

**FREEDOM CENTRE (Working with adults with physical
and moderate learning disabilities) CHARITY NO.
1007683**

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

THE FREEDOM CENTRE

(working with adults with physical and moderate learning disabilities)

CHARITY INFORMATION

CHARITY STATUS

The Freedom Centre is registered with The Charity Commissioners under Charity No. 1007683 and is governed by a constitution adopted on 8th January 1992.

OBJECTS

The Freedom Centre is established to support adults with physical and moderate learning disabilities, primarily in the Isle of Sheppey, Sittingbourne and throughout Kent, in particular offering day care, structured educational services and social activities.

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

The Freedom Centre
St. Georges Avenue
Sheerness
Kent
ME12 1QT

TRUSTEES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DURING THE YEAR

President	Vacant
Chairman	Peter Laing
Secretary	Peter Laing
Treasurer	Peter Taylor
Trustees	Christine Brew
	Ross Elderfield
	Georgina Jemmett
	Brenda Hammond
	Peter White
	Ross Elderfield
	Nathan Arnold
	Ron Marsh

REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Lee Seal F.C.C.A., F.A.I.A.
Pritchard Pritchard
Bluetown, Sheerness
Kent, ME12 1RN

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc and Nat West Bank plc

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report together with the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 2024. The results for the year are presented in the form of a Statement of Financial Activities which incorporate the traditional Income and Expenditure account, in order to comply with the revised Statement of Recommended Practice for charities as issued by the Charity Commission in 2015 and as identified in the Charities Act 2011.

INTRODUCTION

The Freedom Centre was started as a project of the Delta Group, which was the local branch of Scope. The objective of the project was to establish a member led support centre for people with physical disabilities, in particular offering day care, structured educational services and social activities centred in Sheerness to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities aged between 16 and 64 (at the time of joining) in the Swale area. The Freedom Centre became an independent charity in January 1992 and assumed full responsibility for the running of the Centre on 1st April 1993. The Freedom Centre now offers support to adults with physical and moderate learning disabilities and is open to adults aged 18+.

RISK REVIEW

The Trustees conduct periodic reviews of the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and systems and procedures to manage those risks identified are implemented so as to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of those risks materialise.

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A review of Developments, Activities and Achievements is contained within the Chairman's Report.

No Trustees received any remuneration for services, as members of the Committee, neither were any expenses paid in the financial year. No Executive Committee member had any beneficial interest in any contract with the charity during the year.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charity acknowledges its requirements to demonstrate clearly it must have charitable purposes or objectives that are for the public benefit. Details of how the Charity has achieved this are provided in this Trustees' Report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES IN RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS

The Trustees are required under the constitution of the charity to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its results for the period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- a. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- b. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- c. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- d. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- e. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Executive Committee on 2nd October 2024 and signed on their behalf



Peter Laing (Chairman)

THE FREEDOM CENTRE

(working with adults with physical and moderate learning disabilities)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – AGM 2024

Dear Members,

I am pleased to report that despite ongoing difficulties, The Freedom Centre has continued its mission to support adults with physical and moderate learning disabilities, primarily on the Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne but also throughout Kent, in particular offering day care, structured educational services and social activities. We have managed to maintain our instructional courses, entertainment, a respite break and, most importantly companionship. This is entirely due to the untiring loyalty of the staff, management and volunteers who have all worked so hard to meet our members diverse needs. For this I must express my gratitude and that of my fellow Trustees. They too deserve my gratitude for their guidance and support, not only at our meetings but also for the fundraising activities which many of them, along with members of staff, have organised or participated in.

Attracting new members has not been easy, but we have had some success, and I hope that this will continue. I must, sadly, advise that we have lost some treasured friends. Our thoughts are with their loved ones.

Without stealing any of our treasurer's thunder, I am pleased to be able to tell you that, thanks to his efforts and those of our staff, members and trustees, our financial position remains strong and should enable us to weather any storms that the economic situation may bring.

Unfortunately, despite my heartfelt plea at last year's AGM, we have not been able to recruit a new Chairman and so, subject to your approval, I shall be fulfilling that role for the coming year. If anyone feels willing and able to take on this position, I should be extremely grateful.

Once again, my sincere thanks to my fellow trustees, to the management team, the staff, the volunteers and the members for all their hard work.

Peter Laing,



Peter Laing
Chairman of Trustees

THE FREEDOM CENTRE

(working with adults with physical and moderate learning disabilities)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the Year ended 31st March 2024

	Notes	General funds £'s	Designated funds £'s	Restricted funds £'s	TOTAL funds 2024 £'s	TOTAL funds 2023 £'s
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income - direct giving	2	33,833	0	0	33,833	39,411
Other voluntary income	3	550	0	0	550	11,054
Income from events and activities	4	3,347	0	0	3,347	3,112
Other ordinary income	5	174,179	0	0	174,179	179,786
Income from investments	6	6,423	0	0	6,423	1,857
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£'s	218,332	0	0	218,332	235,220
RESOURCES USED						
Directly relating to the work of the centre	7	113,830	0	0	113,830	126,831
Centre management and administration	8	77,078	0	0	77,078	72,985
Depreciation	9	14,561	0	0	14,561	14,566
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	£'s	205,469	0	0	205,469	214,382
Net movement in resources before other gains/losses		12,863	0	0	12,863	20,838
Other gains and losses						
Surplus on sale of assets		0	0	0	0	0
Net movement on resources after other gains/losses		12,863	0	0	12,863	20,838
Transfer between funds -						
- fixed asset equity		0	0	0	0	0
- redundancy reserve fund		0	0	0	0	0
- asset replacement fund		0		0	0	-1,319
NET MOVEMENT ON RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		12,863	0	0	12,863	19,519
Balances brought forward		271,771	109,721	35,598	417,090	397,571
BALANCES AT 31ST MARCH 2024		284,634	109,721	35,598	429,953	417,090

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

The Charity made no recognised gains or losses in either the current or prior year other than as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities

The notes on pages 6-9 form part of these accounts

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £'s	2023 £'s
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	138,942	153,503
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	10	16,184	23,104
Redundancy reserve Account		29,443	28,078
Cash in hand and at bank		<u>254,833</u>	<u>219,077</u>
		300,460	270,259
Less: amounts falling due within 1 year	11	<u>9,449</u>	<u>6,672</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		291,011	263,587
NET ASSETS		<u>£'s 429,953</u>	<u>£'s 417,090</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted General Funds	12	284,634	271,771
Unrestricted designated funds			
Fixed Asset Equity		109,721	109,721
Redundancy costs reserve		35,598	35,598
Asset replacement fund		0	0
		<u>145,319</u>	<u>145,319</u>
		<u>£'s 429,953</u>	<u>£'s 417,090</u>

The notes on pages 6-9 form part of these accounts

These Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 2nd October 2024 and signed on its behalf by: -



Peter Laing
Chairman



Peter Taylor
Treasurer