governance within the company. The Board meets a minimum of 10 times each year to define and agree strategic priorities for the charity, monitor progress and review the resources available to sustain the company. The day to day running of the charity is carried out by the Centre Manager, Stephen Reid.

d. Financial risk management

The Trustees continue to regularly review any major risks arising from or impacting on the activities of the charity. They are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary and consider that the financial systems and controls in place are appropriate to the size of the charity and the nature of its operations.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Centre was established in 1970 by members of the congregations of local churches, as a practical demonstration of God's love for those living in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

The specific objects of the Centre, as set out in our Articles of Association, are to:

- 1. Relieve poverty**, by providing advice and information services which seek to maximise the incomes of individuals in poverty, and alleviate the financial hardship of those in debt;
- 2. Advance education**, by providing training programmes and educational courses which seek to enable people of all ages to increase their knowledge, enhance their educational attainment, and develop employable skills;
- 3. Promote good health**, by providing childcare services and related programmes which improve the physical, emotional and intellectual wellbeing of children and build the capacity of parents to make informed choices about parenting, visitation and support to those experiencing isolation or crisis as a result of mental health problems, and activities which enable local people to make positive choices about their health and lifestyle;
- 4. Advance the Christian religion**, by providing spiritual support to those experiencing bereavement, personal crisis or isolation, and by providing activities for those with no existing church connection who wish to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- 5. Promote good citizenship and community development**, by providing local people opportunities to positively contribute to the wellbeing of others in their community as volunteers, providing advice and information which empowers people to understand and exercise their rights as citizens, and working in partnership with other interested local agencies and individuals to achieve the physical, social and economic regeneration of the area.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

Advice Services

The Centre has been providing high quality, impartial advice, advocacy and information to local people for five decades.

The core of our provision remains our generalist advice service, which covers issues such as benefit entitlement, consumer rights, housing and employment issues.

Our service is primarily offered on a face-to-face basis, as we have found personal contact to be the most effective approach for many of our clients. However, following the experience of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, we now offer clients who prefer it the option of a telephone appointment. In addition to the service available from the Centre, we also provided advice through a number of outreach locations during the year, primarily Grove Housing Association on the Shore Road, Duncairn and Whitecity Community Centres, and more recently an outreach with Ashton Community Trust's family support services.

During the year, staff dealt with a total of 1,690 enquiries on behalf of 750 clients. 93% of the enquiries dealt with by staff were benefit related.

The high level of benefit related work is attributable to the significant concentration of low income households within our catchment area: seven of the ten Super Output Areas in Belfast with the highest percentage of households in relative poverty (where equalised household income is 60% or less of the Northern Ireland average) can be found clustered on either side of the Crumlin Road. Low income households are generally more dependent on benefits for part of their weekly household income, and more likely to have to access the benefits system if their financial circumstances change. Under Welfare Reform, the system has become more complex for clients to navigate, most notably in terms of having to make and maintain their claim to benefit.

In this context, assisting with claims and maximising household income through eligible benefit entitlement remains the key piece of work our advisors undertake on behalf of clients; during the year, we assisted clients in making 535 new claims and maintaining 448 existing claims. In those cases where we know the outcome, staff helped clients secure £3,723,640 in additional benefit entitlement.

80% of benefit related enquiries staff dealt with during the year were around sickness and disability benefits, or benefits for older people; the remaining 20% were Universal Credit (UC) related. During the year we saw an increasing number of clients with UC claims, and we anticipate that this will become a significantly larger proportion of our work as the final phase of migration of claimants on legacy benefits – such as tax credits and income support – to UC got underway in early 2024.

To address this growing need, we have launched a weekly UC Clinic, where local people could drop in on a Monday and get assistance with making or maintaining their claim. In addition to our staff team, this clinic was supported by a volunteer law student from the University of Ulster.

Clients continue to report very high levels of satisfaction with the service we provide. In our most recent client satisfaction survey:

- 96% of respondents said that they were 'very satisfied' with the level of service we provided;
- 100% said that they found staff 'very helpful' in their dealings with them;
- 100% said that they would 'certainly recommend' our service to someone else who needed advice;
- 88% said that the outcome of their case was 'better than expected'.

Respondents also told us that the additional income we secured for them enabled them to:

- Cope better with day-to-day household costs such as food and utilities;
- Support them to remain in employment;
- Live more independently, particularly in terms of accessing transport to do a range of things from shopping to attending medical appointments;
- Experience reduced levels of stress and anxiety.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

In addition to the work they do directly for clients, advisors also made referrals to other services, including local food banks for access to food in emergencies, housing support, support with addiction, education and training opportunities, and the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service for representation at appeals.

Since June 2019, we have been an active partner in the delivery of Debt Action, the regional money and debt advice service, which is funded by the Department of Communities and co-ordinated on a regional level by Advice NI. This has enabled us to employ a Money Advisor, who can provide people from the North Belfast and Shankill areas with advice on potential strategies to address their debt, negotiate with creditors on their behalf, and help them plan and manage their finances more effectively going forward.

In the period prior to her maternity leave, our advisor dealt with 26 clients, and negotiated 84 debts totalling £227,875 on their behalf. The principal sources of debt were credit cards, personal loans and rent arrears, which accounted for 45% of the debts, and 71% of the value of total debt, negotiated.

We also continue to offer a Family Finances Service for families with children under 18, funded through the Belfast Outcomes Group by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust. This service is accessible through referral by any of the ten Family Support Hubs operating in the Belfast Trust area, and aims to address any debt that the family may have, build the capacity of families to manage their household finances more effectively, and maximise household income by identifying and securing any unclaimed benefit entitlement that the family may have.

During the year, the service dealt with 73 families and helped them negotiate debts totalling £513,447.

In total, during the year, we delivered 17 workshops to a total of 135 participants, in partnership with a wide variety of groups across North Belfast and the Shankill. Feedback from these workshops has been extremely positive, not only because of the relevance of the issues covered, but also because of the informality of the delivery, which put people at their ease, and the provision of practical information that anyone managing a household could readily use in their day-to-day lives. 100% of participants said that the workshops increased their knowledge and skills, whilst 99% said that they would change their money behaviours as a result.

The Centre has continued to play an active role in the North Belfast Advice Partnership (Partnership), which was established in 2003 as a vehicle for independent advice organisations in North Belfast to collaborate in a more strategic way around advice provision, with the aim of maximising the impact of available resources and ensuring that local people have access to comprehensive, high quality advice, information and advocacy across this part of the city.

In addition to delivering some of the services the Partnership offers its clients, we continue to act as lead partner for grant funding received collectively by the Partnership.

This includes the continued delivery of the Partnership's Volunteer Development Programme, which was again funded by the Executive Office's North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme, administered by the Community Relations Council. This programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Association as part of the Connected Futures programme, and involved 34 potential or current volunteers, and existing staff, undertaking training which included internal training to improve case recording, refresher training on housing issues, delivered by Housing Rights, and understanding issues around migrants and asylum seekers, delivered by the Law Centre.

Through this funding, we also delivered a series of 19 Money Talks workshops, attended by 176 participants. These workshops were designed to be short, interactive sessions offering people information and tips on how they could use their money effectively, whilst raising awareness of the support available to local people in terms of benefits, money advice and food support across the local community. We also provided an overview of the benefits system to social work teams based in North and West Belfast, and staff from the Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

Towards the end of the year, in partnership with Ardoyne Association, we launched a social supermarket initiative, The Virtual Larder, funded by Belfast City Council. This provided temporary food support, in the form of vouchers, to local people who were experiencing disruption to, or pressure on, their household income for a number of reasons, including being in the Assessment Period for Universal Credit, having lost employment or experienced a reduction in income, or experiencing additional pressures due to carrying responsibilities.

Those being supported were also provided with access to a range of wraparound support, such as benefit checks (and assistance with any claims if eligible entitlement was identified), money management workshops, money advice for debt issues, training and employability support, and other community based programmes.

Users were primarily, but not exclusively, clients of advice services. In total the project supported 135 households, the majority of which were in the Oldpark District Electoral Area. The top four reasons for referral were as follows:

- 29% had commenced the Universal Credit process, and still within the assessment period;
- 23% were in a crisis situation, due to the impact of illness, caring responsibilities or bereavement;
- 18% were impacted by mental health, addictions, or having an adult in the household who would be considered 'at risk';
- 10% had recently lost employment, were absent from work due to illness, or had recently seen their working hours reduced.

In terms of wraparound support provided to households being supported:

- 122 people accessed generalist advice – support included completing an initial benefit entitlement check, identification of new benefit entitlement and completion of any relevant claims, help to maintain existing claims, and referral to specialist support (Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service);
- 55 people accessed financial advice – either a two hour Money Talks workshop, or a one-to-one session addressing their own specific finances;
- 19 people accessed community support – this included signposting to local Men's Shed projects, and exploring volunteering opportunities in the local area;
- 10 accessed health & wellbeing support – this included a Slow Cooker course and programmes promoting positive mental health;
- 6 people accessed training and employability support – this included support from the Vine Centre's Work Club, and first aid training offered by Ardoyne Association.

Whilst we have delivered other food related initiatives in the past, these had largely been stand alone, one off initiatives delivered within a specific timeframe. This project was an attempt to integrate an initiative into our day-to-day advice provision, where temporary food support will be one ongoing aspect of the support we can offer local people. It drew on the extensive experience advisors have in talking to people about their personal circumstances, particularly in assessing their household finances, and encouraged them to more holistically about the needs of the people they were engaging and how they might be met. People present with an immediate need (a claim to be completed to secure income) which is often accompanied by a story (how they got to this situation). This project gave us a basis to begin developing what others have termed a 'what matters?' conversation with people which will hopefully to build this more holistic approach into our services going forward.

Childcare

Childcare remains an important component of the Centre's offer to local people, not only in terms of providing an affordable, locally accessible service to local parents, and the positive contribution it makes to the development of the children in our care, but also in terms of the contribution that childcare provision, as a social enterprise, makes to the overall sustainability of the Centre.

We offer childcare through:

- Bulrush Day Nursery, with 39 places for babies and children up to primary school age, which offers, in the words of our most recent inspection report by the Belfast Trust, a 'warm and welcoming' setting for children.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

- Vine Afterschools Club, with places for up to 48 primary school aged children each day, which opens on a part time basis during the school year, and on a full time basis during periods of school closure, and offers a wide range of child led, play activity.

Occupancy within our Afterschools Club continues to be impacted by the fact that many parents have continued to work from home since the pandemic and therefore did not need childcare provision, or needed it on a reduced basis, particularly if their children were older. As a consequence, occupancy levels have been much slower to recover than those in the Nursery, which have remained high across the year, with continuing demand for places.

Across the year, we provided our service to 116 local families, with a total of 110 children attending. At the end of March 2024, we had 94 children on the registers for our two settings.

In terms of Afterschools, staff collected children from 9 local primary schools across North Belfast and the Shankill.

Most of the families who used our service during the year are working families, accessing places on a fee-paying basis. We also provide childcare on a sessional basis to children referred by social work teams through the Belfast Trust's Sponsored Daycare Scheme or Looked After Children Service.

When the Centre began providing childcare as a social economy initiative in 2005, one of our objectives was to create employment opportunities in the area. During the year, our childcare provision has sustained 16.7 FTE posts, in childcare and ancillary roles, with the majority of staff drawn from our catchment area as an organisation.

Family Support Hub

The Centre continues to act as the lead body for the Upper North Belfast Family Support Hub, which has been operational since January 2016.

The Hub is one of 29 across Northern Ireland, and 10 in the Belfast Trust area, established by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. Each Hub is a multi-agency network of statutory, voluntary and community organisations who collaborate to provide a simple voluntary referral mechanism whereby families with children under 18 who need early intervention support can be connected to suitable support, in an effort to reduce the number of families requiring formal social services involvement.

The Upper North Belfast Hub area covers the part of North Belfast bounded the Crumlin Road to the south, and the Antrim Road to the east. It contains a diverse range of communities, including some of the most deprived areas in the city.

During the year, the Hub received a total of 395 service requests, of which 328 (83%) were processed. 82% of service requests were processed to completion within four weeks of receipt.

Requests for support came from 8 of the 9 electoral wards covered by the Hub. However, 87% of the requests received came from families living in the three Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in our catchment area, which suggests a strong, continuing correlation between the issues presented to the Hub and wider issues of multiple deprivation in those areas.

The three most common forms of support initially sought by families were for emotional and behavioural difficulty support for children, practical support (help with food and fuel costs, or financial emergencies) and support with parenting or access to parenting programmes.

73% of the service requests we processed resulted in at least one service being provided to families requesting support. In total, 347 adults and children accessed 365 service interventions, provided by 34 organisations. The support accessed by families included home based family support, help with the cost of living, money advice, counselling, art therapy, mentoring for children and young people and support for children with disabilities.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

44% of the services accessed during the year were those specifically requested on the Service Request Form. The fact that a majority of the services families were connected to were not those originally requested can be evidence of need that the Hub cannot meet, but it also demonstrates the importance of the conversation between the Hub Co-ordinator and a parent after a Request has been made, when a more nuanced assessment of the family's circumstances can be made, and more relevant, or additional, forms of support for the family identified.

72% of families who responded reported a positive experience of the services they had accessed.

The Hub continues to be a coalition of the willing, dependent for its success on organisations who bring their knowledge and expertise, and most importantly the services they can offer, to the table to support local families. At the end of the year, 77 organisations and agencies were affiliated to the Hub as core or associate members.

Lifelong Learning

We remain committed to promoting a culture of Lifelong Learning amongst local people, providing opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills, gain qualifications to improve their employability, help their children with their homework, maintain good physical and mental wellbeing, or simply keep their minds active.

During the year 28 people gained Essential Skills qualifications in Literacy, Numeracy and Information & Communication Technology, through classes delivered in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College. After a very challenging year for our classes the year before, this year was much more successful, with 81% of those registered completing classes and 64% of those completing gaining a qualification. This might be explained by the fact that, whilst our classes are primarily about education rather than employability, we have seen an increase in the number of working people enrolling where their motivation is to upskill for career advancement – for example, we have had a number of employees from the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust who wanted to improve their career prospects within the Trust.

At the end of the year, we had three classes running, with 21 people attending.

Our weekly Healthy Living Group for older women continued to meet during the year, with 25 registered and an average of 22 attending every week. With funding from the Public Health Agency, the group took part in a range of activity designed to promote better personal wellbeing. This included a programme of health & wellbeing sessions delivered by Discover You NI, which covered topics such as understanding stress, the importance of personal communication, assertiveness building, mindfulness and gut health. The group also took part in crafts sessions, communal singing and an expressive arts programme. The importance of connecting people was a recurrent theme of these activities, and feedback from those taking part was that the opportunity to learn and do new things as a group was very good for their self-esteem.

26 children were registered with our Homework Club from primary school aged children, with an average of 17 children attending each week to do their homework in a quiet setting, with access to technology if needed and the assistance of staff and volunteers, including two student volunteers recruited through Queen's University's Student Volunteer Programme.

30 people accessed support through our Work Club during the year, where they received assistance with job search, completing applications, putting together a CV and preparing for job interviews. 2 people gained employment as a result of the support they received, and 9 were referred to further employability support in the local community.

Our Little Sparks Toddler Group also continued to meet every Wednesday between September and March, with 34 families registered and an average attendance of 22 adults and children each week.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

Pastoral Support

Our Pastoral Support programme, which began in 2008, has continued to extend the reach of the Centre by engaging those in our local community who are experiencing isolation or crisis. The programme recognises that the needs of people are not only practical, but spiritual and emotional, and that many people in our community do not have someone close who they can share their problems with. Those problems can include depression and other mental health issues, loneliness and social isolation, the impact of bereavement, the breakdown of relationships and domestic violence.

Home visitation remains at the centre of the programme, and over the course of the year our Pastoral Support Worker made 371 visits to a total of 96 people living in the local community.

The Worker has also continued to work intensively with individuals wanting to free themselves from addictions or compulsive behaviours, through the Persons In Recovery programme. At the core of this is the Recovery Course, a 12-step programme which returns to the original biblical inspiration that motivated Bill Wilson to establish Alcoholics Anonymous in the 1930's.

The aim of the programme is to help those engaged on the journey to stay clean and make a full recovery from their addiction, through the provision of holistic support. Following completion of the Recovery Course, the Worker will support individuals in getting help from the local Community Addiction Team, in seeking admission to a residential rehabilitation programme, and in accessing other support services that might be relevant to them. Anyone accessing support does so in the knowledge that it will be there, in its various forms, for as long as they need it and that the door will remain open to them at all times, even if they have had a slip or relapse. In total, 27 people were supported in these various ways through the programme during the year, with 15 new people being supported. 5 of those new people also completed the Recovery Course offered as part of the programme.

Our Grapevine Senior Citizens Lunch Club also continued to meet, with 13 people registered and an average of 10 people attending every week for a meal and a programme of activity including crafts, singing and quizzes.

In December, 257 adults and children living in the area received hampers at Christmas, containing food, toys and other Christmas gifts, an initiative made possible by the continued support of individuals, church groups, congregations within Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Danske Bank's Employee Charitable Group and a donation of toys and children's gifts from Cool FM/Downtown Radio's CASH 4 KIDS APPEAL. We estimate the value of this support at £12,270.

c. Grant-making policies

Trustees make grants to third parties in line with the terms of their letters of offer.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

A review of the activities has been included in 'Activities undertaken to achieve objectives' above.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The charity finished the year with a deficit of £81,238 (2023: £596) and reserves of £1,441,205 (2023: £1,522,443). £361,064 (2023: £381,078) of reserves were unrestricted and £1,080,141 (2023: £1,141,365) were restricted. The financial performance during the year has resulted in a financial position which the Trustees believe leaves the Centre in a sustainable financial position for the year ahead, given funding secured, and expectations of other income that will be generated.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. The Board consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

During the year and at the year end all the general funds under the control of the charity were unrestricted income funds. Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Restricted funds are accounted for separately. The Board confirm that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the charity and that the funds are not excessive, given the assets, commitments and size of the charity.

Members' liability

The Members of the company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 26 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mr Joseph Fittis
Chairman

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Vine Centre Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 Auditors' 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows.

The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. As part of the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercised professional judgement and maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit. We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with Trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector and we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We obtained an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used, including managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included but were not limited to agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 Auditors' Report.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Michael Fitch (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited, Statutory Auditors
Suite 2.06
Custom House
Custom House Square
Belfast
Antrim
BT1 3ET

26 September 2024

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	7,431	20,450	27,881	26,440
Charitable activities	4	435,898	731,746	1,167,645	1,284,121
Other income	6	28,720	-	28,720	40,235
Total income		472,049	752,196	1,224,245	1,350,796
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	9	492,063	813,420	1,305,483	1,351,393
Total expenditure		492,063	813,420	1,305,483	1,351,393
Net movement in funds		(20,014)	(61,224)	(81,238)	(597)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		381,078	1,141,365	1,522,443	1,523,040
Net movement in funds		(20,014)	(61,224)	(81,238)	(597)
Total funds carried forward		361,064	1,080,141	1,441,205	1,522,443

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: NI032293

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	1,009,343	1,048,443
		<u>1,009,343</u>	<u>1,048,443</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	59,595	97,424
Cash at bank and in hand		398,709	415,326
		<u>458,304</u>	<u>512,750</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(26,442)	(38,750)
Net current assets		431,862	474,000
Total assets less current liabilities		1,441,205	1,522,443
Net assets excluding pension asset		1,441,205	1,522,443
Total net assets		1,441,205	1,522,443
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	1,080,141	1,141,365
Unrestricted funds	18	361,064	381,078
Total funds		1,441,205	1,522,443

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 26 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mr Joseph Fittis
Chairman

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(16,617)	(5,702)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(4,114)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	-	(4,114)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from financing activities		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(16,617)	(9,816)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	415,326	425,142
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	398,709	415,326
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. General information

Vine Centre Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and registered in Northern Ireland under company registration number NI032293. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under number NIC100608 and is a registered charity with HMRC under number XR13743.

The charitable company's registered office is situated at 193 Crumlin Road, Belfast, BT14 7AA.

The principal activities of the company is the reliefment of poverty, advancement of religion and education, promotion of good health, citizenship and community development.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Vine Centre Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The charitable company's activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and financial position are set out in the Trustees' Report. The financial position of the charity, along with its policies and processes for maintaining current activity, managing its funding and its financial risk management are also set out in the Trustees' Report.

The charity meets its day-to-day working capital requirements through income from charitable activities. The current economic conditions, create some uncertainty over the levels of these that will be available in future periods, although the members are of the opinion that they will continue to provide adequate funds.

The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in operating performance, show that the charity will be able to operate within its current facilities.

After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% straight line

2.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.9 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.11 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	7,431	20,450	27,881
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	4,559	21,881	26,440
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 5)	-	731,746	731,746
Nursery Fees	295,660	-	295,660
Afterschools Fees	94,158	-	94,158
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	46,080	-	46,080
Total 2024	435,898	731,746	1,167,644

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 5)	-	880,552	880,552
Nursery Fees	270,508	-	270,508
Afterschools Fees	90,543	-	90,543
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	42,519	-	42,519
Total 2023	403,570	880,552	1,284,122

All income from charitable activities are from activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. Grants received for specific projects

	2024	2023
	£	£
Department for Communities: North Belfast Advice Partnersip	108,243	120,241
Department for Communities: Crumlin Ward Initiative	153,674	165,866
Department for Communities: Secondment costs	18,819	56,650
Belfast City Council: Generalist Advice	263,328	270,444
Belfast City Council: Welfare Reform Support Project	7,816	33,135
Belfast City Council: Revenue Grant	20,000	14,880
Belfast City Council: Coming Out of Lockdown	-	220
Belfast City Council: Learning to Live Again	-	4,995
Belfast City Council: Fuel Hardship Fund	-	82,600
Belfast City Council: Fuel Hardship Fund - Management fees	-	8,243
Belfast City Council: Summer Scheme	1,500	-
Belfast City Council: Social Supermarket Funding	33,710	-
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Outcomes Group Funding	17,919	17,316
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Family Support Hub	60,991	44,609
Education Authority: Annual Registration Grant	2,981	1,945
Health & Social Care Board: Including Children with Additional Needs - Afterschools	-	7,808
Health & Social Care Board: Including Children with Additional Needs - Nursery	-	7,841
Health & Social Care Board: Energy Costs Grant - Afterschools	-	800
Health & Social Care Board: Energy Costs Grant - Nursery	-	800
Health & Social Care Board: Fair Play Small Grant Scheme	5,418	-
Health & Social Care Board: Holiday Grant Scheme	3,343	-
Health & Social Care Board: Minor Refurbishment Grant	1,950	-
Advice NI/Department for Communities: Debt Action	13,374	24,661
Irish Temperance League Trust: Core Grant	3,000	2,500
Public Health Agency: Making Life Better Through Short Term Funding	2,710	-
Early Years: Childcare Recovery Fund	-	864
Community Relations Council: Strategic Good Relations Programme	11,970	14,134
Dankse Bank: Annual Christmas Appeal	1,000	-
	731,746	880,552

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	10,894	10,894
ATM income	6,000	6,000
Rental income	11,826	11,826
Total 2024	<u>28,720</u>	<u>28,720</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	10,072	10,072
ATM income	6,000	6,000
Rental income	12,149	12,149
Other income	12,014	12,014
Total 2023	<u>40,235</u>	<u>40,235</u>

7. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Organisations 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants to third parties (note 8)	354,077	354,077

	Grants to Organisations 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants to third parties (note 8)	430,231	430,231

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. Grants to third parties

	2024	2023
	£	£
Ardoyne Association	41,325	59,369
Ballysillan Community Forum	59,918	73,746
Advice Space Belfast	72,133	70,799
Ligoneil Improvement Association	78,781	123,502
Lower Oldpark Community Association	68,140	77,482
Tar Isteach	33,780	25,333
	354,077	430,231

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	492,063	813,420	1,305,483

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	434,267	917,126	1,351,393

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Grant funding of activities 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	683,639	354,077	267,767	1,305,483
	<u>683,639</u>	<u>354,077</u>	<u>267,767</u>	<u>1,305,483</u>
	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Grant funding of activities 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	647,247	430,231	273,915	1,351,393
	<u>647,247</u>	<u>430,231</u>	<u>273,915</u>	<u>1,351,393</u>

11. Auditors' remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's annual accounts	4,600	4,420
Fees payable to the company's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	3,200	3,080
	<u>3,200</u>	<u>3,080</u>

12. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	565,832	601,536
Social security costs	69,832	34,314
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	11,540	11,240
	<u>647,204</u>	<u>647,090</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

12. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

2024	2023
No.	No.
33	32
<u><u>33</u></u>	<u><u>32</u></u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2023	1,748,225	393,102	2,141,327
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,748,225</u>	<u>393,102</u>	<u>2,141,327</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	720,456	372,428	1,092,884
Charge for the year	34,965	4,135	39,100
At 31 March 2024	<u>755,421</u>	<u>376,563</u>	<u>1,131,984</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	<u>992,804</u>	<u>16,539</u>	<u>1,009,343</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,027,769</u>	<u>20,674</u>	<u>1,048,443</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	20,432	12,217
Prepayments and accrued income	27,984	29,624
Grants receivable	11,179	55,583
	<u>59,595</u>	<u>97,424</u>

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank overdrafts	7,025	18,146
Trade creditors	8,424	9,322
Other taxation and social security	807	933
Other creditors	2,926	2,313
Accruals and deferred income	7,260	8,036
	<u>26,442</u>	<u>38,750</u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	7,269	5,606
Resources deferred during the year	7,258	7,269
Amounts released from previous periods	(7,269)	(5,606)
	<u>7,258</u>	<u>7,269</u>

17. Financial instruments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	398,709	415,326
	<u>398,709</u>	<u>415,326</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and in hand.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

18. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	381,078	472,049	(492,063)	361,064
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,141,365	752,196	(813,420)	1,080,141
Total of funds	1,522,443	1,224,245	(1,305,483)	1,441,205

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	366,981	448,364	(434,267)	381,078
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,156,059	902,432	(917,126)	1,141,365
Total of funds	1,523,040	1,350,796	(1,351,393)	1,522,443

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

19. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General funds	381,078	472,049	(492,063)	361,064
Restricted funds	1,141,365	752,196	(813,420)	1,080,141
	<u>1,522,443</u>	<u>1,224,245</u>	<u>(1,305,483)</u>	<u>1,441,205</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
General funds	366,981	448,364	(434,267)	381,078
Restricted funds	1,156,059	902,432	(917,126)	1,141,365
	<u>1,523,040</u>	<u>1,350,796</u>	<u>(1,351,393)</u>	<u>1,522,443</u>

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	61,079	948,264	1,009,343
Current assets	314,414	143,890	458,304
Creditors due within one year	(14,429)	(12,013)	(26,442)
Total	<u>361,064</u>	<u>1,080,141</u>	<u>1,441,205</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	65,172	983,271	1,048,443
Current assets	331,189	181,561	512,750
Creditors due within one year	(15,283)	(23,467)	(38,750)
Other unallocated	(2)	-	(2)
Total	381,076	1,141,365	1,522,441

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(81,238)	(597)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	39,100	39,786
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	37,829	(43,620)
Decrease in creditors	(12,308)	(1,271)
Net cash used in operating activities	(16,617)	(5,702)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	398,709	415,326
Total cash and cash equivalents	398,709	415,326

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	415,326	(16,617)	398,709
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	(18,146)	11,121	(7,025)
	<u>397,180</u>	<u>(5,496)</u>	<u>391,684</u>

24. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £11,540 (2023: £11,240).

25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2024 the company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	502	502
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	209	711
	<u>711</u>	<u>1,213</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	502	502
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

26. Related party transactions

During the year, there were no related party transactions.

27. Controlling party

The charity is controlled by the Board of Trustees.

28. PAASE disclosure

In common with many other businesses of this size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

The Vine Centre

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100608

Annual report



supporting families | strengthening community

Trustees Report for the Year Ending 31 March 2024

Taken from Statements of Financial Activities

Administrative Information

Charity Name	The Vine Centre
Registered Address	193 Crumlin Road Belfast BT14 7AA
Company Registration	NI032293
Charity Registration	NIC100608
Board of Directors	Joseph Fittis (Chair) Gwen Simmons (Vice Chair) Nan Simpson (Secretary) Tim Fitzsimons (Treasurer) Evelyn Coleman Thomas Dickson Pat Kennedy
Company Secretary	Stephen Reid
Chief Executive Officer	Stephen Reid
Auditors	UHY Hacker Young Fitch Suite 2.06, Custom House Custom House Square Belfast BT1 3ET
Solicitors	Hewitt & Gilpin Thomas House 14-16 James Street South Belfast BT2 7GA
Staff	Claire Adams, Elizabeth Anderson, Kelly Austin, Katrina Barrow, Sherrie Beattie, Rebekka Blain, Kerriann Bowler, Andrea Boyle, Samantha Bradshaw, Deborah Browne, Leah Browne, Elaine Corbett, Sophie Cuthel, Ruchelle Dawson, Sonya Donaldson, Tomas Donnelly, Ashleigh Dowie, Jessica Dunlop, Emily Feenan, Marie Fennell, Shimona Ferguson, Lindsey Gilliland, Sally Gilmore, Kim Johnston, Julie Kinnear, Clar-Rois Magee, Clare Maskey, Mollie McConnell, Rachel McCormick, Kathy McKenna, Sinead McKinley, Lauren Millar, Shannon O’Neill, Stephen Reid, Lisa Roulston, Hannah Spencer, David Surgenor, Alison Todd, Caitlin Traynor, Tracey Whittle, Laura Whittle-Robinson, Leanne Woods , Louise Young
Volunteers	Patricia Ashe, Nandeesh Banakar, Leah Browne, Aaron Coates, Ainsley Cosby, William Glendinning, Eleanor Jamison, Molly Kirkpatrick, Roisin King, Gracie McCormick, Lorna Osborne, Nan Simpson, June Wilson, Sara Zamly

Introduction

This Trustees Report documents the work of the Centre, which has been continued over the year in question as it was originally conceived 54 years ago, as a practical demonstration of God's love for the people of the area, and a fulfilment of Paul's injunction to serve one another as Christ served us.

In 1970, that service took the form of support to local people who literally found themselves on the frontline of the Troubles, with families having to leave their homes at short notice due to political violence in the area, with all the attendant challenges that presented.

In 2024, it finds its expression in a variety of ways; providing locally accessible, affordable childcare for working families, helping local people on low or fixed incomes maximize their household income and make more effective use of the money they have, helping individuals deal with their debts, making it easier for local families to access a wide range of support for both adults and children, helping individuals gain new skills and increase their employability, providing social activities for parents and older people, and supporting those who have experienced addiction achieve recovery and rebuild their lives.

In last year's Trustee Report, we talked about the impact and legacy of the COVID 19 pandemic. A year on, we are seeing evidence of that legacy in the increasing number of people are living more precariously - with greater instability, or potential instability, in their daily lives.

The idea of precariousness is primarily associated with employment in many people's minds, with the emergence of zero hours contracts and what is termed the gig economy, but it extends much further. For people on low or fixed incomes, it is the consequence of their disposable income being eroded by rising costs, the challenges in managing your household finances within greater constraints, and the inability to deal with contingencies and emergencies when they arise. As an organization, we operate in an area with a disproportionately large share of households who would be deemed to be in 'relative' poverty, so staff see people who are facing these pressures day and daily.

We are also seeing more people with poor mental and physical health, more people whose reliance on substances to get by has resulted in addiction, more people experiencing social isolation due to the absence of social networks, and families struggling to get support for a child with an autism diagnosis. Poverty is often thought of as being about income, but it is actually the interaction of a range of issues – some of them specific to individuals, some of them systemic – where low income is simply one expression of daily life lived more precariously.

As an organization, we are committed to not only addressing these immediate issues, but also to work in partnership with other organizations and local people to build greater resilience in individuals and create pathways through which they can improve their circumstances, knowledge and skills.

This is consistent with our commitment to making a broad offer to local people, in terms of the programmes, activities and services that we provide, and that this work has continued to have a positive impact in our community. We hope this Report demonstrates this.

As always, the Board wishes to express its gratitude to four groups of people, without whom the work presented in this Report would not be possible.

Firstly, all those who financially support the work of the Centre, whether that be through grant funding, donations or paying for our childcare services.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank them all for the confidence they have shown in the Centre over the year covered by this Report. We continue to do our best to repay that confidence by demonstrating good stewardship of the resources made available to us, by deploying them to ensure the effective delivery of programmes, activities and services, the maintenance of the Centre as a facility, and the long term sustainability of the Centre as an organization.

Secondly, the team of staff and volunteers who deliver our programmes, activities and services.

Everything detailed in this report is dependent on people – without the skills, knowledge and commitment of the staff we employ, and the volunteers who freely give their time to help us, none of the things detailed here would happen.

During a time when the community sector has been experiencing significant challenges in terms of recruitment and retention of staff, we can count ourselves extremely fortunate in being able to attract and retain talented people ready to give of their best for local people. They are the faces that people see when they use the Centre, the people who determine the experience that people have when they use the Centre, and the people whose efforts ensure positive outcomes for those users.

People also value not just what you do, but the way in which you do it. There are countless examples of how staff have helped individuals in ways that go beyond simple delivery that no single document can ever adequately capture, but what we can capture in this report is, above all, a testimony to their work.

Thirdly, the many organizations who we work in partnership with.

Our aim is to make a broad offer to local people in terms of the programmes, activities and services we deliver, but we recognize that no single organization can meet the range of need that exists in our community.

Collaborative working, either in formal networks or through ongoing referral or signposting, undoubtedly enhances outcomes for local people, whether that be through collective planning and better co-ordinated delivery, or by increasing connectivity to make it easier for people to get the help they need as and when they need it.

We are active members of a number of local, citywide and regional partnerships, covering activities such as advice, childcare and early intervention support for families, which enhance the outcomes we can achieve for local people.

We hope to further develop and deepen these relationships in the years to come.

Finally, and most importantly, are the people who use the programmes, activities and services we offer.

The Centre would not have existed for over half a century, or have any rationale for its continued existence, if local people did not find relevance and value in what we do.

As this report hopefully illustrates, the Centre as a facility continues to be well used; we estimate that calculated that **395** people accessed one of our programmes, activities or services each week.

This hopefully reflects the fact that people feel they are treated well when they come to us, and that they get some tangible benefit from doing so. This is important, because we continue to find that, however much advertising or promotion we do, word of mouth remains the most important driver for people coming to the Centre, and that a positive experience, and a positive outcome, for a relative, friend or neighbour is the best endorsement we can hope for.

Joe Fittis
Chair

Objects

The Centre was established in 1970 by members of the congregations of local churches, as a practical demonstration of God's love for those living in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

The specific objects of the Centre, as set out in our Articles of Association, are to:

1. **Relieve poverty**, by providing advice and information services which seek to maximize the incomes of individuals in poverty, and alleviate the financial hardship of those in debt;
2. **Advance education**, by providing training programmes and educational courses which seek to enable people of all ages to increase their knowledge, enhance their educational attainment, and develop employable skills;
3. **Promote good health**, by providing childcare services and related programmes which improve the physical, emotional and intellectual wellbeing of children and build the capacity of parents to make informed choices about parenting, visitation and support to those experiencing isolation or crisis as a result of mental health problems, and activities which enable local people to make positive choices about their health and lifestyle;
4. **Advance the Christian religion**, by providing spiritual support to those experiencing bereavement, personal crisis or isolation, and by providing activities for those with no existing church connection who wish to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
5. **Promote good citizenship and community development**, by providing local people opportunities to positively contribute to the wellbeing of others in their community as volunteers, providing advice and information which empowers people to understand and exercise their rights as citizens, and working in partnership with other interested local agencies and individuals to achieve the physical, social and economic regeneration of the area.

Activities for achieving Objects

Advice Services

The Centre has been providing high quality, impartial advice, advocacy and information to local people for five decades.

The core of our provision remains our **generalist advice service**, which covers issues such as benefit entitlement, consumer rights, housing and employment issues.

Our service is primarily offered on a face-to-face basis, as we have found personal contact to be the most effective approach for many of our clients. However, following the experience of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, we now offer clients who prefer it the option of a telephone appointment. In addition to the service available from the Centre, we also provided advice through a number of outreach locations during the year, primarily Grove Housing Association on the Shore Road, Duncairn and Whitecity Community Centres, and more recently an outreach with Ashton Community Trust's family support services.

During the year, staff dealt with a total of **1,690** enquiries on behalf of **750** clients. **93%** of the enquiries dealt with by staff were benefit related.

The high level of benefit related work is attributable to the significant concentration of low income households within our catchment area: seven of the ten Super Output Areas in Belfast with the highest percentage of households in relative poverty (where equalized household income is 60% or less of the Northern Ireland average) can be found clustered on either side of the Crumlin Road. Low income households are generally more dependent on benefits for part of their weekly household income, and more likely to have to access the benefits system if their financial circumstances change. Under Welfare Reform, the system has become more complex for clients to navigate, most notably in terms of having to make and maintain their claim to benefit.

In this context, assisting with claims and maximizing household income through eligible benefit entitlement remains the key piece of work our advisors undertake on behalf of clients; during the year, we assisted clients in making **535** new claims and maintaining **448** existing claims. In those cases where we know the outcome, staff helped clients secure **£3,723,640** in additional benefit entitlement.

80% of benefit related enquiries staff dealt with during the year were around sickness and disability benefits, or benefits for older people; the remaining **20%** were Universal Credit (UC) related. During the year we saw an increasing number of clients with Universal Credit claims, and we anticipate that this will become a significantly larger proportion of our work as the final phase of migration of claimants on legacy benefits – such as tax credits and income support – to UC got underway in early 2024.

To address this growing need, we have launched a weekly Universal Credit Clinic, where local people could drop in on a Monday and get assistance with making or maintaining their claim. In addition to our staff team, this clinic was supported by a volunteer law student from the University of Ulster.

Clients continue to report very high levels of satisfaction with the service we provide. In our most recent client satisfaction survey:

- **96%** of respondents said that they were **'very satisfied'** with the level of service we provided;
- **100%** said that they found staff **'very helpful'** in their dealings with them;
- **100%** said that they would **'certainly recommend'** our service to someone else who needed advice;
- **88%** said that the outcome of their case was **'better than expected'**.

Respondents also told us that the additional income we secured for them enabled them to:

- Cope better with day-to-day household costs such as food and utilities;
- Support them to remain in employment;

- Live more independently, particularly in terms of accessing transport to do a range of things from shopping to attending medical appointments;
- Experience reduced levels of stress and anxiety.

In addition to the work they do directly for clients, advisors also made referrals to other services, including local food banks for access to food in emergencies, housing support, support with addiction, education and training opportunities, and the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service for representation at appeals.

Since June 2019, we have been an active partner in the delivery of **Debt Action**, the regional money and debt advice service, which is funded by the Department of Communities and co-ordinated on a regional level by Advice NI. This has enabled us to employ a Money Advisor, who can provide people from the North Belfast and Shankill areas with advice on potential strategies to address their debt, negotiate with creditors on their behalf, and help them plan and manage their finances more effectively going forward.

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We also continue to offer a **Family Finances Service** for families with children under 18, funded through the Belfast Outcomes Group by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust. This service is accessible through referral by any of the ten Family Support Hubs operating in the Belfast Trust area, and aims to address any debt that the family may have, build the capacity of families to manage their household finances more effectively, and maximize household income by identifying and securing any unclaimed benefit entitlement that the family may have.

During the year, the service dealt with **73** families and helped them negotiate debts totalling **£513,447**.

The Centre has continued to play an active role in the **North Belfast Advice Partnership**, which was established in 2003 as a vehicle for independent advice organizations in North Belfast to collaborate in a more strategic way around advice provision, with the aim of maximizing the impact of available resources and ensuring that local people have access to comprehensive, high quality advice, information and advocacy across this part of the city.

In addition to delivering some of the services the Partnership offers its clients, we continue to act as lead partner for grant funding received collectively by the Partnership.

This includes the continued delivery of the Partnership's **Volunteer Development Programme**, which was again funded by the Executive Office's North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme, administered by the Community Relations Council. This programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Association as part of the Connected Futures programme, and involved **34** potential or current volunteers, and existing staff, undertaking training which included internal training to improve case recording, refresher training on housing issues, delivered by Housing Rights, and understanding issues around migrants and asylum seekers, delivered by the Law Centre.

Through this funding, we also delivered a series of **19** Money Talks workshops, attended by **176** participants. These workshops were designed to be short, interactive sessions offering people information and tips on how they could use their money effectively, whilst raising awareness of the support available to local people in terms of benefits, money advice and food support across the local community. We also provided an overview of the benefits system to social work teams based in North and West Belfast, and staff from the Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership.

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Those being supported were also provided with access to a range of wraparound support, such as benefit checks (and assistance with any claims if eligible entitlement was identified), money management workshops, money advice for debt issues, training and employability support, and other community based programmes.

Users were primarily, but not exclusively, clients of advice services. In total the project supported 135 households, the majority of which were in the Oldpark District Electoral Area. The top four reasons for referral were as follows:

- **29%** had commenced the Universal Credit process, and still within the assessment period;
- **23%** were in a crisis situation, due to the impact of illness, caring responsibilities or bereavement;
- **18%** were impacted by mental health, addictions, or having an adult in the household who would be considered 'at risk';
- **10%** had recently lost employment, were absent from work due to illness, or had recently seen their working hours reduced.

In terms of wraparound support provided to households being supported:

- **122** people accessed **generalist advice** – support included completing an initial benefit entitlement check, identification of new benefit entitlement and completion of any relevant claims, help to maintain existing claims, and referral to specialist support (Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service);
- **55** people accessed **financial advice** – either a two hour Money Talks workshop, or a one-to-one session addressing their own specific finances;
- **19** people accessed **community support** – this included signposting to local Men's Shed projects, and exploring volunteering opportunities in the local area;
- **10** accessed **health & wellbeing** support – this included a Slow Cooker course and programmes promoting positive mental health;
- **6** people accessed **training and employability support** – this included support from the Vine Centre's Work Club, and first aid training offered by Ardoyne Association.

Whilst we have delivered other food related initiatives in the past, these had largely been stand alone, one off initiatives delivered within a specific timeframe. This project was an attempt to integrate an initiative into our day-to-day advice provision, where temporary food support will be one ongoing aspect of the support we can offer local people.

It drew on the extensive experience advisors have in talking to people about their personal circumstances, particularly in assessing their household finances, and encouraged them to more holistically about the needs of the people they were engaging and how they might be met. People present with an immediate need (a claim to be completed to secure income) which is often accompanied by a story (how they got to this situation). This project gave us a basis to begin developing what others have termed a 'what matters?' conversation with people which will hopefully to build this more holistic approach into our services going forward.

Childcare

Childcare remains an important component of the Centre's offer to local people, not only in terms of providing an affordable, locally accessible service to local parents, and the positive contribution it makes to the development of the children in our care, but also in terms of the contribution that childcare provision, as a social enterprise, makes to the overall sustainability of the Centre.

We offer childcare through:

- **Bulrush Day Nursery**, with **39** places for babies and children up to primary school age, which offers, in the words of our most recent inspection report by the Belfast Trust, a 'warm and welcoming' setting for children.
- **Vine Afterschools Club**, with places for up to **48** primary school aged children each day, which opens on a part time basis during the school year, and on a full time basis during periods of school closure, and offers a wide range of child led, play activity.

Occupancy within our Afterschools Club continues to be impacted by the fact that many parents have continued to work from home since the pandemic and therefore did not need childcare provision, or needed it on a reduced basis, particularly if their children were older. As a consequence, occupancy levels have been much slower to recover than those in the Nursery, which have remained high across the year, with continuing demand for places.

Across the year, we provided our service to **116** local families, with a total of **110** children attending. At the end of March 2024, we had **94** children on the registers for our two settings.

In terms of Afterschools, staff collected children from **9** local primary schools across North Belfast and the Shankill.

Most the families who used our service during the year are working families, accessing places on a fee-paying basis. We also provide childcare on a sessional basis to children referred by social work teams through the Belfast Trust's Sponsored Daycare Scheme or Looked After Children Service.

When the Centre began providing childcare as a social economy initiative in 2005, one of our objectives was to create employment opportunities in the area. During the year, our childcare provision has sustained **16.7** FTE posts, in childcare and ancillary roles, with the majority of staff drawn from our catchment area as an organization.

Family Support Hub

The Centre continues to act as the lead body for the **Upper North Belfast Family Support Hub**, which has been operational since January 2016.

The Hub is one of 29 across Northern Ireland, and 10 in the Belfast Trust area, established by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. Each Hub is a multi-agency network of statutory, voluntary and community organizations who collaborate to provide a simple voluntary referral mechanism whereby families with children under 18 who need early intervention support can be connected to suitable support, in an effort to reduce the number of families requiring formal social services involvement.

The Upper North Belfast Hub area covers the part of North Belfast bounded the Crumlin Road to the south, and the Antrim Road to the east. It contains a diverse range of communities, including some of the most deprived areas in the city.

During the year, the Hub received a total of **395** service requests, of which **328 (83%)** were processed. **82%** of service requests were processed to completion within four weeks of receipt.

Requests for support came from 8 of the 9 electoral wards covered by the Hub. However, **87%** of the requests received came from families living in the three Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in our catchment area, which suggests a strong, continuing correlation between the issues presented to the Hub and wider issues of multiple deprivation in those areas.

The three most common forms of support initially sought by families were for emotional and behavioural difficulty support for children, practical support (help with food and fuel costs, or financial emergencies) and support with parenting or access to parenting programmes.

73% of the service requests we processed resulted in at least one service being provided to families requesting support. In total, **347** adults and children accessed **365** service interventions, provided by **34** organizations. The support accessed by families included home based family support, help with the cost of living, money advice, counselling, art therapy, mentoring for children and young people and support for children with disabilities.

44% of the services accessed during the year were those specifically requested on the Service Request Form. The fact that a majority of the services families were connected to were not those originally requested can be evidence of need that the Hub cannot meet, but it also demonstrates the importance of the conversation between the Hub Co-ordinator and a parent after a Request has been made, when a more nuanced assessment of the family's circumstances can be made, and more relevant, or additional, forms of support for the family identified.

72% of families who responded reported a positive experience of the services they had accessed.

The Hub continues to be a coalition of the willing, dependent for its success on organizations who bring their knowledge and expertise, and most importantly the services they can offer, to the table to support local families. At the end of the year, **77** organizations and agencies were affiliated to the Hub as core or associate members.

Lifelong Learning

We remain committed to promoting a culture of **Lifelong Learning** amongst local people, providing opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills, gain qualifications to improve their employability, help their children with their homework, maintain good physical and mental wellbeing, or simply keep their minds active.

During the year **28** people gained Essential Skills qualifications in Literacy, Numeracy and Information & Communication Technology, through classes delivered in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College. After a very challenging year for our classes the year before, this year was much more successful, with **81%** of those registered completing classes and **64%** of those completing gaining a qualification. This might be explained by the fact that, whilst our classes are primarily about education rather than employability, we have seen an increase in the number of working people enrolling where their motivation is to upskill for career advancement – for example, we have had a number of employees from the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust who wanted to improve their career prospects within the Trust.

At the end of the year, we had three classes running, with **21** people attending.

Our weekly **Healthy Living Group for older women** continued to meet during the year, with **25** registered and an average of **22** attending every week. With funding from the Public Health Agency, the group took part in a range of activity designed to promote better personal wellbeing. This included a programme of health & wellbeing sessions delivered by Discover You NI, which covered topics such as understanding stress, the importance of personal communication, assertiveness building, mindfulness and gut health. The group also took part in crafts sessions, communal singing and an expressive arts programme. The importance of connecting people was a recurrent theme of these activities, and feedback from those taking part was that the opportunity to learn and do new things as a group was very good for their self-esteem.

26 children were registered with our **Homework Club** from primary school aged children, with an average of **17** children attending each week to do their homework in a quiet setting, with access to technology if needed and the assistance of staff and volunteers, including two student volunteers recruited through Queen's University's Student Volunteer Programme.

30 people accessed support through our **Work Club** during the year, where they received assistance with job search, completing applications, putting together a CV and preparing for job interviews. **2** people gained employment as a result of the support they received, and **9** were referred to further employability support in the local community.

Our Little Sparks Toddler Group also continued to meet every Wednesday between September and March, with **34** families registered and an average attendance of **22** adults and children each week.

Pastoral Support

Our **Pastoral Support** programme, which began in 2008, has continued to extend the reach of the Centre by engaging those in our local community who are experiencing isolation or crisis. The programme recognizes that the needs of people are not only practical, but spiritual and emotional, and that many people in our community do not have someone close who they can share their problems with. Those problems can include depression and other mental health issues, loneliness and social isolation, the impact of bereavement, the breakdown of relationships and domestic violence.

Home visitation remains at the centre of the programme, and over the course of the year our Pastoral Support Worker made **371** visits to a total of **96** people living in the local community.

The Worker has also continued to work intensively with individuals wanting to free themselves from addictions or compulsive behaviours, through the **Persons In Recovery** programme. At the core of this is the Recovery Course, a 12 Step programme which returns to the original biblical inspiration that motivated Bill Wilson to establish Alcoholics Anonymous in the 1930's.

The aim of the programme is to help those engaged on the journey to stay clean and make a full recovery from their addiction, through the provision of holistic support. Following completion of the Recovery Course, the Worker will support individuals in getting help from the local Community Addiction Team, in seeking admission to a residential rehabilitation programme, and in accessing other support services that might be relevant to them. Anyone accessing support does so in the knowledge that it will be there, in its various forms, for as long as they need it and that the door will remain open to them at all times, even if they have had a slip or relapse.

In total, **27** people were supported in these various ways through the programme during the year, with **15** new people being supported. **5** of those new people also completed the Recovery Course offered as part of the programme.

Our **Grapevine Senior Citizens Lunch Club** also continued to meet, with **13** people registered and an average of 10 people attending every week for a meal and a programme of activity including crafts, singing and quizzes.

In December, **257** adults and children living in the area received hampers at Christmas, containing food, toys and other Christmas gifts, an initiative made possible by the continued support of individuals, church groups, congregations within Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Danske Bank's Employee Charitable Group and a donation of toys and children's gifts from Cool FM/Downtown Radio's CASH 4 KIDS APPEAL. We estimate the value of this support at £12,270.

The Vine Centre

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100608

Annual return

Registered number: NI032293
Charity number: NIC100608

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Trustees Mr Joseph Fittis, Chairman
Mr Timothy Fitzsimons
Mrs Barbara McIlwrath (resigned 26 October 2023)
Mrs Evelyn Coleman
Mr Thomas Dickson
Mrs Anne Marie Simpson
Mrs Gwen Simmons
Mrs Patricia Kennedy

Company registered number NI032293

Charity registered number NIC100608

Registered office 193 Crumlin Road
Belfast
BT14 7DX

Company secretary Stephen Reid

Centre Manager Stephen Reid

Independent auditors UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited
Suite 2.06
Custom House
Custom House Square
Belfast
Antrim
BT1 3ET

Solicitors Hewitt & Gilpin
Thomas House
14 - 16 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 7GA

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the company for the 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 22 April 1997. This was amended, with the consent of the Charity Commission, by a special resolution of members dated 26 February 2015.

The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under the registration number NIC100608, and accepted by HMRC as a charity under the reference XR13743.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

All of the Trustees are members of the Company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of the company being wound up. None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. The following Trustees held office during the period:

Mr Timothy Fitzsimons
Barbara McIlwrath
Evelyn Coleman
Thomas Dickson
Anne Marie Simpson
Gwen Simmons
Patricia Kennedy
Joseph Fittis, Chairman

The Board of Trustees is comprised of the following:

- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Immanuel Presbyterian Church;
- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Crumlin Road Presbyterian Church;
- 2 representatives nominated by any organisations who are affiliated members of the Centre;
- 2 user representatives nominated by individual members of the Centre.

These nominations are subject to the approval of members at the Annual General Meeting. In the case of affiliated organisations and user representatives, if the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies there shall be an election to determine who amongst the nominees is appointed.

At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the Trustees, being those who have been longest in office since their election, are required to retire and submit themselves for re-nomination and re-election. Vacancies which arise through retirement or removal may be filled by the Trustees at a general meeting. In the event of a casual vacancy, due to death or resignation, the Trustees may appoint a replacement, who will be required to retire and seek re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. In addition, the Trustees may co-opt individuals who have specific knowledge or skills which the board judge to be relevant to the charity's ongoing activities, as long as such co-options do not exceed one third of the elected Trustees.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Board of Trustees is the ultimate controlling party of the charity, and is responsible for all aspects of corporate governance within the company. The Board meets a minimum of 10 times each year to define and agree strategic priorities for the charity, monitor progress and review the resources available to sustain the company. The day to day running of the charity is carried out by the Centre Manager, Stephen Reid.

d. Financial risk management

The Trustees continue to regularly review any major risks arising from or impacting on the activities of the charity. They are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary and consider that the financial systems and controls in place are appropriate to the size of the charity and the nature of its operations.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Centre was established in 1970 by members of the congregations of local churches, as a practical demonstration of God's love for those living in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

The specific objects of the Centre, as set out in our Articles of Association, are to:

- 1. Relieve poverty**, by providing advice and information services which seek to maximise the incomes of individuals in poverty, and alleviate the financial hardship of those in debt;
- 2. Advance education**, by providing training programmes and educational courses which seek to enable people of all ages to increase their knowledge, enhance their educational attainment, and develop employable skills;
- 3. Promote good health**, by providing childcare services and related programmes which improve the physical, emotional and intellectual wellbeing of children and build the capacity of parents to make informed choices about parenting, visitation and support to those experiencing isolation or crisis as a result of mental health problems, and activities which enable local people to make positive choices about their health and lifestyle;
- 4. Advance the Christian religion**, by providing spiritual support to those experiencing bereavement, personal crisis or isolation, and by providing activities for those with no existing church connection who wish to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- 5. Promote good citizenship and community development**, by providing local people opportunities to positively contribute to the wellbeing of others in their community as volunteers, providing advice and information which empowers people to understand and exercise their rights as citizens, and working in partnership with other interested local agencies and individuals to achieve the physical, social and economic regeneration of the area.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

Advice Services

The Centre has been providing high quality, impartial advice, advocacy and information to local people for five decades.

The core of our provision remains our generalist advice service, which covers issues such as benefit entitlement, consumer rights, housing and employment issues.

Our service is primarily offered on a face-to-face basis, as we have found personal contact to be the most effective approach for many of our clients. However, following the experience of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, we now offer clients who prefer it the option of a telephone appointment. In addition to the service available from the Centre, we also provided advice through a number of outreach locations during the year, primarily Grove Housing Association on the Shore Road, Duncairn and Whitecity Community Centres, and more recently an outreach with Ashton Community Trust's family support services.

During the year, staff dealt with a total of 1,690 enquiries on behalf of 750 clients. 93% of the enquiries dealt with by staff were benefit related.

The high level of benefit related work is attributable to the significant concentration of low income households within our catchment area: seven of the ten Super Output Areas in Belfast with the highest percentage of households in relative poverty (where equalised household income is 60% or less of the Northern Ireland average) can be found clustered on either side of the Crumlin Road. Low income households are generally more dependent on benefits for part of their weekly household income, and more likely to have to access the benefits system if their financial circumstances change. Under Welfare Reform, the system has become more complex for clients to navigate, most notably in terms of having to make and maintain their claim to benefit.

In this context, assisting with claims and maximising household income through eligible benefit entitlement remains the key piece of work our advisors undertake on behalf of clients; during the year, we assisted clients in making 535 new claims and maintaining 448 existing claims. In those cases where we know the outcome, staff helped clients secure £3,723,640 in additional benefit entitlement.

80% of benefit related enquiries staff dealt with during the year were around sickness and disability benefits, or benefits for older people; the remaining 20% were Universal Credit (UC) related. During the year we saw an increasing number of clients with UC claims, and we anticipate that this will become a significantly larger proportion of our work as the final phase of migration of claimants on legacy benefits – such as tax credits and income support – to UC got underway in early 2024.

To address this growing need, we have launched a weekly UC Clinic, where local people could drop in on a Monday and get assistance with making or maintaining their claim. In addition to our staff team, this clinic was supported by a volunteer law student from the University of Ulster.

Clients continue to report very high levels of satisfaction with the service we provide. In our most recent client satisfaction survey:

- 96% of respondents said that they were 'very satisfied' with the level of service we provided;
- 100% said that they found staff 'very helpful' in their dealings with them;
- 100% said that they would 'certainly recommend' our service to someone else who needed advice;
- 88% said that the outcome of their case was 'better than expected'.

Respondents also told us that the additional income we secured for them enabled them to:

- Cope better with day-to-day household costs such as food and utilities;
- Support them to remain in employment;
- Live more independently, particularly in terms of accessing transport to do a range of things from shopping to attending medical appointments;
- Experience reduced levels of stress and anxiety.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

In addition to the work they do directly for clients, advisors also made referrals to other services, including local food banks for access to food in emergencies, housing support, support with addiction, education and training opportunities, and the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service for representation at appeals.

Since June 2019, we have been an active partner in the delivery of Debt Action, the regional money and debt advice service, which is funded by the Department of Communities and co-ordinated on a regional level by Advice NI. This has enabled us to employ a Money Advisor, who can provide people from the North Belfast and Shankill areas with advice on potential strategies to address their debt, negotiate with creditors on their behalf, and help them plan and manage their finances more effectively going forward.

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During the year, the service dealt with 73 families and helped them negotiate debts totalling £513,447.

In total, during the year, we delivered 17 workshops to a total of 135 participants, in partnership with a wide variety of groups across North Belfast and the Shankill. Feedback from these workshops has been extremely positive, not only because of the relevance of the issues covered, but also because of the informality of the delivery, which put people at their ease, and the provision of practical information that anyone managing a household could readily use in their day-to-day lives. 100% of participants said that the workshops increased their knowledge and skills, whilst 99% said that they would change their money behaviours as a result.

The Centre has continued to play an active role in the North Belfast Advice Partnership (Partnership), which was established in 2003 as a vehicle for independent advice organisations in North Belfast to collaborate in a more strategic way around advice provision, with the aim of maximising the impact of available resources and ensuring that local people have access to comprehensive, high quality advice, information and advocacy across this part of the city.

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This includes the continued delivery of the Partnership's Volunteer Development Programme, which was again funded by the Executive Office's North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme, administered by the Community Relations Council. This programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Association as part of the Connected Futures programme, and involved 34 potential or current volunteers, and existing staff, undertaking training which included internal training to improve case recording, refresher training on housing issues, delivered by Housing Rights, and understanding issues around migrants and asylum seekers, delivered by the Law Centre.

Through this funding, we also delivered a series of 19 Money Talks workshops, attended by 176 participants. These workshops were designed to be short, interactive sessions offering people information and tips on how they could use their money effectively, whilst raising awareness of the support available to local people in terms of benefits, money advice and food support across the local community. We also provided an overview of the benefits system to social work teams based in North and West Belfast, and staff from the Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

Towards the end of the year, in partnership with Ardoyne Association, we launched a social supermarket initiative, The Virtual Larder, funded by Belfast City Council. This provided temporary food support, in the form of vouchers, to local people who were experiencing disruption to, or pressure on, their household income for a number of reasons, including being in the Assessment Period for Universal Credit, having lost employment or experienced a reduction in income, or experiencing additional pressures due to carrying responsibilities.

Those being supported were also provided with access to a range of wraparound support, such as benefit checks (and assistance with any claims if eligible entitlement was identified), money management workshops, money advice for debt issues, training and employability support, and other community based programmes.

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In terms of wraparound support provided to households being supported:

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

- Vine Afterschools Club, with places for up to 48 primary school aged children each day, which opens on a part time basis during the school year, and on a full time basis during periods of school closure, and offers a wide range of child led, play activity.

Occupancy within our Afterschools Club continues to be impacted by the fact that many parents have continued to work from home since the pandemic and therefore did not need childcare provision, or needed it on a reduced basis, particularly if their children were older. As a consequence, occupancy levels have been much slower to recover than those in the Nursery, which have remained high across the year, with continuing demand for places.

Across the year, we provided our service to 116 local families, with a total of 110 children attending. At the end of March 2024, we had 94 children on the registers for our two settings.

In terms of Afterschools, staff collected children from 9 local primary schools across North Belfast and the Shankill.

Most of the families who used our service during the year are working families, accessing places on a fee-paying basis. We also provide childcare on a sessional basis to children referred by social work teams through the Belfast Trust's Sponsored Daycare Scheme or Looked After Children Service.

When the Centre began providing childcare as a social economy initiative in 2005, one of our objectives was to create employment opportunities in the area. During the year, our childcare provision has sustained 16.7 FTE posts, in childcare and ancillary roles, with the majority of staff drawn from our catchment area as an organisation.

Family Support Hub

The Centre continues to act as the lead body for the Upper North Belfast Family Support Hub, which has been operational since January 2016.

The Hub is one of 29 across Northern Ireland, and 10 in the Belfast Trust area, established by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. Each Hub is a multi-agency network of statutory, voluntary and community organisations who collaborate to provide a simple voluntary referral mechanism whereby families with children under 18 who need early intervention support can be connected to suitable support, in an effort to reduce the number of families requiring formal social services involvement.

The Upper North Belfast Hub area covers the part of North Belfast bounded the Crumlin Road to the south, and the Antrim Road to the east. It contains a diverse range of communities, including some of the most deprived areas in the city.

During the year, the Hub received a total of 395 service requests, of which 328 (83%) were processed. 82% of service requests were processed to completion within four weeks of receipt.

Requests for support came from 8 of the 9 electoral wards covered by the Hub. However, 87% of the requests received came from families living in the three Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in our catchment area, which suggests a strong, continuing correlation between the issues presented to the Hub and wider issues of multiple deprivation in those areas.

The three most common forms of support initially sought by families were for emotional and behavioural difficulty support for children, practical support (help with food and fuel costs, or financial emergencies) and support with parenting or access to parenting programmes.

73% of the service requests we processed resulted in at least one service being provided to families requesting support. In total, 347 adults and children accessed 365 service interventions, provided by 34 organisations. The support accessed by families included home based family support, help with the cost of living, money advice, counselling, art therapy, mentoring for children and young people and support for children with disabilities.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

44% of the services accessed during the year were those specifically requested on the Service Request Form. The fact that a majority of the services families were connected to were not those originally requested can be evidence of need that the Hub cannot meet, but it also demonstrates the importance of the conversation between the Hub Co-ordinator and a parent after a Request has been made, when a more nuanced assessment of the family's circumstances can be made, and more relevant, or additional, forms of support for the family identified.

72% of families who responded reported a positive experience of the services they had accessed.

The Hub continues to be a coalition of the willing, dependent for its success on organisations who bring their knowledge and expertise, and most importantly the services they can offer, to the table to support local families. At the end of the year, 77 organisations and agencies were affiliated to the Hub as core or associate members.

Lifelong Learning

We remain committed to promoting a culture of Lifelong Learning amongst local people, providing opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills, gain qualifications to improve their employability, help their children with their homework, maintain good physical and mental wellbeing, or simply keep their minds active.

During the year 28 people gained Essential Skills qualifications in Literacy, Numeracy and Information & Communication Technology, through classes delivered in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College. After a very challenging year for our classes the year before, this year was much more successful, with 81% of those registered completing classes and 64% of those completing gaining a qualification. This might be explained by the fact that, whilst our classes are primarily about education rather than employability, we have seen an increase in the number of working people enrolling where their motivation is to upskill for career advancement – for example, we have had a number of employees from the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust who wanted to improve their career prospects within the Trust.

At the end of the year, we had three classes running, with 21 people attending.

Our weekly Healthy Living Group for older women continued to meet during the year, with 25 registered and an average of 22 attending every week. With funding from the Public Health Agency, the group took part in a range of activity designed to promote better personal wellbeing. This included a programme of health & wellbeing sessions delivered by Discover You NI, which covered topics such as understanding stress, the importance of personal communication, assertiveness building, mindfulness and gut health. The group also took part in crafts sessions, communal singing and an expressive arts programme. The importance of connecting people was a recurrent theme of these activities, and feedback from those taking part was that the opportunity to learn and do new things as a group was very good for their self-esteem.

26 children were registered with our Homework Club from primary school aged children, with an average of 17 children attending each week to do their homework in a quiet setting, with access to technology if needed and the assistance of staff and volunteers, including two student volunteers recruited through Queen's University's Student Volunteer Programme.

30 people accessed support through our Work Club during the year, where they received assistance with job search, completing applications, putting together a CV and preparing for job interviews. 2 people gained employment as a result of the support they received, and 9 were referred to further employability support in the local community.

Our Little Sparks Toddler Group also continued to meet every Wednesday between September and March, with 34 families registered and an average attendance of 22 adults and children each week.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

Pastoral Support

Our Pastoral Support programme, which began in 2008, has continued to extend the reach of the Centre by engaging those in our local community who are experiencing isolation or crisis. The programme recognises that the needs of people are not only practical, but spiritual and emotional, and that many people in our community do not have someone close who they can share their problems with. Those problems can include depression and other mental health issues, loneliness and social isolation, the impact of bereavement, the breakdown of relationships and domestic violence.

Home visitation remains at the centre of the programme, and over the course of the year our Pastoral Support Worker made 371 visits to a total of 96 people living in the local community.

The Worker has also continued to work intensively with individuals wanting to free themselves from addictions or compulsive behaviours, through the Persons In Recovery programme. At the core of this is the Recovery Course, a 12-step programme which returns to the original biblical inspiration that motivated Bill Wilson to establish Alcoholics Anonymous in the 1930's.

The aim of the programme is to help those engaged on the journey to stay clean and make a full recovery from their addiction, through the provision of holistic support. Following completion of the Recovery Course, the Worker will support individuals in getting help from the local Community Addiction Team, in seeking admission to a residential rehabilitation programme, and in accessing other support services that might be relevant to them. Anyone accessing support does so in the knowledge that it will be there, in its various forms, for as long as they need it and that the door will remain open to them at all times, even if they have had a slip or relapse. In total, 27 people were supported in these various ways through the programme during the year, with 15 new people being supported. 5 of those new people also completed the Recovery Course offered as part of the programme.

Our Grapevine Senior Citizens Lunch Club also continued to meet, with 13 people registered and an average of 10 people attending every week for a meal and a programme of activity including crafts, singing and quizzes.

In December, 257 adults and children living in the area received hampers at Christmas, containing food, toys and other Christmas gifts, an initiative made possible by the continued support of individuals, church groups, congregations within Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Danske Bank's Employee Charitable Group and a donation of toys and children's gifts from Cool FM/Downtown Radio's CASH 4 KIDS APPEAL. We estimate the value of this support at £12,270.

c. Grant-making policies

Trustees make grants to third parties in line with the terms of their letters of offer.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

A review of the activities has been included in 'Activities undertaken to achieve objectives' above.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The charity finished the year with a deficit of £81,238 (2023: £596) and reserves of £1,441,205 (2023: £1,522,443). £361,064 (2023: £381,078) of reserves were unrestricted and £1,080,141 (2023: £1,141,365) were restricted. The financial performance during the year has resulted in a financial position which the Trustees believe leaves the Centre in a sustainable financial position for the year ahead, given funding secured, and expectations of other income that will be generated.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. The Board consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

During the year and at the year end all the general funds under the control of the charity were unrestricted income funds. Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Restricted funds are accounted for separately. The Board confirm that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the charity and that the funds are not excessive, given the assets, commitments and size of the charity.

Members' liability

The Members of the company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 26 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mr Joseph Fittis
Chairman

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Vine Centre Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 Auditors' 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows.

The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. As part of the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercised professional judgement and maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit. We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with Trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector and we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We obtained an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used, including managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included but were not limited to agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 Auditors' Report.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Michael Fitch (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited, Statutory Auditors
Suite 2.06
Custom House
Custom House Square
Belfast
Antrim
BT1 3ET

26 September 2024

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	7,431	20,450	27,881	26,440
Charitable activities	4	435,898	731,746	1,167,645	1,284,121
Other income	6	28,720	-	28,720	40,235
Total income		472,049	752,196	1,224,245	1,350,796
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	9	492,063	813,420	1,305,483	1,351,393
Total expenditure		492,063	813,420	1,305,483	1,351,393
Net movement in funds		(20,014)	(61,224)	(81,238)	(597)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		381,078	1,141,365	1,522,443	1,523,040
Net movement in funds		(20,014)	(61,224)	(81,238)	(597)
Total funds carried forward		361,064	1,080,141	1,441,205	1,522,443

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: NI032293

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	1,009,343	1,048,443
		<u>1,009,343</u>	<u>1,048,443</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	59,595	97,424
Cash at bank and in hand		398,709	415,326
		<u>458,304</u>	<u>512,750</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(26,442)	(38,750)
Net current assets		431,862	474,000
Total assets less current liabilities		1,441,205	1,522,443
Net assets excluding pension asset		1,441,205	1,522,443
Total net assets		1,441,205	1,522,443
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	1,080,141	1,141,365
Unrestricted funds	18	361,064	381,078
Total funds		1,441,205	1,522,443

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 26 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mr Joseph Fittis
Chairman

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(16,617)	(5,702)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(4,114)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	-	(4,114)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from financing activities		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(16,617)	(9,816)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	415,326	425,142
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	398,709	415,326
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. General information

Vine Centre Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and registered in Northern Ireland under company registration number NI032293. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under number NIC100608 and is a registered charity with HMRC under number XR13743.

The charitable company's registered office is situated at 193 Crumlin Road, Belfast, BT14 7AA.

The principal activities of the company is the reliefment of poverty, advancement of religion and education, promotion of good health, citizenship and community development.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Vine Centre Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The charitable company's activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and financial position are set out in the Trustees' Report. The financial position of the charity, along with its policies and processes for maintaining current activity, managing its funding and its financial risk management are also set out in the Trustees' Report.

The charity meets its day-to-day working capital requirements through income from charitable activities. The current economic conditions, create some uncertainty over the levels of these that will be available in future periods, although the members are of the opinion that they will continue to provide adequate funds.

The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in operating performance, show that the charity will be able to operate within its current facilities.

After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% straight line

2.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.9 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.11 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	7,431	20,450	27,881
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	4,559	21,881	26,440
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 5)	-	731,746	731,746
Nursery Fees	295,660	-	295,660
Afterschools Fees	94,158	-	94,158
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	46,080	-	46,080
Total 2024	435,898	731,746	1,167,644

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 5)	-	880,552	880,552
Nursery Fees	270,508	-	270,508
Afterschools Fees	90,543	-	90,543
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	42,519	-	42,519
Total 2023	403,570	880,552	1,284,122

All income from charitable activities are from activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. Grants received for specific projects

	2024 £	2023 £
Department for Communities: North Belfast Advice Partnersip	108,243	120,241
Department for Communities: Crumlin Ward Initiative	153,674	165,866
Department for Communities: Secondment costs	18,819	56,650
Belfast City Council: Generalist Advice	263,328	270,444
Belfast City Council: Welfare Reform Support Project	7,816	33,135
Belfast City Council: Revenue Grant	20,000	14,880
Belfast City Council: Coming Out of Lockdown	-	220
Belfast City Council: Learning to Live Again	-	4,995
Belfast City Council: Fuel Hardship Fund	-	82,600
Belfast City Council: Fuel Hardship Fund - Management fees	-	8,243
Belfast City Council: Summer Scheme	1,500	-
Belfast City Council: Social Supermarket Funding	33,710	-
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Outcomes Group Funding	17,919	17,316
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Family Support Hub	60,991	44,609
Education Authority: Annual Registration Grant	2,981	1,945
Health & Social Care Board: Including Children with Additional Needs - Afterschools	-	7,808
Health & Social Care Board: Including Children with Additional Needs - Nursery	-	7,841
Health & Social Care Board: Energy Costs Grant - Afterschools	-	800
Health & Social Care Board: Energy Costs Grant - Nursery	-	800
Health & Social Care Board: Fair Play Small Grant Scheme	5,418	-
Health & Social Care Board: Holiday Grant Scheme	3,343	-
Health & Social Care Board: Minor Refurbishment Grant	1,950	-
Advice NI/Department for Communities: Debt Action	13,374	24,661
Irish Temperance League Trust: Core Grant	3,000	2,500
Public Health Agency: Making Life Better Through Short Term Funding	2,710	-
Early Years: Childcare Recovery Fund	-	864
Community Relations Council: Strategic Good Relations Programme	11,970	14,134
Dankse Bank: Annual Christmas Appeal	1,000	-
	731,746	880,552

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	10,894	10,894
ATM income	6,000	6,000
Rental income	11,826	11,826
Total 2024	28,720	28,720

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	10,072	10,072
ATM income	6,000	6,000
Rental income	12,149	12,149
Other income	12,014	12,014
Total 2023	40,235	40,235

7. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Organisations 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants to third parties (note 8)	354,077	354,077

	Grants to Organisations 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants to third parties (note 8)	430,231	430,231

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. Grants to third parties

	2024	2023
	£	£
Ardoyne Association	41,325	59,369
Ballysillan Community Forum	59,918	73,746
Advice Space Belfast	72,133	70,799
Ligoneil Improvement Association	78,781	123,502
Lower Oldpark Community Association	68,140	77,482
Tar Isteach	33,780	25,333
	354,077	430,231

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	492,063	813,420	1,305,483

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	434,267	917,126	1,351,393

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Grant funding of activities 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	683,639	354,077	267,767	1,305,483
	<u>683,639</u>	<u>354,077</u>	<u>267,767</u>	<u>1,305,483</u>
	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Grant funding of activities 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	647,247	430,231	273,915	1,351,393
	<u>647,247</u>	<u>430,231</u>	<u>273,915</u>	<u>1,351,393</u>

11. Auditors' remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's annual accounts	4,600	4,420
Fees payable to the company's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	3,200	3,080
	<u>3,200</u>	<u>3,080</u>

12. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	565,832	601,536
Social security costs	69,832	34,314
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	11,540	11,240
	<u>647,204</u>	<u>647,090</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

12. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

2024	2023
No.	No.
33	32
<u><u>33</u></u>	<u><u>32</u></u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2023	1,748,225	393,102	2,141,327
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>1,748,225</u></u>	<u><u>393,102</u></u>	<u><u>2,141,327</u></u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	720,456	372,428	1,092,884
Charge for the year	34,965	4,135	39,100
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>755,421</u></u>	<u><u>376,563</u></u>	<u><u>1,131,984</u></u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>992,804</u></u>	<u><u>16,539</u></u>	<u><u>1,009,343</u></u>
At 31 March 2023	<u><u>1,027,769</u></u>	<u><u>20,674</u></u>	<u><u>1,048,443</u></u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	20,432	12,217
Prepayments and accrued income	27,984	29,624
Grants receivable	11,179	55,583
	<u>59,595</u>	<u>97,424</u>

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank overdrafts	7,025	18,146
Trade creditors	8,424	9,322
Other taxation and social security	807	933
Other creditors	2,926	2,313
Accruals and deferred income	7,260	8,036
	<u>26,442</u>	<u>38,750</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	7,269	5,606
Resources deferred during the year	7,258	7,269
Amounts released from previous periods	(7,269)	(5,606)
	<u>7,258</u>	<u>7,269</u>

17. Financial instruments

	2024 £	2023 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	<u>398,709</u>	<u>415,326</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and in hand.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

18. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	381,078	472,049	(492,063)	361,064
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,141,365	752,196	(813,420)	1,080,141
Total of funds	1,522,443	1,224,245	(1,305,483)	1,441,205

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	366,981	448,364	(434,267)	381,078
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,156,059	902,432	(917,126)	1,141,365
Total of funds	1,523,040	1,350,796	(1,351,393)	1,522,443

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

19. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General funds	381,078	472,049	(492,063)	361,064
Restricted funds	1,141,365	752,196	(813,420)	1,080,141
	<u>1,522,443</u>	<u>1,224,245</u>	<u>(1,305,483)</u>	<u>1,441,205</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
General funds	366,981	448,364	(434,267)	381,078
Restricted funds	1,156,059	902,432	(917,126)	1,141,365
	<u>1,523,040</u>	<u>1,350,796</u>	<u>(1,351,393)</u>	<u>1,522,443</u>

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	61,079	948,264	1,009,343
Current assets	314,414	143,890	458,304
Creditors due within one year	(14,429)	(12,013)	(26,442)
Total	<u>361,064</u>	<u>1,080,141</u>	<u>1,441,205</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	65,172	983,271	1,048,443
Current assets	331,189	181,561	512,750
Creditors due within one year	(15,283)	(23,467)	(38,750)
Other unallocated	(2)	-	(2)
Total	381,076	1,141,365	1,522,441

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(81,238)	(597)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	39,100	39,786
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	37,829	(43,620)
Decrease in creditors	(12,308)	(1,271)
Net cash used in operating activities	(16,617)	(5,702)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	398,709	415,326
Total cash and cash equivalents	398,709	415,326

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	415,326	(16,617)	398,709
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	(18,146)	11,121	(7,025)
	<u>397,180</u>	<u>(5,496)</u>	<u>391,684</u>

24. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £11,540 (2023: £11,240).

25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2024 the company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	502	502
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	209	711
	<u>711</u>	<u>1,213</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	502	502
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

26. Related party transactions

During the year, there were no related party transactions.

27. Controlling party

The charity is controlled by the Board of Trustees.

28. PAASE disclosure

In common with many other businesses of this size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

The Vine Centre

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100608

Accounts

Registered number: NI032293
Charity number: NIC100608

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Trustees	Mr Joseph Fittis, Chairman Mr Timothy Fitzsimons Mrs Barbara McIlwrath Mrs Evelyn Coleman Mr Thomas Dickson Mrs Anne Marie Simpson Mrs Gwen Simmons Mrs Patricia Kennedy
Company registered number	NI032293
Charity registered number	NIC100608
Registered office	193 Crumlin Road Belfast BT14 7DX
Company secretary	Stephen Reid
Chief executive officer	Stephen Reid
Independent auditors	UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited Statutory Auditors & Chartered Accountants Gordon Street Mews 27-29 Gordon Street Belfast Antrim BT1 2LG
Solicitors	Hewitt & Gilpin Thomas House 14 - 16 James Street South Belfast BT2 7GA

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the company for the 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 22 April 1997. This was amended, with the consent of the Charity Commission, by a special resolution of members dated 26 February 2015.

The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under the registration number NIC100608, and accepted by HMRC as a charity under the reference XR13743.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

All of the Trustees are members of the Company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of the company being wound up. None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. The following Trustees held office during the period:

Mr Timothy Fitzsimons
Barbara McIlwrath
Evelyn Coleman
Thomas Dickson
Anne Marie Simpson
Gwen Simmons
Patricia Kennedy
Joseph Fittis, Chairman

The Board of Trustees is comprised of the following:

- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Immanuel Presbyterian Church;
- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Crumlin Road Presbyterian Church;
- 2 representatives nominated by any organisations who are affiliated members of the Centre;
- 2 user representatives nominated by individual members of the Centre.

These nominations are subject to the approval of members at the Annual General Meeting. In the case of affiliated organisations and user representatives, if the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies there shall be an election to determine who amongst the nominees is appointed.

At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the Trustees, being those who have been longest in office since their election, are required to retire and submit themselves for re-nomination and re-election. Vacancies which arise through retirement or removal may be filled by the Trustees at a general meeting. In the event of a casual vacancy, due to death or resignation, the Trustees may appoint a replacement, who will be required to retire and seek re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. In addition, the Trustees may co-opt individuals who have specific knowledge or skills which the board judge to be relevant to the charities ongoing activities, as long as such co-options do not exceed one third of the elected Trustees.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Board of Trustees is the ultimate controlling party of the charity, and is responsible for all aspects of corporate governance within the company. The Board meets a minimum of 10 times each year to define and agree strategic priorities for the charity, monitor progress and review the resources available to sustain the company. The day to day running of the charity is carried out by the Centre Manager, Stephen Reid.

d. Financial risk management

The Trustees continue to regularly review any major risks arising from or impacting on the activities of the charity. They are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary and consider that the financial systems and controls in place are appropriate to the size of the charity and the nature of its operations.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Centre was established in 1970 by members of the congregations of local churches, as a practical demonstration of God's love for those living in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

The specific objects of the Centre, as set out in our Articles of Association, are to:

- 1. Relieve poverty**, by providing advice and information services which seek to maximise the incomes of individuals in poverty, and alleviate the financial hardship of those in debt;
- 2. Advance education**, by providing training programmes and educational courses which seek to enable people of all ages to increase their knowledge, enhance their educational attainment, and develop employable skills;
- 3. Promote good health**, by providing childcare services and related programmes which improve the physical, emotional and intellectual wellbeing of children and build the capacity of parents to make informed choices about parenting, visitation and support to those experiencing isolation or crisis as a result of mental health problems, and activities which enable local people to make positive choices about their health and lifestyle;
- 4. Advance the Christian religion**, by providing spiritual support to those experiencing bereavement, personal crisis or isolation, and by providing activities for those with no existing church connection who wish to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- 5. Promote good citizenship and community development**, by providing local people opportunities to positively contribute to the wellbeing of others in their community as volunteers, providing advice and information which empowers people to understand and exercise their rights as citizens, and working in partnership with other interested local agencies and individuals to achieve the physical, social and economic regeneration of the area.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

Advice Services

The core of our advice provision remains our generalist advice service, which has now been operating for five decades. Generalist advisors cover issues such as benefit entitlement, consumer rights, housing and employment issues.

During the year, staff dealt with a total of 3,962 enquiries on behalf of 1,853 clients. 85% of the enquiries dealt with by staff were benefit related.

The high level of benefit related work is attributable to the significant concentration of low income households within our catchment area: seven of the ten Super Output Areas in Belfast with the highest percentage of households in relative poverty (where equivalent household income is 60% or less of the Northern Ireland average) can be found clustered on either side of the Crumlin Road. Low income households are generally more dependent on benefits for part of their weekly household income, and more likely to have to access the benefits system if their financial circumstances change.

In this context, assisting with claims and maximising household income through available benefit entitlement remains the key piece of work our advisors undertake on behalf of clients; during the year we helped local people make 1,321 claims and, in those cases where we know the outcome, helped secure £3,374,993 in additional benefit entitlement.

During the year we continued our move away from telephony as the primary channel for advice and back towards fact-to-face appointments as the default way of engaging clients. We also began re-establishing outreaches at a number of locations, including Grove Housing Association in the Lower North Belfast area, and Greater Shankill Community Council.

We have also seen a shift from helping our clients make a claim, to helping our clients to make and maintain their claim, and towards the end of the year we were planning to open a weekly Universal Credit drop-in, where local people could call in to get help with queries or issues that might arise with their claim.

We conducted a client satisfaction survey with a representative sample of clients who used our service during the year. In that survey:

- 96% of respondents said that they were 'very satisfied' with the level of service we provided;
- 96% said that they found staff 'very helpful' in their dealings with them;
- 100% said that they would 'certainly recommend' our service to someone else who needed advice;
- 80% said that the outcome of their case was 'better than expected'.

Respondents also told us that the additional income we secured for them enabled them to:

- Cope better with the rising cost of food and utilities;
- Buy better quality food to support a healthier diet;
- Reduce their debt, and make them less reliant going forward on borrowing money to help make ends meet;
- Live more independently, particularly in terms of accessing transport to do a range of things from shopping to attending medical appointments;
- Experience reduced levels of stress and anxiety.

In addition to the work they do directly for clients, advisors also made referrals to other services, including local food banks for access to food in emergencies, housing support, support with addiction, education and training opportunities, and the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service for representation at appeals.

Since June 2019, we have been an active partner in the delivery of Debt Action, the regional money and debt advice service, which is funded by the Department of Communities and co-ordinated on a regional level by Advice NI. This has enabled us to employ a Money Advisor, who can provide people from the North Belfast and Shankill areas with advice on potential strategies to address their debt, negotiate with creditors on their behalf,

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

and help them plan and manage their finances more effectively going forward. During the year our advisor dealt with 105 clients, and negotiated 421 debts totalling £1,105,651 on their behalf.

We also continue to offer a Family Debt & Benefits Service for families with children under 18, funded through the Belfast Outcomes Group by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust. This service is accessible through referral by any of the ten Family Support Hubs operating in the Belfast Trust area, and aims to address any debt that the family may have, build the capacity of families to manage their household finances more effectively, and maximise household income by identifying and securing any unclaimed benefit entitlement that the family may have.

During the year, the service dealt with 84 families and helped them negotiate debts totalling £475,315.

Over the course of the year, we saw an increase in the number of families referred to us where the primary need was for information and guidance on managing their money more effectively. This may primarily reflect the increased pressures created when fixed or low incomes are being squeezed by rising prices, but we have also learned that some families, particularly those reliant on benefits, often have no sense of an overall income, but manage their household finances around a series of payments.

In addition to the one-to-one support available to families, in response to the cost of living crisis we have also continued to deliver Money Management workshops a group basis. Areas covered in each workshop are basic budgeting, planning ahead, saving, borrowing and debt, information on up to date money saving apps, money saving websites and Facebook sites (e.g. feeding your family on a budget, money saving tips and tricks). Participants are also made aware of what support services are available locally should they need advice, information or advocacy. These workshops were tailored to the specific audiences – in the case of parents, we incorporated elements of the Talk Learn Do approach, originally piloted in Wales, which looks to build the capacity of parents to engage with their children over money related issues.

In total, during the year, we delivered 40 workshops to a total of 401 participants, in partnership with a wide variety of groups across North Belfast and the Shankill. Feedback from these workshops was extremely positive, not only because of the topicality of the issues covered, but also because of the informality of the delivery, which put people at their ease, and the provision of practical information that people could readily use in their day-to-day lives. 100% of participants said that the workshops increased their knowledge and skills, whilst 99% said that they would change their money behaviours as a result.

The Centre has continued to play an active role in the North Belfast Advice Partnership, which was established in 2003 as a vehicle for independent advice organisations in North Belfast to collaborate in a more strategic way around advice provision, with the aim of maximising the impact of available resources and ensuring that local people have access to comprehensive, high quality advice, information and advocacy across this part of the city. We act as lead partner for grant funding received collectively by the Partnership, and we employ a Co-ordinator on behalf of the Partnership, who provides technical support to individual partners around service delivery, promotes the work of the Advice Partnership within North Belfast, liaises with the wider advice sector and manages the delivery of shared programmes in the area.

This includes the continued delivery of the Partnership's Volunteer Development Programme, which was again funded by the Executive Office's North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme, administered by the Community Relations Council.

This programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Association as part of the Connected Futures programme. 43 people participated in the programme of training offered by the programme, with 19 completing an OCN Level 2 in Welfare Rights delivered by the Law Centre. We also delivered a series of 15 Welfare Reform workshops to a total of 332 participants, in partnership with 16 local organisations.

During the year the Partnership also delivered two initiatives, funded by Belfast City Council, to help residents meet the rising cost of food and energy caused by high levels of inflation.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

At the beginning of the year, the Partnership was completing the delivery of a Food/Fuel Voucher Scheme funded by Belfast City Council to help local people deal with the rising cost of food and utilities. The scheme provided households who met the criteria for support with vouchers for local supermarkets, with the value of vouchers dependent on household size. We also provided support for gas and electricity top ups, with each service having a local retailer who redeemed vouchers presented to it. Staff also carried out benefit checks with clients, with any potential unclaimed benefit entitlement being identified and a claim submitted.

In total, 814 local households benefitted from food vouchers totalling £43,700 issued through this project, and 181 households benefitted from gas/electricity vouchers totalling £10,000.

In the last three months of the year, the Partnership was involved in delivering Belfast City Council's Fuel Hardship Fund for residents living in the Ligoniel, Ballysillan, Ardoyne, Cliftonville and Lower Oldpark areas. The Fund was established by Council to help households in the city mitigate the impact of increasing energy costs, with eligible households able to receive up to £100 towards the cost of paying for electricity, gas or oil.

Collectively, the Partnership supported a total of 832 households in the areas we were assigned. 751 households accessed support with gas totalling £47,676, and 627 households received support with electricity costs totalling £34,603.

Both these projects were delivered within a very tight timeframe, in terms of the development and implementation. Whilst this created an additional workload for the staff involved, both demonstrated that advice services are well equipped to act as a vehicle for providing practical support to local people; advisors have extensive experience of talking to people about their household finances, and assessing their circumstances against criteria, and this greatly contributed to the successful delivery of these initiatives.

Childcare

Childcare remains an important component of the Centre's offer to local people, not only in terms of providing an affordable, locally accessible service to local parents, and the positive contribution it makes to the development of the children in our care, but also in terms of the contribution that childcare provision, as a social enterprise, makes to the overall sustainability of the Centre.

We offer childcare through:

- Bulrush Day Nursery, with 39 places for babies and children up to primary school age, which offers, in the words of our most recent inspection report by the Belfast Trust, a 'warm and welcoming' setting for children.
- Vine Afterschools Club, with places for up to 48 primary school aged children each day, which opens on a part time basis during the school year, and on a full time basis during periods of school closure, and offers a wide range of child led, play activity.

Occupancy within our Afterschools Club continues to be impacted by the fact that many parents have continued to work from home since the pandemic and therefore did not need childcare provision, or needed it on a reduced basis, particularly if their children were older. As a consequence, occupancy levels have been much slower to recover than those in the Nursery, which have remained high across the year, with continuing demand for places, increasingly on a full time rather than part time basis.

Across the year, we provided our service to 126 local families, with a total of 138 children attending. At the end of March 2023, we had 94 children on the registers for our two settings.

In terms of Afterschools, staff collected children from 9 local primary schools across North Belfast and the Shankill.

Most the families who used our service during the year are working families, accessing places on a fee-paying basis. We also provide childcare on a sessional basis to children referred by social work teams through the Belfast Trust's Sponsored Daycare Scheme or Looked After Children Service.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

When the Centre began providing childcare as a social economy initiative in 2005, one of our objectives was to create employment opportunities in the area. During the year, our childcare provision has sustained 18.7 FTE posts in childcare and ancillary roles, with the majority of staff drawn from our catchment area as an organisation.

Family Support Hub

During the year the Centre remained the lead body for the Upper North Belfast Family Support Hub, which has been operational since January 2016.

The Hub is one of 29 across Northern Ireland, and 10 in the Belfast Trust area, established by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. Each Hub is a multi-agency network of statutory, voluntary and community organizations who collaborate to provide a simple voluntary referral mechanism whereby families with children under 18 who need early intervention support can be connected to suitable support, in an effort to reduce the number of families requiring formal social services involvement.

The Upper North Belfast Hub area covers the part of North Belfast bounded the Crumlin Road to the south, and the Antrim Road to the east. It contains a diverse range of communities, including some of the most deprived areas in the city.

During the year, the Hub received a total of 377 service requests, of which 353 (78%) were processed. 71% of service requests were processed to completion within four weeks of receipt.

Requests for support came from 8 of the 9 electoral wards covered by the Hub. However, 90% of the requests received were from families living in the three Neighbourhood Renewal Areas within our catchment area, which suggests a strong correlation between the specific issues presented to the Hub and wider issues of multiple deprivation in those areas. The three most common forms of support initially sought by families were for emotional and behavioural difficulty support for children, practical support (help with food and fuel costs, or financial emergencies) and counselling services.

73% of the service requests we processed resulted in at least one service being provided to families requesting support. In total, 246 adults and 156 children accessed 541 service interventions, provided by 36 organisations. The support accessed by families included home based family support, help with the cost of living, debt advice, counselling, mentoring for children and young people and support for children with disabilities.

In terms of those accessing services, 75% of adults were, perhaps unsurprisingly, women aged 25-44. The largest group of children and young people who received support during the year were boys aged 5-11.

53% of the services accessed during the year were those specifically requested on the Service Request Form. This demonstrates the importance of the conversation between the Hub Co-ordinator and a parent after the initial request is made, when a more nuanced assessment of the family's circumstances can be made, and more relevant, or additional, forms of support for the family identified.

74% of families who responded reported a positive experience of the services they had accessed.

From the outset, the Hub has very much been a coalition of the willing, dependent for its success on organisations who bring their knowledge and expertise, and most importantly the services they can offer, to the table to support local families. At the end of the year, 77 organisations and agencies were affiliated to the Hub as core or associate members.

Lifelong Learning

We remain committed to promoting a culture of Lifelong Learning amongst local people, providing opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills, gain qualifications to improve their employability, help their children with their homework, maintain good physical and mental wellbeing, or simply keep their minds active.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

During the year 17 people gained Essential Skills qualifications in Literacy, Numeracy and Information & Communication Technology, through classes delivered in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College. This was a challenging year for our classes. Whilst we did see increased interest in classes, there were difficulties in securing tutors which meant, in one case, that a Numeracy class with 13 people registered was unable to proceed when a tutor fell ill and could not be replaced. This significantly impacted on our retention and completion rates, with only 33% of those registering for classes achieving a qualification.

Our weekly Healthy Living Group for older women continued to meet during the year, with 25 registered and an average of 22 attending every week. The Group participated in a number of programmes over the course of the year, including art and craft activities, a mindfulness programme and Boccia sessions. Some members of the group also took part in a project with a group from Sailortown, as part of the Grand Opera House's Compass Project, which involved groups from across Belfast, developing a short script for a play about the social history of Belfast which was then rehearsed and performed on the Studio stage in the Opera House. 100% of those attending told us that participation in the Group has had a positive impact on their mental and physical wellbeing.

15 children were registered with our Homework Club from primary school aged children, with an average of 11 children attending each week to do their homework in a quiet setting, with access to technology if needed and the assistance of staff and volunteers, including two student volunteers recruited through Queen's University's Student Volunteer Programme.

22 people accessed support through our Work Club during the year, where they received assistance with job search, completing applications, putting together a CV and preparing for job interviews. Towards the end of the year we began to see increased demand for support, particularly amongst Universal Credit claimants, with our local Jobs & Benefits Office referring people to us for support in helping them meet their claimant commitment in actively seeking employment. 3 people gained employment as a result of the support they received, and 9 were referred to further employability support in the local community.

Our Little Sparks Toddler Group resumed in September 2022, with 28 families registered and an average attendance of 26 adults and children attending each week – many parents welcomed an opportunity to get out and socialise with others whilst their children played with each other, after a long period in which they were unable to do so.

Pastoral Support

Our Pastoral Support programme, which began in 2008, has continued to extend the reach of the Centre by engaging those in our local community who are experiencing isolation or crisis. The programme recognises that the needs of people are not only practical, but spiritual and emotional, and that many people in our community do not have someone close who they can share their problems with. Those problems can include depression and other mental health issues, loneliness and social isolation, the impact of bereavement, the breakdown of relationships and domestic violence.

Home visitation remains at the centre of the programme, and over the course of the year our Pastoral Support Worker made 378 visits to a total of 78 people living in the local community.

The Worker has also continued to work intensively with individuals wanting to free themselves from addictions or compulsive behaviours, through the Persons In Recovery programme. At the core of this is the Recovery Course, a 12 Step programme which returns to the original biblical inspiration that motivated Bill Wilson to establish Alcoholics Anonymous in the 1930's.

The aim of the programme is to help those engaged on the journey to stay clean and make a full recovery from their addiction, through the provision of holistic support. Following completion of the Recovery Course, the Worker will support individuals in getting help from the local Community Addiction Team, in seeking admission to a residential rehabilitation programme, and in accessing other support services that might be relevant to them. Anyone accessing support does so in the knowledge that it will be there, in its various forms, for as long as they need it and that the door will remain open to them at all times, even if they have had a slip or relapse.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Some of those we support find recovery challenging because their addiction has alienated them from the support networks of family, friends and neighbours that might help them deal with many of the challenges or situations that they encounter in their day-to-day lives. In some cases, this has meant that our Worker may be the only person visiting someone in prison, but he has also helped clients deal with more mundane issues, such as accompanying them to GP and other medical appointments, and making representations on their behalf around housing issues.

In total, 23 people were supported in these various ways through the programme during the year, with 6 new people being supported. 5 of those new people also completed the Recovery Course offered as part of the programme.

This can be challenging work, reflected in the fact that during the year two of those being supported lost their battle with addiction. At the same time, we can report that almost three quarters of those who were supported during the year were in sobriety at the end of the year, and we have also seen the cumulative impact of unconditional, long term support for individuals, with some clients being supported to make profound, lasting changes to their lives.

Our Grapevine Senior Citizens Lunch Club resumed in September 2022, with 12 people registered and an average of 10 people every week attending. 75% of those attending said that the social interaction provided by the Club had a positive impact on their wellbeing.

In December, 280 adults and children living in the area received hampers at Christmas, containing food, toys and other Christmas gifts, an initiative made possible by the continued support of individuals, church groups, congregations within Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and a donation of toys and children's gifts from Cool FM/Downtown Radio's CASH 4 KIDS APPEAL. We estimate the value of this support at £12,256.

c. Grant-making policies

Trustees make grants to third parties in line with the terms of their letters of offer.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

A review of the activities has been included in 'Activities undertaken to achieve objectives' above.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

b. Reserves policy

The charity finished the year with a deficit of £596 (2022: deficit £17,762) and reserves of £1,522,442 (2022: £1,523,038). £381,076 (2022: £366,979) of reserves were unrestricted and £1,141,366 (2022: £1,156,059) were restricted. The financial performance during the year has resulted in a financial position which the Trustees believe leaves the Centre in a sustainable financial position for the year ahead, given funding secured, and expectations of other income that will be generated.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. The Board consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

During the year and at the year end all the general funds under the control of the charity were unrestricted income funds. Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Restricted funds are accounted for separately. The Board confirm that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the charity and that the funds are not excessive, given the assets, commitments and size of the charity.

Members' liability

The Members of the company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 28 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr Joseph Fittis
Chairman

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Vine Centre Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 Auditors' 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows.

The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. As part of the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercised professional judgement and maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit. We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with Trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector and we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and Value Added Tax (VAT) Act 1994.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We obtained an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used, including managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included but were not limited to agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 Auditors' Report.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Fitch (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited

Statutory Auditors & Chartered Accountants

Gordon Street Mews

27-29 Gordon Street

Belfast

Antrim

BT1 2LG

28 September 2023

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	4,559	21,881	26,440	27,207
Charitable activities	4	403,570	880,552	1,284,121	1,298,996
Other income	6	40,235	-	40,235	39,099
Total income		448,364	902,433	1,350,797	1,365,302
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	9	434,267	917,126	1,351,393	1,383,064
Total expenditure		434,267	917,126	1,351,393	1,383,064
Net movement in funds		14,097	(14,693)	(596)	(17,762)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		366,979	1,156,059	1,523,038	1,540,800
Net movement in funds		14,097	(14,693)	(596)	(17,762)
Total funds carried forward		381,076	1,141,366	1,522,442	1,523,038

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: NI032293

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	1,048,443	1,084,113
		<u>1,048,443</u>	<u>1,084,113</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	97,424	53,804
Cash at bank and in hand		415,326	425,142
		<u>512,750</u>	<u>478,946</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(38,752)	(40,021)
		<u>473,998</u>	<u>438,925</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,522,441</u>	<u>1,523,038</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>1,522,441</u>	<u>1,523,038</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>1,522,441</u></u>	<u><u>1,523,038</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	1,141,365	1,156,059
Unrestricted funds	18	381,076	366,979
		<u>1,522,441</u>	<u>1,523,038</u>
Total funds		<u><u>1,522,441</u></u>	<u><u>1,523,038</u></u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 28 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr Joseph Fittis
Chairman

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(5,701)	39,464
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(4,115)	(4,786)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,115)	(4,786)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(9,816)	34,678
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	425,142	390,464
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	415,326	425,142
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. General information

Vine Centre Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and registered in Northern Ireland under company registration number NI032293. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under number NIC100608 and is a registered charity with HMRC under number XR13743.

The charitable company's registered office is situated at 193 Crumlin Road, Belfast, BT14 7AA.

The principal activities of the company is the reliefment of poverty, advancement of religion and education, promotion of good health, citizenship and community development.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Vine Centre Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The charitable company's activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and financial position are set out in the Trustees' Report. The financial position of the charity, along with its policies and processes for maintaining current activity, managing its funding and its financial risk management are also set out in the Trustees' Report.

The charity meets its day-to-day working capital requirements through income from charitable activities. The current economic conditions, create some uncertainty over the levels of these that will be available in future periods, although the members are of the opinion that they will continue to provide adequate funds.

The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in operating performance, show that the charity will be able to operate within its current facilities.

After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the company's accounting policies.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% straight line

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.10 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

2.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	4,559	21,881	26,440
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	5,012	19,430	24,442
Government grants	2,765	-	2,765
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Total 2022	7,777	19,430	27,207

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 5)	-	880,552	880,552
Nursery Fees	270,508	-	270,508
Afterschools Fees	90,543	-	90,543
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	42,519	-	42,519
Total 2023	403,570	880,552	1,284,122

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 5)	21,414	893,397	914,811
Nursery Fees	244,711	-	244,711
Afterschools Fees	98,566	-	98,566
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	40,907	-	40,907
Total 2022	405,598	893,397	1,298,995

All income from charitable activities are from activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5. Grants received for specific projects

	2023	2022
	£	£
Department for Communities: North Belfast Advice Partnersip	120,241	120,382
Department for Communities: Crumlin Ward Initiative	165,866	161,675
Department for Communities: Secondment costs	56,650	-
Belfast City Council: Generalist Advice	270,444	266,760
Belfast City Council: Welfare Reform Support Project	33,135	32,095
Belfast City Council: Financial Inclusion	-	54,400
Belfast City Council: Revenue Grant	14,880	14,380
Belfast City Council: Coming Out of Lockdown	220	-
Belfast City Council: Learning to Live Again	4,995	-
Belfast City Council: Fuel Hardship Fund	82,600	-
Belfast City Council: Fuel Hardship Fund - Management fees	8,243	-
Belfast City Council: Food/Fuel Voucher Scheme Winter	-	57,666
Belfast City Council: Covid Recovery Funding	-	26,193
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Outcomes Group Funding	17,316	16,659
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Family Support Hub	44,609	41,302
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Baby Bag/Broadband Initiative	-	2,000
Education Authority: Annual Registration Grant	1,945	2,000
Education Authority: Summer Programme	-	6,000
Health & Social Care Board: Including Children with Additional Needs - Afterschools	7,808	10,647
Health & Social Care Board: Including Children with Additional Needs - Nursery	7,841	6,059
Health & Social Care Board: Small Equipment Grant	-	1,904
Health & Social Care Board: Energy Costs Grant - Afterschools	800	-
Health & Social Care Board: Energy Costs Grant - Nursery	800	-
Advice NI/Department for Communities: Debt Action	24,661	50,483
Department of Education: Childcare Recovery Fund - Afterschools	-	6,060
Department of Education: Childcare Recovery Fund - Nursery	-	15,354
Irish Temperance League Trust: Core Grant	2,500	2,500
Early Years: Childcare Recovery Fund	864	-
Community Relations Council: Strategic Good Relations Programme	14,134	19,292
Groundwork - Tesco Community Grant: Annual Christmas Appeal	-	1,000
	880,552	914,811

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	10,072	10,072
ATM income	6,000	6,000
Rental income	12,149	12,149
Insurance income	12,014	12,014
Total 2023	40,235	40,235

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	23,298	23,298
ATM income	6,000	6,000
Rental income	9,801	9,801
Total 2022	39,099	39,099

7. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Organisations 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants to third parties (note 8)	430,231	430,231

	Grants to Organisations 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Grants to third parties (note 8)	472,726	472,726

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8. Grants to third parties

	2023	2022
	£	£
Ardoyne Association	59,369	121,300
Ballysillan Community Forum	73,746	55,205
Advice Space Belfast	70,799	84,023
Ligoneil Improvement Association	123,502	107,062
Lower Oldpark Community Association	77,482	74,403
Tar Isteach	25,333	27,433
YEHA	-	600
TAMHI	-	200
Ardoyne/Holy Cross Boxing Club	-	300
Cliftonville Community Reeneration	-	1,100
Global Cafe North Belfast	-	500
Ardoyne Youth Club	-	200
North Belfast Alternatives	-	400
	430,231	472,726

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	434,267	917,126	1,351,393
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	449,927	933,137	1,383,064

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Grant funding of activities 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	647,247	430,231	273,915	1,351,393
	<u>647,247</u>	<u>430,231</u>	<u>273,915</u>	<u>1,351,393</u>
	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Grant funding of activities 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	657,499	472,726	252,838	1,383,063
	<u>657,499</u>	<u>472,726</u>	<u>252,838</u>	<u>1,383,063</u>

11. Auditors' remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's annual accounts	4,420	4,032
Fees payable to the company's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	3,080	2,808
	<u>3,080</u>	<u>2,808</u>

12. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	601,536	615,182
Social security costs	34,314	38,636
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	11,240	11,191
	<u>647,090</u>	<u>665,009</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

2023	2022
No.	No.
32	32

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2022	1,748,225	388,987	2,137,212
Additions	-	4,115	4,115
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,748,225</u>	<u>393,102</u>	<u>2,141,327</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	685,491	367,607	1,053,098
Charge for the year	34,965	4,821	39,786
At 31 March 2023	<u>720,456</u>	<u>372,428</u>	<u>1,092,884</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,027,769</u>	<u>20,674</u>	<u>1,048,443</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,062,734</u>	<u>21,379</u>	<u>1,084,113</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	12,217	15,924
Prepayments and accrued income	29,624	13,325
Grants receivable	55,583	24,555
	<u>97,424</u>	<u>53,804</u>

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank overdrafts	18,146	17,162
Trade creditors	9,322	12,138
Other taxation and social security	933	1,396
Other creditors	2,315	3,719
Accruals and deferred income	8,036	5,606
	<u>38,752</u>	<u>40,021</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	5,606	6,994
Resources deferred during the year	7,269	5,606
Amounts released from previous periods	(5,606)	(6,994)
	<u>7,269</u>	<u>5,606</u>

17. Financial instruments

	2023 £	2022 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	415,326	425,142

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and in hand.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

18. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	366,979	448,364	(434,267)	381,076
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,156,059	902,432	(917,126)	1,141,365
Total of funds	1,523,038	1,350,796	(1,351,393)	1,522,441

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	364,431	452,475	(449,927)	366,979
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,176,369	912,827	(933,137)	1,156,059
Total of funds	1,540,800	1,365,302	(1,383,064)	1,523,038

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
General funds	366,979	448,364	(434,267)	381,076
Restricted funds	1,156,059	902,432	(917,126)	1,141,365
	<u>1,523,038</u>	<u>1,350,796</u>	<u>(1,351,393)</u>	<u>1,522,441</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
General funds	364,431	452,475	(449,927)	366,979
Restricted funds	1,176,369	912,827	(933,137)	1,156,059
	<u>1,540,800</u>	<u>1,365,302</u>	<u>(1,383,064)</u>	<u>1,523,038</u>

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	65,172	983,271	1,048,443
Current assets	331,189	181,561	512,750
Creditors due within one year	(15,285)	(23,467)	(38,752)
Total	<u>381,076</u>	<u>1,141,365</u>	<u>1,522,441</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	65,457	1,018,656	1,084,113
Current assets	318,688	160,257	478,945
Creditors due within one year	(17,167)	(22,854)	(40,021)
Total	366,978	1,156,059	1,523,037

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(596)	(17,762)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	39,786	39,806
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(43,620)	12,944
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(1,271)	4,476
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(5,701)	39,464

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	415,326	425,142
Total cash and cash equivalents	415,326	425,142

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	425,142	(9,816)	415,326
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	(17,162)	(984)	(18,146)
	<u>407,980</u>	<u>(10,800)</u>	<u>397,180</u>

24. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £11,240 (2022: £11,191).

25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2023 the company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	502	502
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	711	1,213
	<u>1,213</u>	<u>1,715</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	502	502
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

26. Related party transactions

During the year, there were no related party transactions.

27. Controlling party

The charity is controlled by the Board of Trustees.

28. PAASE disclosure

In common with many other businesses of this size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

The Vine Centre

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100608

Annual report



supporting families | strengthening community

Trustees Report for the Year Ending 31 March 2023

Taken from Statements of Financial Activities

Administrative Information

Charity Name	The Vine Centre
Registered Address	193 Crumlin Road Belfast BT14 7AA
Company Registration	NI32293
Charity Registration	NIC100608
Board of Directors	Joseph Fittis (Chair) Gwen Simmons (Vice Chair) Barbara McIlwrath (Secretary) Tim Fitzsimons (Treasurer) Nan Simpson Evelyn Coleman Thomas Dickson Pat Kennedy
Company Secretary	Stephen Reid
Chief Executive Officer	Stephen Reid
Auditors	UHY Hacker Young Fitch Gordon Street Mews 27-29 Gordon Street Belfast BT1 2LG
Solicitors	Hewitt & Gilpin Thomas House 14-16 James Street South Belfast BT2 7GA
Staff	Claire Adams, Elizabeth Anderson, Katrina Barrow, Sherrie Beattie Rebekka Blain, Kerriann Bowler, Andrea Boyle, Samantha Bradshaw Deborah Browne, Elaine Corbett, Sophie Cuthel, Ruchelle Dawson Sonya Donaldson, Tomas Donnelly, Ashleigh Dowie, Jessica Dunlop Marie Fennell, Lindsey Gilliland, Sally Gilmore, Codie-Lee Harrison Kim Johnston, Julie Kinnear, Kelly Knocker, Clar-Rois Magee Clare Maskey, Rachel McCormick, Kathy McKenna, Sinead McKinley Karen McLean, Lauren Millar, Shannon O'Neill, Stephen Reid Lisa Roulston, Hannah Spencer, Lorraine Stubbs, David Surgenor Alison Todd, Tracey Whittley, Leanne Woods, Louise Young
Volunteers	Patricia Ashe, Ainsley Cosby, Nandeesh Banakar, Adele Huddleston, Eleanor Jamison, Roisin King, Molly Kirkpatrick, Lorna Osborne, Nan Simpson, Sara Zamly

Introduction

This Trustees Report documents the work of the Centre, which has been continued over the year in question as it was originally conceived 53 years ago, as a practical demonstration of God's love for the people of the area, and a fulfilment of Paul's injunction to serve one another as Christ served us.

In 1970, that service took the form of support to local people who literally found themselves on the frontline of the Troubles, with families having to leave their homes at short notice due to political violence in the area, with all the attendant challenges that presented.

In 2022, it finds its expression in a variety of ways; providing locally accessible, affordable childcare for working families, helping local people on low or fixed incomes maximize their household income and make more effective use of the money they have, helping individuals deal with their debts, making it easier for local families to access a wide range of support for both adults and children, helping individuals gain new skills and increase their employability, providing social activities for parents and older people, and supporting those who have experienced addiction achieve recovery and rebuild their lives.

The year covered by this report has been a very challenging one for many local people.

By now, we should all be disabused of any notion that there would ever be a return to some semblance of 'normality' in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, we have seen the economic impact of disrupted supply chains, and the war in Ukraine, manifest itself in the form of rapidly increasing household costs. At the end of the year, the rate of inflation for food in the UK stood at 19.4%, the highest figure in 45 years.

Everyone in Northern Ireland has experienced the impact of this. People here generally have less disposable income, lower savings, and less provision for retirement than people elsewhere in the UK. Over a quarter of us say that we have savings of less than £100 and one in eight of us have no savings whatsoever; in a recent survey by the Money & Pensions Service, almost a quarter of those surveyed in Northern Ireland said that they would struggle to pay an unexpected bill of £300 or more.

The communities clustered along the Crumlin Road contain a disproportionately large share of households who would be deemed to be in 'relative' poverty; these households tend to spend a larger percentage of their income on food and fuel, which makes the impact of rising costs more immediate, and the pressures more acute. Whilst there has been emergency support from government, and we have participated in some one-off initiatives led by Belfast City Council to help people with food and fuel costs, many people are now faced with the prospect of living more precariously as a matter of routine.

Beyond this, we are also getting a sense of the longer term impact of the pandemic, across a whole range of issues such as delayed child development, lower educational attainment and the impact of the pandemic and lockdown on emotional and mental wellbeing.

For organizations like the Centre, this has also been a challenging time. Whilst funders have provided additional support, particularly to help meet rising energy costs, we have still seen the cost of our day-to-day operations rise, in a context where we have limited capacity to absorb increased costs. We are also in a much more challenging environment in terms of recruitment and staff retention, particularly in the childcare and advice sectors.

Throughout all of this, the goal of the Centre has remained to sustain a broad offer to local people, in terms of the programmes, activities and services that we provide, and that this work has continued to have a positive impact in our community.

As always, the Board wishes to express its gratitude to four groups of people, without whom the work presented in this Report would not be possible.

Firstly, all those who financially support the work of the Centre, whether that be through grant funding, donations or paying for our childcare services.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank them all for the confidence they have shown in the Centre over the year covered by this Report. We continue to do our best to repay that confidence by demonstrating good stewardship of the resources made available to us, by deploying them to ensure the effective delivery of programmes, activities and services, the maintenance of the Centre as a facility, and the long term sustainability of

the organization.

Secondly, the team of staff and volunteers who deliver our programmes, activities and services.

Everything detailed in this report is dependent on people – without the skills, knowledge and commitment of the staff we employ, and the volunteers who freely give their time to help us, none of the things detailed here would happen.

Our staff and volunteers are the faces that people see when they use the Centre, the people who determine the experience that people have when they use the Centre, and the people whose efforts ensure positive outcomes for those users. People also value not just what you do, but the way in which you do it. There are countless examples of how staff have helped individuals in ways that go beyond simple delivery that no single document can ever adequately capture, but what we can capture in this report is, above all, a testimony to their work.

Thirdly, the many organizations who we work in partnership with.

Our aim is to make a broad offer to local people in terms of the programmes, activities and services we deliver, but we recognize that no one organization can meet the range of need that exists in our community. In the course of the year, we have been involved in formal networks drawing together over 100 other local, citywide or regional organizations, and worked informally with many others.

Collaborative working, either in formal networks or through ongoing referral or signposting, undoubtedly enhances outcomes for local people, whether that be through collective planning and better co-ordinated delivery, or by increasing connectivity to make it easier for people to get the help they need as and when they need it. We hope to further develop and deepen these relationships in the years to come.

Finally, and most importantly, are the people who use the programmes, activities and services we offer.

The Centre would not have existed for over half a century, or have any rationale for its continued existence, if local people did not find relevance and value in what we do.

As this report illustrates, the programmes activities and services that we offer are, in our view, well used; at the end of the year, using available records, we calculated that **427** people engaged with the Centre each week.

More importantly, it hopefully also reflects the fact that people feel that they are treated well when they come to us, and that they get some tangible benefit from doing so. This is important, because we continue to find that, however much advertising or promotion we do, word of mouth remains the most important driver for people coming to the Centre, and that a positive experience, and a positive outcome, for a relative, friend or neighbour is the best endorsement we can hope for.

Joe Fittis
Chair

Objects

The Centre was established in 1970 by members of the congregations of local churches, as a practical demonstration of God's love for those living in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

The specific objects of the Centre, as set out in our Articles of Association, are to:

1. **Relieve poverty**, by providing advice and information services which seek to maximize the incomes of individuals in poverty, and alleviate the financial hardship of those in debt;
2. **Advance education**, by providing training programmes and educational courses which seek to enable people of all ages to increase their knowledge, enhance their educational attainment, and develop employable skills;
3. **Promote good health**, by providing childcare services and related programmes which improve the physical, emotional and intellectual wellbeing of children and build the capacity of parents to make informed choices about parenting, visitation and support to those experiencing isolation or crisis as a result of mental health problems, and activities which enable local people to make positive choices about their health and lifestyle;
4. **Advance the Christian religion**, by providing spiritual support to those experiencing bereavement, personal crisis or isolation, and by providing activities for those with no existing church connection who wish to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
5. **Promote good citizenship and community development**, by providing local people opportunities to positively contribute to the wellbeing of others in their community as volunteers, providing advice and information which empowers people to understand and exercise their rights as citizens, and working in partnership with other interested local agencies and individuals to achieve the physical, social and economic regeneration of the area.

Activities for achieving Objects

Advice Services

The core of our advice provision remains our **generalist advice service**, which has now been operating for five decades. Generalist advisors cover issues such as benefit entitlement, consumer rights, housing and employment issues.

During the year, staff dealt with a total of **3,962** enquiries on behalf of **1,853** clients. **85%** of the enquiries dealt with by staff were benefit related.

The high level of benefit related work is attributable to the significant concentration of low income households within our catchment area: seven of the ten Super Output Areas in Belfast with the highest percentage of households in relative poverty (where equivalised household income is 60% or less of the Northern Ireland average) can be found clustered on either side of the Crumlin Road. Low income households are generally more dependent on benefits for part of their weekly household income, and more likely to have to access the benefits system if their financial circumstances change.

In this context, assisting with claims and maximizing household income through available benefit entitlement remains the key piece of work our advisors undertake on behalf of clients; during the year we helped local people make **1,321** claims and, in those cases where we know the outcome, helped secure **£3,374,993** in additional benefit entitlement.

During the year we continued our move away from telephony as the primary channel for advice and back towards fact-to-face appointments as the default way of engaging clients. We also began re-establishing outreaches at a number of locations, including Grove Housing Association in the Lower North Belfast area, and Greater Shankill Community Council.

We have also seen a shift from helping our clients make a claim, to helping our clients to make and maintain their claim, and towards the end of the year we were planning to open a weekly Universal Credit drop-in, where local people could call in to get help with queries or issues that might arise with their claim.

We conducted a client satisfaction survey with a representative sample of clients who used our service during the year. In that survey:

- **96%** of respondents said that they were **'very satisfied'** with the level of service we provided;
- **96%** said that they found staff **'very helpful'** in their dealings with them;
- **100%** said that they would **'certainly recommend'** our service to someone else who needed advice;
- **80%** said that the outcome of their case was **'better than expected'**.

Respondents also told us that the additional income we secured for them enabled them to:

- Cope better with the rising cost of food and utilities;
- Buy better quality food to support a healthier diet;
- Reduce their debt, and make them less reliant going forward on borrowing money to help make ends meet;
- Live more independently, particularly in terms of accessing transport to do a range of things from shopping to attending medical appointments;
- Experience reduced levels of stress and anxiety.

In addition to the work they do directly for clients, advisors also made referrals to other services, including local food banks for access to food in emergencies, housing support, support with addiction, education and training opportunities, and the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service for representation at appeals.

Since June 2019, we have been an active partner in the delivery of **Debt Action**, the regional money and debt advice service, which is funded by the Department of Communities and co-ordinated on a regional level by Advice NI. This has enabled us to employ a Money Advisor, who can provide people from the North Belfast and Shankill areas with

advice on potential strategies to address their debt, negotiate with creditors on their behalf, and help them plan and manage their finances more effectively going forward. During the year our advisor dealt with **105** clients, and negotiated **421** debts totalling **£1,105,651** on their behalf.

We also continue to offer a **Family Debt & Benefits Service** for families with children under 18, funded through the Belfast Outcomes Group by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust. This service is accessible through referral by any of the ten Family Support Hubs operating in the Belfast Trust area, and aims to address any debt that the family may have, build the capacity of families to manage their household finances more effectively, and maximize household income by identifying and securing any unclaimed benefit entitlement that the family may have.

During the year, the service dealt with **84** families and helped them negotiate debts totalling **£475,315**.

Over the course of the year, we saw an increase in the number of families referred to us where the primary need was for information and guidance on managing their money more effectively. This may primarily reflect the increased pressures created when fixed or low incomes are being squeezed by rising prices, but we have also learned that some families, particularly those reliant on benefits, often have no sense of an overall income, but manage their household finances around a series of payments.

In addition to the one-to-one support available to families, in response to the cost of living crisis we have also continued to deliver **Money Management workshops** a group basis. Areas covered in each workshop are basic budgeting, planning ahead, saving, borrowing and debt, information on up to date money saving apps, money saving websites and Facebook sites (e.g. feeding your family on a budget, money saving tips and tricks). Participants are also made aware of what support services are available locally should they need advice, information or advocacy. These workshops were tailored to the specific audiences – in the case of parents, we incorporated elements of the *Talk Learn Do* approach, originally piloted in Wales, which looks to build the capacity of parents to engage with their children over money related issues.

In total, during the year, we delivered **40** workshops to a total of **401** participants, in partnership with a wide variety of groups across North Belfast and the Shankill. Feedback from these workshops was extremely positive, not only because of the topicality of the issues covered, but also because of the informality of the delivery, which put people at their ease, and the provision of practical information that people could readily use in their day-to-day lives. **100%** of participants said that the workshops increased their knowledge and skills, whilst **99%** said that they would change their money behaviours as a result.

The Centre has continued to play an active role in the **North Belfast Advice Partnership**, which was established in 2003 as a vehicle for independent advice organizations in North Belfast to collaborate in a more strategic way around advice provision, with the aim of maximizing the impact of available resources and ensuring that local people have access to comprehensive, high quality advice, information and advocacy across this part of the city.

We act as lead partner for grant funding received collectively by the Partnership, and we employ a Co-ordinator on behalf of the Partnership, who provides technical support to individual partners around service delivery, promotes the work of the Advice Partnership within North Belfast, liaises with the wider advice sector and manages the delivery of shared programmes in the area.

This includes the continued delivery of the Partnership's **Volunteer Development Programme**, which was again funded by the Executive Office's North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme, administered by the Community Relations Council.

This programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Association as part of the Connected Futures programme. **43** people participated in the programme of training offered by the programme, with **19** completing an OCN Level 2 in Welfare Rights delivered by the Law Centre. We also delivered a series of **15 Welfare Reform workshops** to a total of **332** participants, in partnership with **16** local organizations.

During the year the Partnership also delivered two initiatives, funded by Belfast City Council, to help residents meet the rising cost of food and energy caused by high levels of inflation.

At the beginning of the year, the Partnership was completing the delivery of a **Food/Fuel Voucher Scheme** funded by Belfast City Council to help local people deal with the rising cost of food and utilities. The scheme provided

households who met the criteria for support with vouchers for local supermarkets, with the value of vouchers dependent on household size. We also provided support for gas and electricity top ups, with each service having a local retailer who redeemed vouchers presented to it. Staff also carried out benefit checks with clients, with any potential unclaimed benefit entitlement being identified and a claim submitted.

In total, **814** local households benefitted from food vouchers totalling **£43,700** issued through this project, and **181** households benefitted from gas/electricity vouchers totalling **£10,000**.

In the last three months of the year, the Partnership was involved in delivering **Belfast City Council's Fuel Hardship Fund** for residents living in the Ligoniel, Ballysillan, Ardoyne, Cliftonville and Lower Oldpark areas. The Fund was established by Council to help households in the city mitigate the impact of increasing energy costs, with eligible households able to receive up to £100 towards the cost of paying for electricity, gas or oil.

Collectively, the Partnership supported a total of **832** households in the areas we were assigned. **751** households accessed support with gas totalling **£47,676**, and **627** households received support with electricity costs totalling **£34,603**.

Both these projects were delivered within a very tight timeframe, in terms of the development and implementation. Whilst this created an additional workload for the staff involved, both demonstrated that advice services are well equipped to act as a vehicle for providing practical support to local people; advisors have extensive experience of talking to people about their household finances, and assessing their circumstances against criteria, and this greatly contributed to the successful delivery of these initiatives.

Childcare

Childcare remains an important component of the Centre's offer to local people, not only in terms of providing an affordable, locally accessible service to local parents, and the positive contribution it makes to the development of the children in our care, but also in terms of the contribution that childcare provision, as a social enterprise, makes to the overall sustainability of the Centre.

We offer childcare through:

- **Bulrush Day Nursery**, with **39** places for babies and children up to primary school age, which offers, in the words of our most recent inspection report by the Belfast Trust, a 'warm and welcoming' setting for children.
- **Vine Afterschools Club**, with places for up to **48** primary school aged children each day, which opens on a part time basis during the school year, and on a full time basis during periods of school closure, and offers a wide range of child led, play activity.

Occupancy within our Afterschools Club continues to be impacted by the fact that many parents have continued to work from home since the pandemic and therefore did not need childcare provision, or needed it on a reduced basis, particularly if their children were older. As a consequence, occupancy levels have been much slower to recover than those in the Nursery, which have remained high across the year, with continuing demand for places, increasingly on a full time rather than part time basis.

Across the year, we provided our service to **126** local families, with a total of **138** children attending. At the end of March 2023, we had **94** children on the registers for our two settings.

In terms of Afterschools, staff collected children from **9** local primary schools across North Belfast and the Shankill.

Most the families who used our service during the year are working families, accessing places on a fee-paying basis. We also provide childcare on a sessional basis to children referred by social work teams through the Belfast Trust's Sponsored Daycare Scheme or Looked After Children Service.

When the Centre began providing childcare as a social economy initiative in 2005, one of our objectives was to create employment opportunities in the area. During the year, our childcare provision has sustained **18.7** FTE posts in childcare and ancillary roles, with the majority of staff drawn from our catchment area as an organization.

Family Support Hub

During the year the Centre remained the lead body for the **Upper North Belfast Family Support Hub**, which has been operational since January 2016.

The Hub is one of 29 across Northern Ireland, and 10 in the Belfast Trust area, established by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. Each Hub is a multi-agency network of statutory, voluntary and community organizations who collaborate to provide a simple voluntary referral mechanism whereby families with children under 18 who need early intervention support can be connected to suitable support, in an effort to reduce the number of families requiring formal social services involvement.

The Upper North Belfast Hub area covers the part of North Belfast bounded the Crumlin Road to the south, and the Antrim Road to the east. It contains a diverse range of communities, including some of the most deprived areas in the city.

During the year, the Hub received a total of **377** service requests, of which **353 (78%)** were processed. **71%** of service requests were processed to completion within four weeks of receipt.

Requests for support came from 8 of the 9 electoral wards covered by the Hub. However, **90%** of the requests received were from families living in the three Neighbourhood Renewal Areas within our catchment area, which suggests a strong correlation between the specific issues presented to the Hub and wider issues of multiple deprivation in those areas. The three most common forms of support initially sought by families were for emotional and behavioural difficulty support for children, practical support (help with food and fuel costs, or financial emergencies) and counselling services.

73% of the service requests we processed resulted in at least one service being provided to families requesting support. In total, **246** adults and **156** children accessed **541** service interventions, provided by **36** organizations. The support accessed by families included home based family support, help with the cost of living, debt advice, counselling, mentoring for children and young people and support for children with disabilities.

In terms of those accessing services, **75%** of adults were, perhaps unsurprisingly, women aged 25-44. The largest group of children and young people who received support during the year were boys aged 5-11.

53% of the services accessed during the year were those specifically requested on the Service Request Form. This demonstrates the importance of the conversation between the Hub Co-ordinator and a parent after the initial request is made, when a more nuanced assessment of the family's circumstances can be made, and more relevant, or additional, forms of support for the family identified.

74% of families who responded reported a positive experience of the services they had accessed.

From the outset, the Hub has very much been a coalition of the willing, dependent for its success on organizations who bring their knowledge and expertise, and most importantly the services they can offer, to the table to support local families. At the end of the year, **77** organizations and agencies were affiliated to the Hub as core or associate members.

Lifelong Learning

We remain committed to promoting a culture of **Lifelong Learning** amongst local people, providing opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills, gain qualifications to improve their employability, help their children with their homework, maintain good physical and mental wellbeing, or simply keep their minds active.

During the year **17** people gained Essential Skills qualifications in Literacy, Numeracy and Information & Communication Technology, through classes delivered in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College. This was a challenging year for our classes. Whilst we did see increased interest in classes, there were difficulties in securing tutors which meant, in one case, that a Numeracy class with 13 people registered was unable to proceed when a

tutor fell ill and could not be replaced. This significantly impacted on our retention and completion rates, with only **33%** of those registering for classes achieving a qualification.

Our weekly **Healthy Living Group for older women** continued to meet during the year, with **25** registered and an average of **22** attending every week. The Group participated in a number of programmes over the course of the year, including art and craft activities, a mindfulness programme and Boccia sessions. Some members of the group also took part in a project with a group from Sailortown, as part of the Grand Opera House's Compass Project, which involved groups from across Belfast, developing a short script for a play about the social history of Belfast which was then rehearsed and performed on the Studio stage at the Opera House. **100%** of those attending told us that participation in the Group has had a positive impact on their mental and physical wellbeing.

15 children were registered with our **Homework Club** from primary school aged children, with an average of **11** children attending each week to do their homework in a quiet setting, with access to technology if needed and the assistance of staff and volunteers, including two student volunteers recruited through Queen's University's Student Volunteer Programme.

22 people accessed support through our **Work Club** during the year, where they received assistance with job search, completing applications, putting together a CV and preparing for job interviews. Towards the end of the year we began to see increased demand for support, particularly amongst Universal Credit claimants, with our local Jobs & Benefits Office referring people to us for support in helping them meet their claimant commitment in actively seeking employment. **3** people gained employment as a result of the support they received, and **9** were referred to further employability support in the local community.

Our Little Sparks Toddler Group resumed in September 2022, with **28** families registered and an average attendance of **26** adults and children attending each week – many parents welcomed an opportunity to get out and socialize with others whilst their children played with each other, after a long period in which they were unable to do so.

Pastoral Support

Our **Pastoral Support** programme, which began in 2008, has continued to extend the reach of the Centre by engaging those in our local community who are experiencing isolation or crisis. The programme recognizes that the needs of people are not only practical, but spiritual and emotional, and that many people in our community do not have someone close who they can share their problems with. Those problems can include depression and other mental health issues, loneliness and social isolation, the impact of bereavement, the breakdown of relationships and domestic violence.

Home visitation remains at the centre of the programme, and over the course of the year our Pastoral Support Worker made **378** visits to a total of **78** people living in the local community.

The Worker has also continued to work intensively with individuals wanting to free themselves from addictions or compulsive behaviours, through the **Persons In Recovery** programme. At the core of this is the Recovery Course, a 12 Step programme which returns to the original biblical inspiration that motivated Bill Wilson to establish Alcoholics Anonymous in the 1930's.

The aim of the programme is to help those engaged on the journey to stay clean and make a full recovery from their addiction, through the provision of holistic support. Following completion of the Recovery Course, the Worker will support individuals in getting help from the local Community Addiction Team, in seeking admission to a residential rehabilitation programme, and in accessing other support services that might be relevant to them. Anyone accessing support does so in the knowledge that it will be there, in its various forms, for as long as they need it and that the door will remain open to them at all times, even if they have had a slip or relapse.

Some of those we support find recovery challenging because their addiction has alienated them from the support networks of family, friends and neighbours that might help them deal with many of the challenges or situations that they encounter in their day-to-day lives. In some cases, this has meant that our Worker may be the only person visiting someone in prison, but he has also helped clients deal with more mundane issues, such as accompanying them to GP and other medical appointments, and making representations on their behalf around housing issues.

In total, **23** people were supported in these various ways through the programme during the year, with **6** new people being supported. **5** of those new people also completed the Recovery Course offered as part of the programme.

This can be challenging work, reflected in the fact that during the year two of those being supported lost their battle with addiction. At the same time, we can report that almost three quarters of those who were supported during the year were in sobriety at the end of the year, and we have also seen the cumulative impact of unconditional, long term support for individuals, with some clients being supported to make profound, lasting changes to their lives.

Our **Grapevine Senior Citizens Lunch Club** resumed in September 2022, with **12** people registered and an average of 10 people every week attending. **75%** of those attending said that the social interaction provided by the Club had a positive impact on their wellbeing.

In December, **280** adults and children living in the area received hampers at Christmas, containing food, toys and other Christmas gifts, an initiative made possible by the continued support of individuals, church groups, congregations within Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and a donation of toys and children's gifts from Cool FM/Downtown Radio's CASH 4 KIDS APPEAL. We estimate the value of this support at £12,256.

The Vine Centre

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100608

Annual return

Registered number: NI032293
Charity number: NIC100608

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees	Mr Joseph Fittis, Chairman Mr Timothy Fitzsimons Mrs Barbara McIlwrath Mrs Evelyn Coleman Mr Thomas Dickson Mrs Anne Marie Simpson Mrs Gwen Simmons Mrs Patricia Kennedy
Company registered number	NI032293
Charity registered number	NIC100608
Registered office	193 Crumlin Road Belfast BT14 7DX
Company secretary	Stephen Reid
Chief executive officer	Stephen Reid
Independent auditors	UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited Statutory Auditors & Chartered Accountants Gordon Street Mews 27-29 Gordon Street Belfast Antrim BT1 2LG
Solicitors	Hewitt & Gilpin Thomas House 14 - 16 James Street South Belfast BT2 7GA

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the company for the 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 22 April 1997. This was amended, with the consent of the Charity Commission, by a special resolution of members dated 26 February 2015.

The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under the registration number NIC100608, and accepted by HMRC as a charity under the reference XR13743.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

All of the Trustees are members of the Company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of the company being wound up. None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. The following Trustees held office during the period:

Mr Timothy Fitzsimons
Barbara McIlwrath
Evelyn Coleman
Thomas Dickson
Anne Marie Simpson
Gwen Simmons
Patricia Kennedy
Joseph Fittis, Chairman

The Board of Trustees is comprised of the following:

- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Immanuel Presbyterian Church;
- 3 representatives nominated by the congregation of Crumlin Road Presbyterian Church;
- 2 representatives nominated by any organisations who are affiliated members of the Centre;
- 2 user representatives nominated by individual members of the Centre.

These nominations are subject to the approval of members at the Annual General Meeting. In the case of affiliated organisations and user representatives, if the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies there shall be an election to determine who amongst the nominees is appointed.

At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the Trustees, being those who have been longest in office since their election, are required to retire and submit themselves for re-nomination and re-election. Vacancies which arise through retirement or removal may be filled by the Trustees at a general meeting. In the event of a casual vacancy, due to death or resignation, the Trustees may appoint a replacement, who will be required to retire and seek re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. In addition, the Trustees may co-opt individuals who have specific knowledge or skills which the board judge to be relevant to the charities ongoing activities, as long as such co-options do not exceed one third of the elected Trustees.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Board of Trustees is the ultimate controlling party of the charity, and is responsible for all aspects of corporate governance within the company. The Board meets a minimum of 10 times each year to define and agree strategic priorities for the charity, monitor progress and review the resources available to sustain the company. The day to day running of the charity is carried out by the Centre Manager, Stephen Reid.

d. Financial risk management

The Trustees continue to regularly review any major risks arising from or impacting on the activities of the charity. They are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary and consider that the financial systems and controls in place are appropriate to the size of the charity and the nature of its operations.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

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- 5. Promote good citizenship and community development**, by providing local people opportunities to positively contribute to the wellbeing of others in their community as volunteers, providing advice and information which empowers people to understand and exercise their rights as citizens, and working in partnership with other interested local agencies and individuals to achieve the physical, social and economic regeneration of the area.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

Advice Services

The core of our advice provision remains our generalist advice service, which has now been operating for five decades. Generalist advisors cover issues such as benefit entitlement, consumer rights, housing and employment issues.

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The high level of benefit related work is attributable to the significant concentration of low income households within our catchment area: seven of the ten Super Output Areas in Belfast with the highest percentage of households in relative poverty (where equivalent household income is 60% or less of the Northern Ireland average) can be found clustered on either side of the Crumlin Road. Low income households are generally more dependent on benefits for part of their weekly household income, and more likely to have to access the benefits system if their financial circumstances change.

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We conducted a client satisfaction survey with a representative sample of clients who used our service during the year. In that survey:

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- 96% said that they found staff 'very helpful' in their dealings with them;
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- Cope better with the rising cost of food and utilities;
- Buy better quality food to support a healthier diet;
- Reduce their debt, and make them less reliant going forward on borrowing money to help make ends meet;
- Live more independently, particularly in terms of accessing transport to do a range of things from shopping to attending medical appointments;
- Experience reduced levels of stress and anxiety.

In addition to the work they do directly for clients, advisors also made referrals to other services, including local food banks for access to food in emergencies, housing support, support with addiction, education and training opportunities, and the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service for representation at appeals.

Since June 2019, we have been an active partner in the delivery of Debt Action, the regional money and debt advice service, which is funded by the Department of Communities and co-ordinated on a regional level by Advice NI. This has enabled us to employ a Money Advisor, who can provide people from the North Belfast and Shankill areas with advice on potential strategies to address their debt, negotiate with creditors on their behalf,

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

and help them plan and manage their finances more effectively going forward. During the year our advisor dealt with 105 clients, and negotiated 421 debts totalling £1,105,651 on their behalf.

We also continue to offer a Family Debt & Benefits Service for families with children under 18, funded through the Belfast Outcomes Group by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust. This service is accessible through referral by any of the ten Family Support Hubs operating in the Belfast Trust area, and aims to address any debt that the family may have, build the capacity of families to manage their household finances more effectively, and maximise household income by identifying and securing any unclaimed benefit entitlement that the family may have.

During the year, the service dealt with 84 families and helped them negotiate debts totalling £475,315.

Over the course of the year, we saw an increase in the number of families referred to us where the primary need was for information and guidance on managing their money more effectively. This may primarily reflect the increased pressures created when fixed or low incomes are being squeezed by rising prices, but we have also learned that some families, particularly those reliant on benefits, often have no sense of an overall income, but manage their household finances around a series of payments.

In addition to the one-to-one support available to families, in response to the cost of living crisis we have also continued to deliver Money Management workshops a group basis. Areas covered in each workshop are basic budgeting, planning ahead, saving, borrowing and debt, information on up to date money saving apps, money saving websites and Facebook sites (e.g. feeding your family on a budget, money saving tips and tricks). Participants are also made aware of what support services are available locally should they need advice, information or advocacy. These workshops were tailored to the specific audiences – in the case of parents, we incorporated elements of the Talk Learn Do approach, originally piloted in Wales, which looks to build the capacity of parents to engage with their children over money related issues.

In total, during the year, we delivered 40 workshops to a total of 401 participants, in partnership with a wide variety of groups across North Belfast and the Shankill. Feedback from these workshops was extremely positive, not only because of the topicality of the issues covered, but also because of the informality of the delivery, which put people at their ease, and the provision of practical information that people could readily use in their day-to-day lives. 100% of participants said that the workshops increased their knowledge and skills, whilst 99% said that they would change their money behaviours as a result.

The Centre has continued to play an active role in the North Belfast Advice Partnership, which was established in 2003 as a vehicle for independent advice organisations in North Belfast to collaborate in a more strategic way around advice provision, with the aim of maximising the impact of available resources and ensuring that local people have access to comprehensive, high quality advice, information and advocacy across this part of the city. We act as lead partner for grant funding received collectively by the Partnership, and we employ a Co-ordinator on behalf of the Partnership, who provides technical support to individual partners around service delivery, promotes the work of the Advice Partnership within North Belfast, liaises with the wider advice sector and manages the delivery of shared programmes in the area.

This includes the continued delivery of the Partnership's Volunteer Development Programme, which was again funded by the Executive Office's North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme, administered by the Community Relations Council.

This programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Association as part of the Connected Futures programme. 43 people participated in the programme of training offered by the programme, with 19 completing an OCN Level 2 in Welfare Rights delivered by the Law Centre. We also delivered a series of 15 Welfare Reform workshops to a total of 332 participants, in partnership with 16 local organisations.

During the year the Partnership also delivered two initiatives, funded by Belfast City Council, to help residents meet the rising cost of food and energy caused by high levels of inflation.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

At the beginning of the year, the Partnership was completing the delivery of a Food/Fuel Voucher Scheme funded by Belfast City Council to help local people deal with the rising cost of food and utilities. The scheme provided households who met the criteria for support with vouchers for local supermarkets, with the value of vouchers dependent on household size. We also provided support for gas and electricity top ups, with each service having a local retailer who redeemed vouchers presented to it. Staff also carried out benefit checks with clients, with any potential unclaimed benefit entitlement being identified and a claim submitted.

In total, 814 local households benefitted from food vouchers totalling £43,700 issued through this project, and 181 households benefitted from gas/electricity vouchers totalling £10,000.

In the last three months of the year, the Partnership was involved in delivering Belfast City Council's Fuel Hardship Fund for residents living in the Ligoniel, Ballysillan, Ardoyne, Cliftonville and Lower Oldpark areas. The Fund was established by Council to help households in the city mitigate the impact of increasing energy costs, with eligible households able to receive up to £100 towards the cost of paying for electricity, gas or oil.

Collectively, the Partnership supported a total of 832 households in the areas we were assigned. 751 households accessed support with gas totalling £47,676, and 627 households received support with electricity costs totalling £34,603.

Both these projects were delivered within a very tight timeframe, in terms of the development and implementation. Whilst this created an additional workload for the staff involved, both demonstrated that advice services are well equipped to act as a vehicle for providing practical support to local people; advisors have extensive experience of talking to people about their household finances, and assessing their circumstances against criteria, and this greatly contributed to the successful delivery of these initiatives.

Childcare

Childcare remains an important component of the Centre's offer to local people, not only in terms of providing an affordable, locally accessible service to local parents, and the positive contribution it makes to the development of the children in our care, but also in terms of the contribution that childcare provision, as a social enterprise, makes to the overall sustainability of the Centre.

We offer childcare through:

- Bulrush Day Nursery, with 39 places for babies and children up to primary school age, which offers, in the words of our most recent inspection report by the Belfast Trust, a 'warm and welcoming' setting for children.
- Vine Afterschools Club, with places for up to 48 primary school aged children each day, which opens on a part time basis during the school year, and on a full time basis during periods of school closure, and offers a wide range of child led, play activity.

Occupancy within our Afterschools Club continues to be impacted by the fact that many parents have continued to work from home since the pandemic and therefore did not need childcare provision, or needed it on a reduced basis, particularly if their children were older. As a consequence, occupancy levels have been much slower to recover than those in the Nursery, which have remained high across the year, with continuing demand for places, increasingly on a full time rather than part time basis.

Across the year, we provided our service to 126 local families, with a total of 138 children attending. At the end of March 2023, we had 94 children on the registers for our two settings.

In terms of Afterschools, staff collected children from 9 local primary schools across North Belfast and the Shankill.

Most the families who used our service during the year are working families, accessing places on a fee-paying basis. We also provide childcare on a sessional basis to children referred by social work teams through the Belfast Trust's Sponsored Daycare Scheme or Looked After Children Service.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

When the Centre began providing childcare as a social economy initiative in 2005, one of our objectives was to create employment opportunities in the area. During the year, our childcare provision has sustained 18.7 FTE posts in childcare and ancillary roles, with the majority of staff drawn from our catchment area as an organisation.

Family Support Hub

During the year the Centre remained the lead body for the Upper North Belfast Family Support Hub, which has been operational since January 2016.

The Hub is one of 29 across Northern Ireland, and 10 in the Belfast Trust area, established by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. Each Hub is a multi-agency network of statutory, voluntary and community organizations who collaborate to provide a simple voluntary referral mechanism whereby families with children under 18 who need early intervention support can be connected to suitable support, in an effort to reduce the number of families requiring formal social services involvement.

The Upper North Belfast Hub area covers the part of North Belfast bounded the Crumlin Road to the south, and the Antrim Road to the east. It contains a diverse range of communities, including some of the most deprived areas in the city.

During the year, the Hub received a total of 377 service requests, of which 353 (78%) were processed. 71% of service requests were processed to completion within four weeks of receipt.

Requests for support came from 8 of the 9 electoral wards covered by the Hub. However, 90% of the requests received were from families living in the three Neighbourhood Renewal Areas within our catchment area, which suggests a strong correlation between the specific issues presented to the Hub and wider issues of multiple deprivation in those areas. The three most common forms of support initially sought by families were for emotional and behavioural difficulty support for children, practical support (help with food and fuel costs, or financial emergencies) and counselling services.

73% of the service requests we processed resulted in at least one service being provided to families requesting support. In total, 246 adults and 156 children accessed 541 service interventions, provided by 36 organisations. The support accessed by families included home based family support, help with the cost of living, debt advice, counselling, mentoring for children and young people and support for children with disabilities.

In terms of those accessing services, 75% of adults were, perhaps unsurprisingly, women aged 25-44. The largest group of children and young people who received support during the year were boys aged 5-11.

53% of the services accessed during the year were those specifically requested on the Service Request Form. This demonstrates the importance of the conversation between the Hub Co-ordinator and a parent after the initial request is made, when a more nuanced assessment of the family's circumstances can be made, and more relevant, or additional, forms of support for the family identified.

74% of families who responded reported a positive experience of the services they had accessed.

From the outset, the Hub has very much been a coalition of the willing, dependent for its success on organisations who bring their knowledge and expertise, and most importantly the services they can offer, to the table to support local families. At the end of the year, 77 organisations and agencies were affiliated to the Hub as core or associate members.

Lifelong Learning

We remain committed to promoting a culture of Lifelong Learning amongst local people, providing opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills, gain qualifications to improve their employability, help their children with their homework, maintain good physical and mental wellbeing, or simply keep their minds active.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

During the year 17 people gained Essential Skills qualifications in Literacy, Numeracy and Information & Communication Technology, through classes delivered in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College. This was a challenging year for our classes. Whilst we did see increased interest in classes, there were difficulties in securing tutors which meant, in one case, that a Numeracy class with 13 people registered was unable to proceed when a tutor fell ill and could not be replaced. This significantly impacted on our retention and completion rates, with only 33% of those registering for classes achieving a qualification.

Our weekly Healthy Living Group for older women continued to meet during the year, with 25 registered and an average of 22 attending every week. The Group participated in a number of programmes over the course of the year, including art and craft activities, a mindfulness programme and Boccia sessions. Some members of the group also took part in a project with a group from Sailortown, as part of the Grand Opera House's Compass Project, which involved groups from across Belfast, developing a short script for a play about the social history of Belfast which was then rehearsed and performed on the Studio stage in the Opera House. 100% of those attending told us that participation in the Group has had a positive impact on their mental and physical wellbeing.

15 children were registered with our Homework Club from primary school aged children, with an average of 11 children attending each week to do their homework in a quiet setting, with access to technology if needed and the assistance of staff and volunteers, including two student volunteers recruited through Queen's University's Student Volunteer Programme.

22 people accessed support through our Work Club during the year, where they received assistance with job search, completing applications, putting together a CV and preparing for job interviews. Towards the end of the year we began to see increased demand for support, particularly amongst Universal Credit claimants, with our local Jobs & Benefits Office referring people to us for support in helping them meet their claimant commitment in actively seeking employment. 3 people gained employment as a result of the support they received, and 9 were referred to further employability support in the local community.

Our Little Sparks Toddler Group resumed in September 2022, with 28 families registered and an average attendance of 26 adults and children attending each week – many parents welcomed an opportunity to get out and socialise with others whilst their children played with each other, after a long period in which they were unable to do so.

Pastoral Support

Our Pastoral Support programme, which began in 2008, has continued to extend the reach of the Centre by engaging those in our local community who are experiencing isolation or crisis. The programme recognises that the needs of people are not only practical, but spiritual and emotional, and that many people in our community do not have someone close who they can share their problems with. Those problems can include depression and other mental health issues, loneliness and social isolation, the impact of bereavement, the breakdown of relationships and domestic violence.

Home visitation remains at the centre of the programme, and over the course of the year our Pastoral Support Worker made 378 visits to a total of 78 people living in the local community.

The Worker has also continued to work intensively with individuals wanting to free themselves from addictions or compulsive behaviours, through the Persons In Recovery programme. At the core of this is the Recovery Course, a 12 Step programme which returns to the original biblical inspiration that motivated Bill Wilson to establish Alcoholics Anonymous in the 1930's.

The aim of the programme is to help those engaged on the journey to stay clean and make a full recovery from their addiction, through the provision of holistic support. Following completion of the Recovery Course, the Worker will support individuals in getting help from the local Community Addiction Team, in seeking admission to a residential rehabilitation programme, and in accessing other support services that might be relevant to them. Anyone accessing support does so in the knowledge that it will be there, in its various forms, for as long as they need it and that the door will remain open to them at all times, even if they have had a slip or relapse.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Some of those we support find recovery challenging because their addiction has alienated them from the support networks of family, friends and neighbours that might help them deal with many of the challenges or situations that they encounter in their day-to-day lives. In some cases, this has meant that our Worker may be the only person visiting someone in prison, but he has also helped clients deal with more mundane issues, such as accompanying them to GP and other medical appointments, and making representations on their behalf around housing issues.

In total, 23 people were supported in these various ways through the programme during the year, with 6 new people being supported. 5 of those new people also completed the Recovery Course offered as part of the programme.

This can be challenging work, reflected in the fact that during the year two of those being supported lost their battle with addiction. At the same time, we can report that almost three quarters of those who were supported during the year were in sobriety at the end of the year, and we have also seen the cumulative impact of unconditional, long term support for individuals, with some clients being supported to make profound, lasting changes to their lives.

Our Grapevine Senior Citizens Lunch Club resumed in September 2022, with 12 people registered and an average of 10 people every week attending. 75% of those attending said that the social interaction provided by the Club had a positive impact on their wellbeing.

In December, 280 adults and children living in the area received hampers at Christmas, containing food, toys and other Christmas gifts, an initiative made possible by the continued support of individuals, church groups, congregations within Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and a donation of toys and children's gifts from Cool FM/Downtown Radio's CASH 4 KIDS APPEAL. We estimate the value of this support at £12,256.

c. Grant-making policies

Trustees make grants to third parties in line with the terms of their letters of offer.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

A review of the activities has been included in 'Activities undertaken to achieve objectives' above.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

b. Reserves policy

The charity finished the year with a deficit of £596 (2022: deficit £17,762) and reserves of £1,522,442 (2022: £1,523,038). £381,076 (2022: £366,979) of reserves were unrestricted and £1,141,366 (2022: £1,156,059) were restricted. The financial performance during the year has resulted in a financial position which the Trustees believe leaves the Centre in a sustainable financial position for the year ahead, given funding secured, and expectations of other income that will be generated.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. The Board consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

During the year and at the year end all the general funds under the control of the charity were unrestricted income funds. Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Restricted funds are accounted for separately. The Board confirm that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the charity and that the funds are not excessive, given the assets, commitments and size of the charity.

Members' liability

The Members of the company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 28 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr Joseph Fittis
Chairman

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Vine Centre Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 Auditors' 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows.

The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. As part of the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercised professional judgement and maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit. We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with Trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector and we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and Value Added Tax (VAT) Act 1994.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We obtained an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used, including managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included but were not limited to agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 Auditors' Report.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VINE CENTRE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Fitch (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited

Statutory Auditors & Chartered Accountants

Gordon Street Mews

27-29 Gordon Street

Belfast

Antrim

BT1 2LG

28 September 2023

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	4,559	21,881	26,440	27,207
Charitable activities	4	403,570	880,552	1,284,121	1,298,996
Other income	6	40,235	-	40,235	39,099
Total income		448,364	902,433	1,350,797	1,365,302
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	9	434,267	917,126	1,351,393	1,383,064
Total expenditure		434,267	917,126	1,351,393	1,383,064
Net movement in funds		14,097	(14,693)	(596)	(17,762)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		366,979	1,156,059	1,523,038	1,540,800
Net movement in funds		14,097	(14,693)	(596)	(17,762)
Total funds carried forward		381,076	1,141,366	1,522,442	1,523,038

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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REGISTERED NUMBER: NI032293

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	1,048,443	1,084,113
		<u>1,048,443</u>	<u>1,084,113</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	97,424	53,804
Cash at bank and in hand		415,326	425,142
		<u>512,750</u>	<u>478,946</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(38,752)	(40,021)
		<u>473,998</u>	<u>438,925</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,522,441</u>	<u>1,523,038</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>1,522,441</u>	<u>1,523,038</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>1,522,441</u></u>	<u><u>1,523,038</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	1,141,365	1,156,059
Unrestricted funds	18	381,076	366,979
		<u>1,522,441</u>	<u>1,523,038</u>
Total funds		<u><u>1,522,441</u></u>	<u><u>1,523,038</u></u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 28 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr Joseph Fittis
Chairman

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(5,701)	39,464
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(4,115)	(4,786)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,115)	(4,786)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(9,816)	34,678
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	425,142	390,464
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	415,326	425,142
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. General information

Vine Centre Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and registered in Northern Ireland under company registration number NI032293. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland under number NIC100608 and is a registered charity with HMRC under number XR13743.

The charitable company's registered office is situated at 193 Crumlin Road, Belfast, BT14 7AA.

The principal activities of the company is the reliefment of poverty, advancement of religion and education, promotion of good health, citizenship and community development.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Vine Centre Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The charitable company's activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and financial position are set out in the Trustees' Report. The financial position of the charity, along with its policies and processes for maintaining current activity, managing its funding and its financial risk management are also set out in the Trustees' Report.

The charity meets its day-to-day working capital requirements through income from charitable activities. The current economic conditions, create some uncertainty over the levels of these that will be available in future periods, although the members are of the opinion that they will continue to provide adequate funds.

The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in operating performance, show that the charity will be able to operate within its current facilities.

After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the company's accounting policies.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% straight line

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.10 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

2.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	4,559	21,881	26,440
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	5,012	19,430	24,442
Government grants	2,765	-	2,765
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Total 2022	7,777	19,430	27,207

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 5)	-	880,552	880,552
Nursery Fees	270,508	-	270,508
Afterschools Fees	90,543	-	90,543
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	42,519	-	42,519
Total 2023	403,570	880,552	1,284,122

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Grants received for specific projects (note 5)	21,414	893,397	914,811
Nursery Fees	244,711	-	244,711
Afterschools Fees	98,566	-	98,566
Sponsored Daycare Scheme: BH&SCT	40,907	-	40,907
Total 2022	405,598	893,397	1,298,995

All income from charitable activities are from activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs in socially and economically deprived areas of North and West Belfast.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5. Grants received for specific projects

	2023	2022
	£	£
Department for Communities: North Belfast Advice Partnersip	120,241	120,382
Department for Communities: Crumlin Ward Initiative	165,866	161,675
Department for Communities: Secondment costs	56,650	-
Belfast City Council: Generalist Advice	270,444	266,760
Belfast City Council: Welfare Reform Support Project	33,135	32,095
Belfast City Council: Financial Inclusion	-	54,400
Belfast City Council: Revenue Grant	14,880	14,380
Belfast City Council: Coming Out of Lockdown	220	-
Belfast City Council: Learning to Live Again	4,995	-
Belfast City Council: Fuel Hardship Fund	82,600	-
Belfast City Council: Fuel Hardship Fund - Management fees	8,243	-
Belfast City Council: Food/Fuel Voucher Scheme Winter	-	57,666
Belfast City Council: Covid Recovery Funding	-	26,193
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Outcomes Group Funding	17,316	16,659
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Family Support Hub	44,609	41,302
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust: Baby Bag/Broadband Initiative	-	2,000
Education Authority: Annual Registration Grant	1,945	2,000
Education Authority: Summer Programme	-	6,000
Health & Social Care Board: Including Children with Additional Needs - Afterschools	7,808	10,647
Health & Social Care Board: Including Children with Additional Needs - Nursery	7,841	6,059
Health & Social Care Board: Small Equipment Grant	-	1,904
Health & Social Care Board: Energy Costs Grant - Afterschools	800	-
Health & Social Care Board: Energy Costs Grant - Nursery	800	-
Advice NI/Department for Communities: Debt Action	24,661	50,483
Department of Education: Childcare Recovery Fund - Afterschools	-	6,060
Department of Education: Childcare Recovery Fund - Nursery	-	15,354
Irish Temperance League Trust: Core Grant	2,500	2,500
Early Years: Childcare Recovery Fund	864	-
Community Relations Council: Strategic Good Relations Programme	14,134	19,292
Groundwork - Tesco Community Grant: Annual Christmas Appeal	-	1,000
	880,552	914,811

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	10,072	10,072
ATM income	6,000	6,000
Rental income	12,149	12,149
Insurance income	12,014	12,014
Total 2023	<u>40,235</u>	<u>40,235</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Room hire, lunches & miscellaneous income	23,298	23,298
ATM income	6,000	6,000
Rental income	9,801	9,801
Total 2022	<u>39,099</u>	<u>39,099</u>

7. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Organisations 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants to third parties (note 8)	<u>430,231</u>	<u>430,231</u>

	Grants to Organisations 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Grants to third parties (note 8)	<u>472,726</u>	<u>472,726</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8. Grants to third parties

	2023	2022
	£	£
Ardoyne Association	59,369	121,300
Ballysillan Community Forum	73,746	55,205
Advice Space Belfast	70,799	84,023
Ligoneil Improvement Association	123,502	107,062
Lower Oldpark Community Association	77,482	74,403
Tar Isteach	25,333	27,433
YEHA	-	600
TAMHI	-	200
Ardoyne/Holy Cross Boxing Club	-	300
Cliftonville Community Reeneration	-	1,100
Global Cafe North Belfast	-	500
Ardoyne Youth Club	-	200
North Belfast Alternatives	-	400
	430,231	472,726

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	434,267	917,126	1,351,393
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	449,927	933,137	1,383,064

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Grant funding of activities 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	647,247	430,231	273,915	1,351,393
	<u>647,247</u>	<u>430,231</u>	<u>273,915</u>	<u>1,351,393</u>
	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Grant funding of activities 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Activities meeting the social, physical, economic & spiritual needs	657,499	472,726	252,838	1,383,063
	<u>657,499</u>	<u>472,726</u>	<u>252,838</u>	<u>1,383,063</u>

11. Auditors' remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's annual accounts	4,420	4,032
Fees payable to the company's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	3,080	2,808
	<u>3,080</u>	<u>2,808</u>

12. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	601,536	615,182
Social security costs	34,314	38,636
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	11,240	11,191
	<u>647,090</u>	<u>665,009</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

2023	2022
No.	No.
32	32

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2022	1,748,225	388,987	2,137,212
Additions	-	4,115	4,115
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,748,225</u>	<u>393,102</u>	<u>2,141,327</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	685,491	367,607	1,053,098
Charge for the year	34,965	4,821	39,786
At 31 March 2023	<u>720,456</u>	<u>372,428</u>	<u>1,092,884</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,027,769</u>	<u>20,674</u>	<u>1,048,443</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,062,734</u>	<u>21,379</u>	<u>1,084,113</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	12,217	15,924
Prepayments and accrued income	29,624	13,325
Grants receivable	55,583	24,555
	<u>97,424</u>	<u>53,804</u>

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank overdrafts	18,146	17,162
Trade creditors	9,322	12,138
Other taxation and social security	933	1,396
Other creditors	2,315	3,719
Accruals and deferred income	8,036	5,606
	<u>38,752</u>	<u>40,021</u>

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	5,606	6,994
Resources deferred during the year	7,269	5,606
Amounts released from previous periods	(5,606)	(6,994)
	<u>7,269</u>	<u>5,606</u>

17. Financial instruments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	415,326	425,142
	<u>415,326</u>	<u>425,142</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and in hand.

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

18. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	366,979	448,364	(434,267)	381,076
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,156,059	902,432	(917,126)	1,141,365
Total of funds	1,523,038	1,350,796	(1,351,393)	1,522,441

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	364,431	452,475	(449,927)	366,979
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds	1,176,369	912,827	(933,137)	1,156,059
Total of funds	1,540,800	1,365,302	(1,383,064)	1,523,038

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	366,979	448,364	(434,267)	381,076
Restricted funds	1,156,059	902,432	(917,126)	1,141,365
	<u>1,523,038</u>	<u>1,350,796</u>	<u>(1,351,393)</u>	<u>1,522,441</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
General funds	364,431	452,475	(449,927)	366,979
Restricted funds	1,176,369	912,827	(933,137)	1,156,059
	<u>1,540,800</u>	<u>1,365,302</u>	<u>(1,383,064)</u>	<u>1,523,038</u>

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	65,172	983,271	1,048,443
Current assets	331,189	181,561	512,750
Creditors due within one year	(15,285)	(23,467)	(38,752)
Total	<u>381,076</u>	<u>1,141,365</u>	<u>1,522,441</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	65,457	1,018,656	1,084,113
Current assets	318,688	160,257	478,945
Creditors due within one year	(17,167)	(22,854)	(40,021)
Total	<u>366,978</u>	<u>1,156,059</u>	<u>1,523,037</u>

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(596)	(17,762)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	39,786	39,806
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(43,620)	12,944
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(1,271)	4,476
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(5,701)</u>	<u>39,464</u>

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	415,326	425,142
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>415,326</u>	<u>425,142</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	425,142	(9,816)	415,326
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	(17,162)	(984)	(18,146)
	<u>407,980</u>	<u>(10,800)</u>	<u>397,180</u>

24. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £11,240 (2022: £11,191).

25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2023 the company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	502	502
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	711	1,213
	<u>1,213</u>	<u>1,715</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	502	502
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

VINE CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

26. Related party transactions

During the year, there were no related party transactions.

27. Controlling party

The charity is controlled by the Board of Trustees.

28. PAASE disclosure

In common with many other businesses of this size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.