

**PONIES HELP CHILDREN (SCIO)**

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH 2025**



**PONIES**  
**HELP CHILDREN**

**GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

Ponies Help Children is (SCIO) an Incorporated Scottish charitable organisation (number SC045855), governed by its constitution, established on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

**MEMBERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

The business of Ponies Help Children is directed by a management committee comprising between 3 and 10 members, appointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting to serve for one year, all being eligible for re-election. The committee meets not less than 6 times a year.

A chairperson, secretary and treasurer are appointed by the management committee; no person may hold any office for more than 3 years. The management committee may co-opt up to 3 further members, where deemed necessary, to serve until the following AGM.

**THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING AS MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ARE: -**

NAME	POSITION HELD
	Chairperson
	Vice Chair person
	Secretary
	Treasurer
	Trustee
	Trustee     Resigned 21st October 2024
	Trustee     Resigned 15th January 2025
	Trustee
	Trustee     21st October 2024
	Trustee
	Trustee-     Resigned 21st October 2024

All members stood for the duration of the year.

**ADDRESS**  
Blairmains Farm  
Harthill  
SHOTTS  
ML7 5TJ

**CONTACT DETAILS**

**WEBSITE:** [www.ponieshelpchildren.co.uk](http://www.ponieshelpchildren.co.uk)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BcpEiuRUb/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

**INSTAGRAM:** [https://www.instagram.com/ponieshelpchildren?igsh=MXAyZHQzdGhxMmN1NA%3D%3D&utm\\_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/ponieshelpchildren?igsh=MXAyZHQzdGhxMmN1NA%3D%3D&utm_source=qr)

<https://www.instagram.com/uddingstonponies?igsh=MXF5dXg2aTlucnduag==>  
<https://www.instagram.com/phc.podcast?igsh=bzE2NGczNnJxbXFj>

**LINKEDIN:** <http://linkedin.com/in/ponies-help-children-744936365>

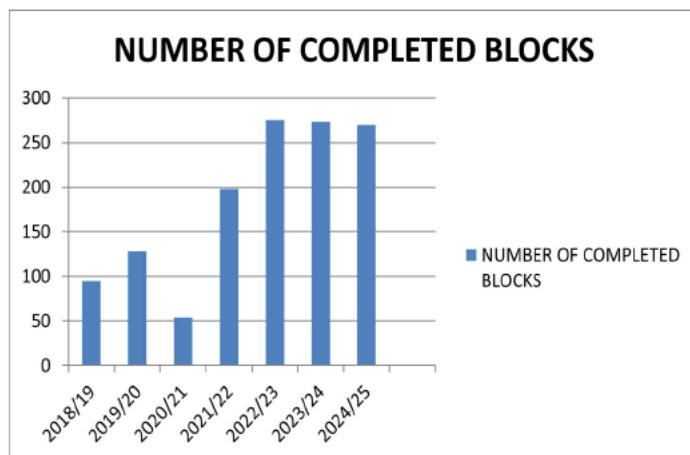
## PONIES HELP CHILDREN

Scottish Charity Number SC045855

# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

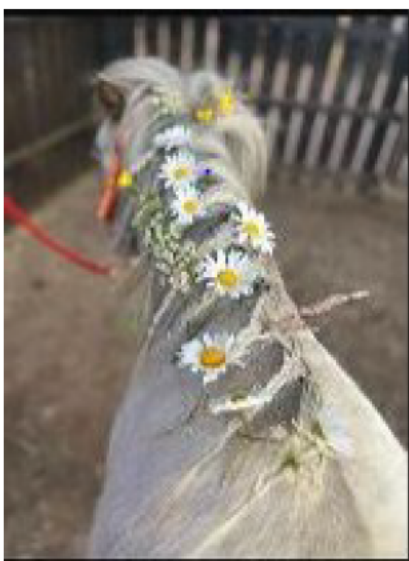
## Objectives and Aims

The organisation is established for charitable purposes only, and in particular, the objectives are: to relieve the suffering and distress, illness and discomfort of ponies and horses by providing sanctuary and resources to aid their recovery. Also to provide relief of children and adults with mental and/or physical disability through the provision of equine familiarization. We provide a safe haven for all people to engage with our rescue ponies, specialising in families with disadvantaged children and young people. Clients build resilience through mindful interaction and emotional connection; learn to trust and build relationships; cultivate positive physical and mental health; promoting general wellbeing; whilst promoting social inclusion.



During the last 12 months, we have continued to deliver completed blocks of sessions to around 300 people. This is our maximum amount possible with the facilities currently in place. We have 15 horses/ponies at Blairmains Farm, our Head Office, and we have 4 ponies at our Uddingston site. Currently this is the maximum number we can house, preventing us to deliver more sessions. The need is out there but we, PHC, need to secure the longevity of our

horses & ponies, so we restrict the number of clients each pony works with.



Our Uddingston site, although small makes a huge impact on the people of Glasgow, and across Lanarkshire. With the addition of Tinkerbelle in 2023, this enables us to work with a wide range of ages and abilities of clients.

The Team of Uddingston volunteers bring vast experience working with people with additional support needs. One of our volunteers is a BSL translator, and another 3 are trained in Makaton. This has

been most useful when working with some of their clients, so much so that Blairmains has advised that some clients go to their Uddingston site to get the best support.



**PONIES HELP CHILDREN**  
**Scottish Charity Number SC045855**

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

We have heavily invested in our outbuildings this year. Our existing stable block and feed room, required a new roof. This enabled these areas to now be dry, protect the hard feed for the ponies and reduce the amount of bedding required in the stables.

We also invested in some modular units for an separate office for the CEO, allowing them space and professionalism, as well as a large training suite. The latter is a fantastic space to deliver in house training. This has proved to be a real asset already as we taught 10 staff and volunteers on the Solihull Approaches. The learners are far more comfortable than previous occasions, allowing for much more teaching to happen.



Our volunteer development continues to go from strength to strength. With the addition of the Training Suite space, a cohort of volunteers have now achieved their Youth Dynamic Awards. This brings confidence in each individual, encourages team work, adding to their SQA points, all helping them lead to positive destination.



**PONIES HELP CHILDREN**  
**Scottish Charity Number SC045855**

**TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

With the addition of £21,000 from SPIFOX for our new training suite, we received nearly £76,000 . This is down from the previous year, however our fundraising is up.

Our quiz nights are gaining support and our Autumn event raised £724, nearly double from our April event.



We had a team of volunteers walking in the Edinburgh Kilt walk. This team was made up of clients, volunteers and staff. We raised nearly £1,500. We are hoping to have teams in both the Glasgow and Edinburgh Kilt walks next year.



Our adorable hooligans AKA Buttons and Fudge continue to draw in crowds at local community events. They are always happy to soak up cuddles and give out lots of love and cheek!  
They still visit their friends in the care homes, bringing lots of fun and excitement. Many of the residents are used to their visits and look forward to their return.





## PONIES HELP CHILDREN Scottish Charity Number SC045855

### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



Our podcasts are a great success. We are engaging with people all over the world. We release one every two weeks. We have a mix of catch up episodes where the CEO /founder and the producer/team leader have a chat about what has been happening at the charity. This might include funny stories of the ponies, fundraising events, funding updates and general hopes and dreams for the charity. They are monthly and in between we will have a special guest to speak about their links with Ponies Help Children. This may be a parent/carer who talks about the differences achieved in their young person, however we have also had psychologists from Stirling University speaking about the studies carried out with PHC.

They are great fun to make and brings lots of laughs to the staff and volunteers who discuss the antics of PHC.

For more information please search Ponies Help Children podcast., where you will find it on all major sites.

### The Future



We are very excited for this next year, because we turn 10 years old. We have a celebrations day booked for 2nd August 2025 where we are inviting dignitaries and people/ companies that have supported us over the past 10 years. We are using this as an opportunity to thank these people for their support and look forward to the next 10 years.

On Sunday 3rd August we will continue the celebrations with our volunteers and families. We can not deliver the service we do, and to the number of beneficiaries without the support of our volunteers, so this is a great opportunity to thank them for their time and commitment.

We also have a huge fundraising event where [REDACTED], the Grandson/ So of the Founders of the Chairty is running 10 10 mile runs for the 10 days running up t the 10 year celebration day. Each run will be in a local authority which we work with So plenty of publicity is planned.

We have come so far in our first 10 year we look forward to continuing to develop a the needs of the charity expand.



## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ponies Help Children (PHC) (SCIO) is a Scottish charitable organisation established in 2015, dedicated to relieving suffering in ponies and horses and providing therapeutic equine familiarisation for children and adults with mental and/or physical disabilities. For the year ended 31 March 2025, the charity experienced a **deficit of £25,495**, primarily attributed to grant income for current year expenditure being received in the previous financial year. **Total income for the year was £125,346, a decrease of £16,668** compared to prior year, while total payments **increased significantly from £107,579 to £150,726**. PHC has experienced a period of significant operational activity and growth, marked by increased income from its charitable activities, strategic infrastructure development (training suite/office), and expanded service delivery. While fundraising efforts have seen some shifts and challenges in securing larger grants, the organisation maintains a healthy financial position and continues to innovate with initiatives like the successful podcast series and the upcoming 10-year anniversary celebration. Key personnel changes have occurred, and the focus remains on enhancing volunteer qualifications, expanding community reach, and adapting to rising operational costs. The charity's **Unrestricted reserves of £12,248** are currently below the required level of **£14,500**.

**RESTRICTED INCOME £76,145** -Grant income of £73,106 and restricted donations of £2,754 and £375 restricted other payments. Restricted grant payments totalled £ 94,327

### GRANT FUND DETAILS

**The Corra Foundation £8,000** this grant income has contributed to a part-time staff members' salary and has be fully spent in the year.

**The R S MacDonald RSMCT-£12000** for Ponies costs, bedding,farrier,Feed and Vet Fees this fund was fully spent in the year.

**The Robertson's Trust- £10,000-** this grant income has contributed to a part-time staff members' salary and has be fully spent in the year.

National Lottery Awards for All Fund-£18,492 was carried forward from YE 24 this is being utilised by paying for salaries, £8,495 has been spent and £9,997 will be carried forward to 2025.

**North Lanarkshire Council Community Fund -£8271.98** this grant income contributed towards salary payments for 2 staff members.

**VANL-CMHWB-£10,944**, £22,120 was spent from this fund during the year on salaries, staff training costs and volunteer costs leaving a balance of £11,421 to be carried forward into 2025.

**VANL- Locality Activity Fund - (sounding board) £2,800-**

**Spifox£21,000-** this income went towards purchasing a new portacabin £21,000 , there was no funds to carry forward.

### UNRESTRICTED INCOME

**Total Unrestricted income £49,201.**

This comes from Other Charities/business Donations of £2,500 from the Wood foundation and Co-op members and community £1,575, Brannock high participated in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, this is a competition that schools do for local charities and Brannock won for PHC and donated £500. Other large donations came from NLC Creditors and [REDACTED], both donated £1,000 each.

Family donations £3,065 and General donations of £5,813, , Fundraising Activities £1,752, Income from Charitable £32,858 Activities, Bank Interest and Other Income **totalled £49,201**, this was an increase of 23% compared to last year. **Unrestricted payments totalled £56,399**-This was used to pay salaries, Loan costs, new computers and £13,510 of building improvement costs and all other running costs.

### RESERVES POLICY

Three months' operating costs should be held in unrestricted reserves amounting to **£14,500**. The Trustees will review the reserves policy on an annual basis to give confidence to stakeholders that the charity's finances are being managed and can also be used to provide an indicator of future funding requirements needed for investment in the association to add value for its members.

### RESERVES HELD

The balance held by the group at 31 March 2025 in cash amounts to **£35,156** At the year-end date, restricted reserves totalled **£ 22,907** and unrestricted reserves totalled **£12,249** which is currently under the required level.

CLOSING CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2025 Unrestrict- ed £	2025 Restrict- ed £	Total Fund 2025 £
Current account (31.03.2025)	8,130	22,907	31,037
Saving account	4,003	-	4,003
Cash in hand	115-	-	115
<b>CLOSING BALANCES (31.03.2025)</b>	<b>12,248</b>	<b>22,907</b>	<b>35,156</b>

MOVEMENT OF FUNDS	Revised				
Fund Report	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Closing Bal- ance
The R S MacDonald RSMCT		12,000	12,000		-
Uddingston		3,129	3,389	260	-
Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire- CMHWB	22,597	10,944	22,120		11,421
LAF - sounding board		2,800	875		1,925
National Lottery Awards for All	*18,492	0	8,495		9,997
NLC Community Fund		8,272	8,148		124
The Robertson's Trust		10,000	10,000		-
The Corra Foundation		8,000	8,000		-
Spifox		21,000	21,000		-
<b>Total Restricted Grant</b>	<b>41,089</b>	<b>76,145</b>	<b>94,027</b>		<b>23,467</b>
<b>Unrestricted General Fund</b>	<b>19,446</b>	<b>49,201</b>	<b>56,698</b>	<b>(260)</b>	<b>11,689</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>60,535</b>	<b>125,230</b>	<b>150,725</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,156</b>

\*The Lottery Community fund was paid in March 2024 and only one-month salaries had to be deducted from it leaving a carried forward balance of £18,492, this was added to general fund in error and has now been corrected.



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

					Revised	
	NOTES	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Fund £	Total	Total
					2024 Fund £	
Donations	4	13,200	2,754	15,954	7,216	
Fundraising Activities	5	1,752	-	1,752	749	
Grant Income	6	-	73,016	73,016	101,104	
Charitable Activities	7	32,853	-	32,853	31,611	
Bank Interest	8	171	-	171	59	
Other Income	9	1,225	375	1,600	1,275	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>49,201</b>	<b>76,145</b>	<b>125,346</b>	<b>141,014</b>	
Fundraising Costs	10	461	-	461	-	
Charitable Activities	11	38,437	73,327	111,764	98,241	
Capital Payments	12	15,727	21,000	36,727	8,798	
Governance Costs	13	1,774	-	1,774	540	
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>56,399</b>	<b>94,327</b>	<b>150,726</b>	<b>107,579</b>	
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(7,198)</b>	<b>(18,182)</b>	<b>(25,380)</b>	<b>34,436</b>	

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

					Revised	
		2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Fund	2024 Fund £
<b>OPENING CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b>						
Opening balances (01.04.2024)		19,446	41,089	60,536		26,100
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(7,198)	(18,182)	(25,380)		34,436
Closing balances (31.03.2025)		<b>12,248</b>	<b>22,907</b>	<b>35,156</b>		<b>60,536</b>
<b>CLOSING CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b>						
Current account (31.03.2025)		8,130	22,907	31,037		44,290
Saving account		4,003	-	4,003		16,223
Cash in hand		115	-	115		23
<b>CLOSING BALANCES (31.03.2025)</b>		<b>12,248</b>	<b>22,907</b>	<b>35,156</b>		<b>60,536</b>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS-AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025

1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and Payments Basis in accordance with the charities and Trustee investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the charities Accounts (Scotland), Regulations 2006(as amended)

**2 NATURE AND PURPOSE OF FUNDS-** Funding for the year consisted of restricted grant income to pay for staff and running costs. Unrestricted funding came from donations and Fundraising as well as Income from charitable activities consisting mainly of client fees this is detailed in the notes. All income is used towards paying charitable activities as well as Capex and Governance costs.

3 RELATED THIRD PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No remuneration has been paid to any trustees in accordance with section 67 of the Charities and Trustee investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

	2025	2024
Family donations	£3,065	£1,200
Trustee donations	£3,000	£2,200
Trustee out of pocket	£102	

Related transactions with connected persons

As this is a family run charity co-founded by [REDACTED] and her mum who sadly passed 2019. [REDACTED] is the chair of the charity and her husband, [REDACTED] is the vice-chair. [REDACTED] son now works as a team leader for 20 hours per week.

[REDACTED] also gave the charity an interest free loan of £30,000 in 2021 to help fund the building of the new shed. The loan is being repaid at £250 per month and is over 10 years.

CEO receives a salary and is also re-reimbursed for any out of pocket expenses as well as loan repayments listed below:

	2025	2024
Remuneration	£9,360	£9,360
Out of Pocket	£656	£439
Loan repayment	£3,000	£3,000

4.DONATIONS

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 Total Fund £
Family Donations	3,065	-	3,065	2,760
Business Donations	4,076	-	4,076	-
Donations	3,059	2,754	5,813	4,256
Gift Aid Donations				200
Trustee Donations	3,000	-	3,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>2,754</b>	<b>15,954</b>	<b>7,216</b>

5. FUNDRAISING

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 Total Fund £
Fundraising	1,752	-	1,752	749
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>749</b>

## 6 GRANT INCOME

	2025 Unre- stricted £	2025 Re- stricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 To- tal Fund £
The Corra Foundation	-	8,000	8,000	8,000
The R S MacDonald RSMCT	-	12,000	12,000	8,000
The Robertson Trust-extra Cost of living grant	-	10,000	10,000	11,000
National Lottery Awards for All	-	-	-	19,890
NLC Community Fund	-	8,272	8,272	2,834
Voluntary Action North lanarkshire	-	13,744	13,744	46,380
Screwfix	-	-	-	5,000
Spifox	-	21,000	21,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,016</b>	<b>73,016</b>	<b>101,104</b>

## 7. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025 Unrestrict- ed £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 Total Fund £
Merchandise sales	2,014	-	2,014	531
Client Fees	29,811	-	29,811	30,006
Mini Visit	1,028	-	1,028	1,075
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,853</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,853</b>	<b>31,611</b>

## 8. BANK INTEREST

	2025 Unrestrict- ed £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 Total Fund £
Bank Interest	171	-	171	59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>59</b>

## 9 OTHER INCOME

	2025 Unrestrict- ed £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 Total Fund £
Other refund/income	373	375	748	1,275
Volunteer Expenses Repaid	853	-	853	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,275</b>

10 FUNDRAISING COSTS

	2025 Unrestrict- ed £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 Total Fund £
Fundraising Costs	461	-	461	
<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>-</b>

11 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025 Unrestrict- ed £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 Total Fund £
Salaries	18,720	53,487	72,207	- 59,555
Pension Costs	- 0	176	176	-
Staff Training Costs	1,943	3,784	5,727	- 3,043
Volunteer Expenses	657	3,738	4,395	- 3,072
Office Supplies	1,025	-	1,025	- 2,532
Insurance	1,475	-	1,475	- 1,424
Telephone	434	-	434	- 311
heat & Light	383	-	383	- 2,634
Cleaning	88	-	88	-
Advertising	460	-	460	- 3,360
Welcome/exit packs	1,277	-	1,277	- 2,643
Merchandise purchases	4,727	-	4,727	- 1,183
Subscriptions	155	-	155	- 151
Pony Costs	1,172	1,858	3,030	- 3,139
Bedding	-	624	624	- 1,170
Farrier	-	1,185	1,185	- 1,285
Feed	-	5,581	5,581	- 4,690
Vet fees	629	2,752	3,381	- 3,831
Premises Costs	600	-	600	- 1,057
Client Fee refund	-	-	-	- 44
Gifts	52	-	52	- 116
Loan Repayment	3,000	-	3,000	- 3,000
Misc.	1,640	142	1,782	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,437</b>	<b>73,327</b>	<b>111,764</b>	<b>- 98,241</b>

12 CAPITAL PAYMENTS

	2025 Unrestrict- ed £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 Total Fund £
Office Equipment	2,217	-	2,217	-
Buildings	13,510	21,000	34,510	4,320
Computer Equipment	-	-	-	4,478
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,727</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>36,727</b>	<b>8,798</b>

FIXED ASSET POLICY

Ponies help children have a Fixed Asset Policy which –establishes £500 as the threshold amount for mini-  
mum for items to be put on fixed asset register. Any items costing below this amount should be expensed  
in the Receipts and Payments accounts.

12 GOVERNANCE

	2025 Unrestrict- ed £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total Fund £	2024 Total Fund £
Digital Accounting Services	1,774	-	1,774	540
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>540</b>

13. LIABILITIES

An interest free loan of £30,000 was given to the charity in 2021 from [redacted] to help  
build the shed to increase the infrastructure of the charity and improve the delivery of the service. The loan  
is being repaid at £250 per month and is over 10 years, current balance as at 31.03.2025- £21,000.

14 The charity owes £211 in Penson payments

The charity has no other liabilities at this time

The notes on previous pages form an integral part of these accounts

Receipts & Payments accounts and Statement of balance are Approved by the trustees on:-

Signed [redacted]  
Chairpe [redacted]

Date... [redacted]  
Signed [redacted]  
Treasur [redacted]

07 Aug 2025 (UTC)  
Date.....



## INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION REPORT AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 1 and 13 of the attached pages.

### RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the

Signed:

Date:

Finance

Professional Qualification : MAAT AATQB

Address: Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire  
90 Brandon Parade East  
Motherwell  
ML1 1LY