



**SCRATCH**  
Fighting Local Poverty

Annual Report  
April 2024 to March 25



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS: -

To relieve the effects of poverty for families and individuals with needs recognised by approved referral agencies in Southampton and the surrounding area and to support likeminded organisations.

## CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2024 to 2025

In 2024, SCRATCH marked 25 years of serving local families and individuals in hardship. 25 years of delivering beds for families whose children are sharing one or sleeping on the floor. A quarter century of providing a package of gifts at Christmas to children who'd otherwise go without or of installing a new washing machine where the old one has died and there's not the money to replace it. And we've done so much more.

That time has also been marked by highs and lows, on a recurring cycle, caused by the challenges—financial and other—that face small charities like ours. Despite sterling work from staff and board, we have found ourselves at times in the past on the brink of extinction. However, we're still here and still serving. And, while we're fortunate enough to be on a relative high at present, we never forget that things can change quickly and we do plan for how best we can

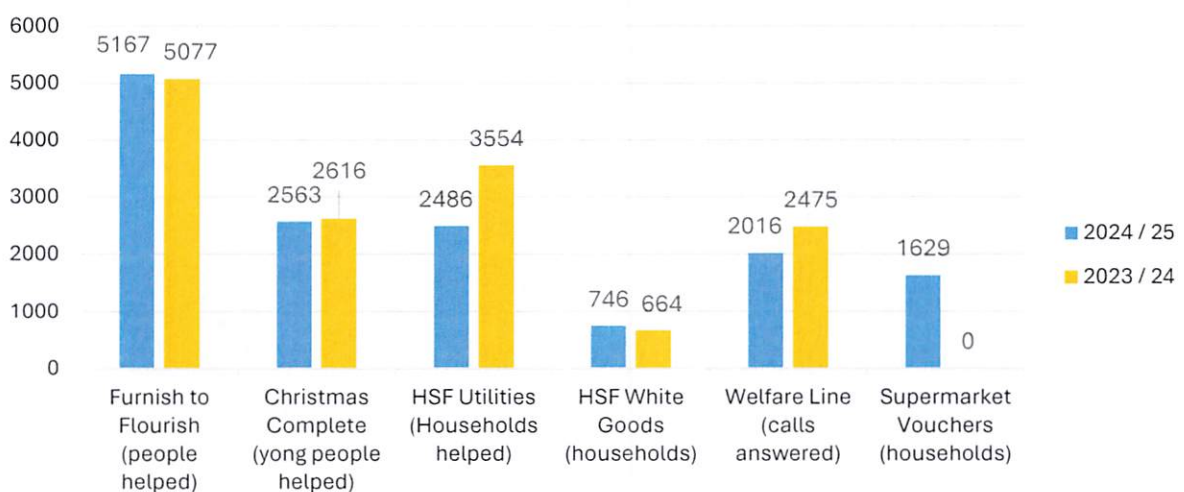
ride any storm that may sweep over the horizon. We'd say that's part of being a good steward of the organisation and the resources we're entrusted with.

Part of stewardship is also planning for change, and one of the biggest challenges for the 2025/6 period will be saying goodbye to Mike Smith, who's been involved with leading SCRATCH for many years. Ensuring that the charity has the right leadership in place for 2026 and beyond needs much thought and prayer, but SCRATCH is an organisation that's worth our expending time and thought on.

We thank all our staff, volunteers and supporters, for your continued work. Those beds and gifts and washing machines wouldn't be delivered without *you*.

*Ann Laird, Chair of Trustees*

How many people did we help last year (explanations shown on the following pages)



## SENIOR MANAGEMENT REPORT

2024 /25 was a milestone year for SCRATCH. In August we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a barbecue for staff, volunteers and referral agents also attended by Satvir Kaur, MP for Southampton Test. It was good to be able to celebrate all the great work we have



done to assist so many clients facing financial hardship over the past quarter of a century, although we do somewhat lament that our services are required more than ever. It seems little has

been achieved to resolve the underlying cause of poverty.

Through the various projects we run; Furnish to Flourish, Welfare Line, Household Support Fund, Christmas Complete, Removals and Community Repaint we assist some 15,000 individuals each year, many of whom are in a desperate situation. It remains a real privilege to be able to help those who are most in need.

Volunteering remains at the core of all we do and as always we express our gratitude to the many volunteers we see throughout the year assisting on all our projects. In return we offer an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome and have been able to help with training, work experience, and job applications as well as more general empathetic support. Most of all it is great to celebrate individual successes together and to share community with people from such diverse backgrounds, our social events are always a highlight of the year. In February we were reaccredited with the Investing in Volunteers Standard, which demonstrates

our commitment to volunteering. Congratulations to Lizzie and all the staff team who made this possible.

We mentioned last year that we would be upgrading facilities at our HQ, and we are pleased to say these are now complete and provide a much-improved environment for staff and volunteers alike, with new kitchen, restroom, and office facilities as well as full redecoration and carpeting which future proofs the site for the remainder of our tenancy.

Financially SCRATCH has performed well over the year, which means we will have the means to continue serving the community well into the future and secure futures for our staff and keep some reserves for replacing vehicles and equipment when they become necessary. A combination of successful funding applications, continued contracts with councils and housing associations, along with generous donations have ensured we are in a secure financial position, thanks to all who have contributed in any way.

*Mike Smith, Senior Manager (Operations)*

*Annette Davis, Senior Manager (Resources)*

Finally, this will be the last report that Mike will be contributing to as he will be leaving SCRATCH at Christmas after 25 years of employment. He states, "It has been a pleasure to work in such a rewarding industry knowing that everyday we make a difference to those around us and to be part of such a great team who I know will continue to faithfully serve the community and improve the lives of those who need our help the most". The whole of SCRATCH wishes him well in his retirement.

## FURNISH TO FLOURISH

The big change and advancement this year has been the introduction of 'Track Pod' a system which provides real-time information on deliveries and collections completed / partially completed or when people aren't at home. This has proved to be very beneficial for the office



team in being able to provide accurate and timely information to referral agents and we are impressed with the way our drivers have adapted to the changes. We are positive that in the long term this will remove our reliance on paper. Whilst the implementation of this system was taking place, we halted the delivery survey but as you will read later, we still have useful data to support funding applications.

An ongoing issue has been the shortage of stock – ranging from beds to sofas and kitchen utensils to pillows. Whilst we are happy to run a 'shortage list system' for non-essential items, we don't want to ask people to wait for beds. We are thankful to specific funding received for the purchase of beds and for other smaller items, but we still find times when we hope that a bed due to be collected in

the morning is suitable so that it can go straight back out in a delivery for the afternoon.

Below are a couple of comments following recent collections and deliveries: -

- *Guys have just been, can I please feedback what 3 lovely chaps, makes such a difference to deal with nice people. I will be promoting via Facebook if that's ok to say what great service we have had from the point of booking (friendly and getting a date) to today when they turned up when you said they'd be here. A really worthwhile cause to donate to.*
- *Just to pass on my thanks and my client's thanks for the excellent job your guys did of moving furniture into his flat yesterday. He is particularly stressed at the moment and it made his day to have the wardrobe, bedside table and TV stand. Thanks again.*
- *I had a delivery in March and from the start the kettle and toaster have proved invaluable and even now when I need something I delve into the extensive kitchen package. The curtains wouldn't have been my choice, but they really create a fantastic effect in the flat and I really like them. There is so much to thank you all for, it all adds up to making my flat a nice place to be! Many thanks to all at SCRATCH – those who delivered, those behind the scenes and everyone else.*

During the year we made a total of 2366 \* deliveries, which benefitted 2990 adults and 2177 children. This is a 5% increase on the previous year.

The number of deliveries is a 5% increase on the number for the previous year. In addition, we made over 1500 collections from homes and businesses as well as accepting hundreds of drop-offs at the warehouse from individual people and local house clearance companies. We continued to receive bed donations from the New Milton Bed Shop which has been extremely useful in helping to support the never-ending need for these items.

Deliveries were carried out within an average of 5.39 days from the point of referral.

\*This figure does include all White Good deliveries under the Household Support Fund. You can find information regarding this later in this report.

As stated above we don't have full years' worth of delivery surveys, but the comments and the chart below highlights the appreciation and benefits that many recipients felt that a delivery will bring.

- The lads were very hard working especially as there were a lot of stairs.
- Thanks for connecting my washing machine and cooker
- Brilliant service
- Great bed
- Great service, thanks very much for help
- Great guys
- Great service and helpful driver
- So grateful



## HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND AND WELFARE LINE

It has been a privilege again this year to support Southampton City Council by providing direct provision through the provision of utility and cash vouchers, white goods (for household who meet very strict criteria) and for some specific agencies, supermarket vouchers. This is covered by the Government's Household Support Fund.

The council wish to make the best use of this funding and have added new areas of support via other organisations. This has resulted in marginally less money being available to SCRATCH which is highlighted in the slightly reduced number helped during the year, compared to the previous year. But this in no way reflects the level of need which doesn't ever seem to decrease.

Over 280 referrals for utility vouchers were refused – this could be that applications were outside of the city boundaries; the household had already received the maximum available or we believed that the application was fraudulent.

We provided utility vouchers that enabled 3182 adults and 2964 children to ensure they had electric / heating / hot water for their homes.

In December we started an additional area of support designed specifically for clients of Citizens Advice, Southampton. In addition to utility and food vouchers, we can offer direct bank payments for people who pay their utilities by direct debit. In the period December 2024 to March 2025, 1255 households received help through Citizens Advice for one or more elements of the scheme.



SCRATCH has been operating the Welfare Line for a several years providing a direct access point for Southampton residents who might need a referral to local foodbanks and / or signposting to other organisation for more specialised advice. The number of food bank referrals have gone down during the year due to Southampton City Mission reducing the number of times they are able to provide food in a 12-month rolling period. We do get some odd requests for help, with one lady wanting

help to find her local Avon Rep. Google is a great friend at times like this. More often it is people seeking help with financial matters, in need of food or just wanting a friendly person to chat with.

The great welfare team is made up of Kelly, Lydia and Natasha assisted as necessary by Lucy (recently promoted to Office Manager) and Annette (Senior Manager, Resources).

### CHRISTMAS COMPLETE

We believe that this project operated for the 30<sup>th</sup> time in December 2024 (it started in a very small way before SCRATCH was formed). In 2024 there was a slight decrease in the numbers



help, 2563 compared to 2616 in the previous year. There are more projects providing toys now than when we first started so the fact that the numbers are fairly consistent does indicate the value that our referral agents place on the project and the fact that we can deliver the parcels directly to their clients is a great benefit to them. Some agencies do collect from us or we can deliver to them so that they can distribute to their families.

As always, we are indebted to the many organisations and individuals who donate toys, gifts and finance so that we can provide a parcel of 7 or 8 gifts to each child or young person referred, many of whom wouldn't otherwise get presents to open on Christmas Day. Receiving the donations wouldn't be

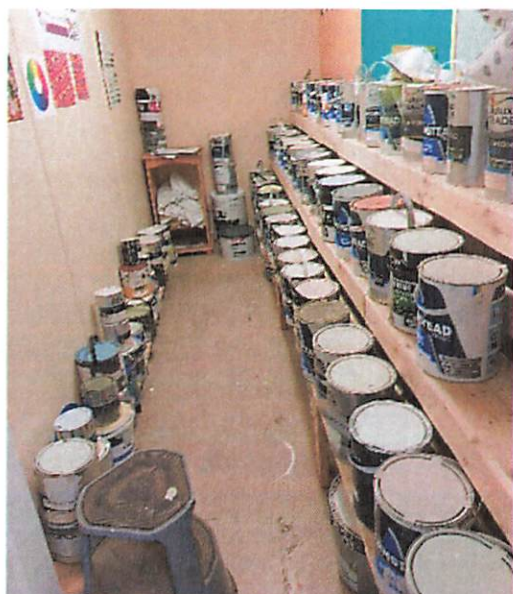
of any benefit to us without the many volunteers to willingly give their time to check, sort and package the parcels – a big thank you to everyone involved in ensuring that the project ran smoothly. Thanks also to those that helped with the delivery process with a special thanks to St Mary's Church in Southampton for assisting again with a large number of deliveries.



The comments below are a reflection of how the project is appreciated by so many:

- *My housing officer kindly contacted yourselves as despite me working my children and I are struggling financially and I was unable to get them anything for Christmas. Your charity kindly dropped off a parcel that had presents for both of my boys and I just wanted to email and say a massive thank you for their gifts. I really can't express my gratitude to you all for making Christmas a little more special.*
- *I would like to thank you for the Christmas gifts. It was indeed a blessing to us, especially our daughter M. Thank you for putting a smile on her face.*
- *I'm not sure who arranged the SCATCH Christmas boxes for the Ukrainians, but I just want to pass on my thanks and those from the families. The children were so happy and the presents were really outstanding. New Forest District Council.*
- *I would like to send my thanks to you all for all the help your charity has given me and my family. We had a Christmas delivery on Saturday this has saved Christmas for us in so many ways.*
- *Thank you so much for my gifts you have actually saved my Christmas and taken away so much stress.*

## COMMUNITY REPAINT



Community repaint Southampton, operated by SCRATCH, has been in existence for over 20 years as part of the national network of over 80 schemes. Community Repaint national estimate that some 50 million litres of paint, enough to fill 25 Olympic size swimming pools, goes to waste in the UK, here in Southampton we are trying to do our bit to reduce waste whilst helping families and organisations who would find the cost of redecorating prohibitive. In so doing we help to ensure a more pleasant environment for homes and community spaces. Paint is available free of charge to referred clients and community groups are invited to make a donation.

In 2024/25 we supplied 121 individuals and 19 community groups with a combined total of 5,435

litres of paint. We collected more than we distributed, in total 6,485 litres of paint was diverted from the waste stream and made available to clients and groups alike. Which all means we had a good stock of available paint at the start of 2025/26.

## VOLUNTEERING

We have been delighted to welcome a steady stream of new volunteers this year, joining us through a variety of referral sources. This growing interest has resulted in a healthy waiting list of people eager to get involved. It is always inspiring to see individuals from diverse backgrounds come together to support our work.

In March, we proudly renewed our *Investing in Volunteers* accreditation - the UK's quality standard for excellent volunteer management - which we have held since 2017. This recognition reflects how much we value our volunteers and our commitment to providing a positive, supportive volunteering experience. Our assessor praised the substantial support we offer our volunteers and noted that 'every volunteer interviewed was keen to describe how welcome they had been made to feel.'



We continue to support our volunteers through the varied and often challenging journeys of their lives. One longstanding volunteer who spoke very little English when he first joined us, is now fluent, has been granted the right to remain in the UK, and has recently welcomed his wife and young daughter to safety here through the Family Reunion scheme — all within just two years. SCRATCH has been there to support him every step of the way.

Another volunteer, now working six days a week after a difficult period, still chooses to give his only day off to volunteer with us. He says that being part of SCRATCH significantly supports his mental wellbeing — so much so that if he had to make a choice, he would rather reduce his work hours than stop volunteering.

Here are just a few comments from our volunteers, reflecting the strong sense of community at SCRATCH:

- *I love coming here and being with volunteers.*
- *SCRATCH has improved my confidence and self-worth. I enjoy being here.*
- *I like the sense of community at SCRATCH. Lots of great people here.*
- *I like that I am appreciated by the charity.*
- *I like being helpful and I like that it brings people together.*
- *SCRATCH has helped me with my mental health.*
- *I appreciate spending time here and love people here. Everyone here is warm and welcoming.*
- *I came here to develop my confidence; well restore it let's say... the review meetings have really helped me develop. It is a real example of how much they respect you.*
- *I live alone, I was becoming quite reclusive, and I think depressed. I dread to think what I would be like now if I hadn't started coming here.*

Lizzie Osborne – Volunteer Manager

## GOVERNANCE

The SCRATCH board of trustees operates under the charity's Articles of Association. New trustees are recruited via notification of vacancies, for example on our mailing list, our website, word of mouth etc: prospective candidates apply via a statement of interest stating why they want to join the board and what they will bring to it. They are interviewed by the existing trustees and if successful appointed at the next meeting. Induction is initially conducted by the chair who introduces new trustees to the building, the team, and relevant documents. followed by attendance at a SCRATCH Induction session. The development of trustees is important, no matter how experienced they are: training needs for board members are identified via skills audits, at strategy days or as new developments require. These needs are addressed by online courses or by attendance at SCRATCH employee training (eg. for safeguarding).

Trustees make strategic decisions, such as key objectives and deliverables, staffing structure and long-term operating premises requirements. Senior Managers — Annette Davis and Mike Smith — make day-to-day operational decisions following delegated levels of authority guidelines, with reference to board members when required. The Board of Trustees undertakes an annual review of salaries and wages for all staff, including senior managers, in accordance with the SCRATCH pay policy: any pay increase, if awarded, is not performance based, although employees undergo appraisals for development.

SCRATCH trustees work with regard to the latest Charity Commission guidance, for example on public benefit. We consider that our object - The relief of the effects of poverty for individuals and families in the City of Southampton and Central Southern England - passes the "public benefit test" because the outworking of this is the provision of furniture packs, white goods and utilities top ups, for which referrals are made by public sector agencies and other charities, All SCRATCH's other activities are also aimed at public benefit and trustees are confident that every project remains in line with our core purpose, as each project provides tangible services such as goods, advice, or volunteering opportunities and development. As the opportunity for new work arises, for example delivering services for Southampton City Council, we assess whether it's a good fit for what we already do and whether it's in line with our purposes.

All existing projects are monitored in terms of metrics: numbers of clients helped, amounts and quality of goods provided, speed of response to referrals, etc. Surveys are carried out to obtain feedback on specific areas, such as referral agents' views on our services, or how volunteers have benefitted from their experiences. Some of the most valuable information about how well we're doing comes in the comments from those we've helped.

## FUNDRAISING

As well as providing paid for services for local authorities, SCRATCH also raises money using a range of methods, including direct interactions with funders, churches and businesses. It employs a professional fundraising company, Competitive Solutions Ltd, which is a member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, and which focuses, on our behalf, on approaching funding institutions such as The National Lottery. SCRATCH Senior Managers and Trustees hold a monthly virtual meeting with CSL staff to monitor existing fundraising bids and plan future ones: both sides work together to ensure that all proposed approaches to funders

contain an accurate depiction of SCRATCH's activities and needs, while remaining securely in line with the charity's aims.

In the year 2024 / 25, professional fundraising costs were £39,090 and a total of £224,482 (including the National Lottery) was raised.

SCRATCH's fundraising strategy does *not* involve methods where individuals are approached by phone, on the doorstep or in the street. Appeals—particularly for donations of goods—can be made via social media or our mailing list, but these are general and not targeted at individuals. There have been no complaints to us concerning fundraising.

## FUTURE PLANS

The board holds an annual strategy event: at the most recent meeting it was decided—in the short term—to concentrate on the existing projects for providing relief for families and individuals in hardship, rather than take on new ventures which might stretch our resources or be less closely linked to our aims. Close collaboration with partners such as Southampton City Council and delivery of the key projects Furnish-to-Flourish, Discretionary Fund, Welfare Line and Christmas Complete will remain our core activity.

The Trustees review risks at every board meeting (usually six per year). The principal risk/uncertainty for SCRATCH has always concerned financial viability and for many years the charity lived a hand to mouth existence. To this end we have again contracted CSL, a professional fundraising company, to secure ongoing core funding for our projects. This was successful in the first two years of working together, especially in terms of National Lottery funding. However, as there is no guarantee that major income—such as the National Lottery grant or the Household Support Fund—will continue every year, we have also built up our reserves so that we can still deliver all our projects while we seek alternative funding streams.

Admin details – include names and addresses of:

- a. Solicitors (no specific solicitor)
- b. Auditor Knight Goodhead Limited, 7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 3DA
- c. Banks: -
  - Co-Operative Bank
  - Sort code – 08-92-99
  - Account No. 69201183
  
  - Flagstone (holding banker HSBC)
  - Sort code - 40-32-32
  - Account No. 02828065
  
  - CAF
  - Sort Code – 40-52-40
  - Account No. 00018246

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 maintaining proper accounting records which 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Overview

With the aid of sound financial management and the support of both our staff and volunteers we generated a very positive financial outcome for the period with a net increase in Total funds of £283,889. We continue to be grateful to various grant-making bodies and to the people of Southampton for their generous support for SCRATCH's poverty relief activities. We were successful in obtaining new funding as well as a number of stage payments from previous successful bids which enabled SCRATCH to deliver its much needed services at above or similar to last fiscal's achievements.

### Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding sources for the charity are currently by way of grants, contract income from Southampton City Council, various Housing Associations and income generated from the sale of furniture packs/white goods. Despite increasing constraints on Central Government and thus local authority expenditure, the charity has continued to deliver value

for money services, been flexible in adapting to changing requirements and has maintained its position as a preferred supplier to our customers. We continue to seek funding from a broader group of funders whilst maintaining close relationships with current funders.

### **Investment Policy**

Aside from retaining a prudent (carefully considered value) amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short to medium term. There are some funds available for longer term investment. Having considered the options available, the Board of Trustees has decided to invest an amount that it has available in commercial common investment funds via Flagstone. The Board of Trustees considers the overall return on short, medium and long term investments and manages the charity's investments to ensure an optimum return. A review of investment policies is planned during the new financial year (2025/26).

### **Reserves Policy**

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of its commitments and the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 3 to 6 months of its expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2025/26 is £806,104 and a target has been set at £391,796 for the purpose. These reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and the Board of Trustees are confident that at this level they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding. The present level of unrestricted reserves available to the charity of £637,780 is therefore deemed sufficient to accommodate the decisions made by the Board of Trustees. During the financial year 2024/25 the refurbishment of the toilets and kitchens and the decorating of various sections of the premises was completed, the upkeep of the fabric, fixtures, features and facilities of the premises being a contractual obligation on the charity under the terms and conditions of the lease for the Mount Pleasant premises. Also the project for the installation of audio visual equipment in the boardroom was completed during this period. Our strategy is to continue to build reserves through planned operating surpluses to facilitate unforeseen fluctuations in both income and expenditure to ensure the delivery of our services is not impacted.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

The charity plans to continue its activities in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements. Plans are also being developed to work with our customers to ensure that key government anti poverty initiatives can be continued, albeit under slightly different requirements. We will continue to seek new opportunities for our services.

From a Human Resources (HR) perspective we recruited a new General Manager (GM) as Mike Smith (Senior Manager - Operations) will be retiring in Dec 2025. This recruitment activity was successfully completed in Sep 2025 and the new GM, Michael Taylor, will be commencing his employment with SCRATCH in Nov 2025.

### **Funds**

SCRATCH prepares its accounts in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102). As such the charity adopts a Fund Accounting approach of presenting its accounts. The funds of the charity are divided into two fund categories, these being;

#### *Unrestricted Funds*

Unrestricted funds are spent or applied at the discretion of the Board of Trustees to further any of the charity's purposes. They can be used to supplement expenditure made from

restricted funds as deemed appropriate. At the end of this reporting period the value of the charity's Unrestricted Funds is presented as being £637,780, these funds being assigned in accordance with the Reserves Policy of the charity. A portion of the Unrestricted Fund, is deposited in commercial common investment funds under the guidelines of the charity's Investment Policy.

#### *Restricted Funds.*

Restricted funds are held on specific trusts under charity law. These trusts are declared by the donor when making the gift or as a result of the terms of a successful appeal for funds. The specific trusts establish the purpose for which the charity can lawfully use the restricted funds. SCRATCH has a number of components within its Restricted Fund, each for a particular purpose of the charity.

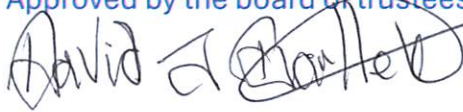
At the end of this reporting period the value of the charity's Restricted Fund is presented as being £230,497. This value is compiled from, and will only be used to service, the following projects;

Household Support Fund at a value of £176,697 and

Furnish to Flourish Fund at a value of £53,800.

It is the intention of the charity to expense these funds across the short to medium term whilst seeking further income from future appeals for funding and gifts, to ensure the longevity of the charity and thus the continued delivery of its much needed services to our clients.

Approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee D. BARTLETT

Dated: 16 December 2025

#### Board of Directors

Ann Laird (Chair)

David Bartlett

Nicholas Warn

Robert Davis

Stephen Bond (appointed July 2025)

#### Staff team as at 31 March 2025

Mike Smith – Senior Manager (Operations)

Lucy Taylor – Office Manager

Annette Davis – Senior Manager (Resources)

Kelly Beck – Welfare Information Officer \*

Ian Dowdell – Furniture Manager

Natasha Davis – Welfare Information Officer \*

Paul Williams – Driver

Lydia Roberts – Welfare Information Officer \*

Ian Arnold – Driver

Becci Gough – Receptionist (part time)

Lizzie Osborne – Volunteer Manager

\* job share

SUPPORTED BY: -



Supported by



SCRATCH, 33 Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate, Southampton, SO14 0SP  
Tel: 023 8077 3132 e-mail: [reception@scratchcharity.co.uk](mailto:reception@scratchcharity.co.uk) [www.scratchcharity.co.uk](http://www.scratchcharity.co.uk)  
Southampton City and Region Action to Combat Hardship is registered as a Limited Company, Number 03830305 Registered in Cardiff. Registered Charity No. 1078344

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Southampton City and Region Action to Combat Hardship for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and the related notes. 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 to 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 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 of opinion**

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

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

### **Other information**

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the company's 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 exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the Annual Report, the trustees 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 they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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

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.

We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with trustees and other management and we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence.

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.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

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 and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

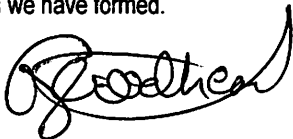
Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Knight Goodhead Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

### **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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**CJ GOODHEAD FCA**

**Senior Statutory Auditor**

**Knight Goodhead Limited**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO53 3DA

Dated: 16 December 2025

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (including Income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	305,017	59,265	364,281	117,646
Charitable activities	4	855,591	266,657	1,122,248	936,883
Fundraising income		-	23,629	23,629	28,908
Trading income	5	-	457	457	2,042
Other income	6	-	181,657	181,657	-
		<u>1,160,608</u>	<u>531,665</u>	<u>1,692,273</u>	<u>1,085,478</u>
Investment income		-	9,540	9,540	9,245
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u><b>1,160,608</b></u>	<u><b>541,205</b></u>	<u><b>1,701,813</b></u>	<u><b>1,094,723</b></u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Charitable activities	7	1,053,868	364,056	1,417,924	1,041,848
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u><b>1,053,868</b></u>	<u><b>364,056</b></u>	<u><b>1,417,924</b></u>	<u><b>1,041,848</b></u>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	8	<b>106,740</b>	<b>177,149</b>	<b>283,889</b>	<b>52,875</b>
Transfers between funds	15,16	(47,908)	47,908	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<u><b>58,832</b></u>	<u><b>225,057</b></u>	<u><b>283,889</b></u>	<u><b>52,875</b></u>
<b>FUNDS AT 1 APRIL 2024</b>		<u>171,665</u>	<u>412,723</u>	<u>584,388</u>	<u>531,513</u>
<b>FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2025</b>		<u><u><b>230,497</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>637,780</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>868,277</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>584,388</b></u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in notes 15 and 16 to the financial statements.

# SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

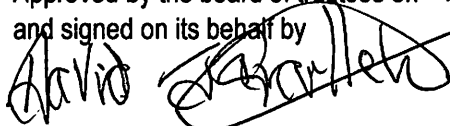
COMPANY NUMBER: 3830305

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	11		80,078		39,432
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stock		16,665		8,825	
Debtors	12	231,972		185,206	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>608,633</u>		<u>414,411</u>	
		857,270		608,443	
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(58,566)</u>		<u>(42,697)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			798,704		565,745
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due in more than one year</b>	14		<u>(10,505)</u>		<u>(20,789)</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	17		<u><u>868,277</u></u>		<u><u>584,388</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted funds	15		230,497		171,665
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	16		637,780		412,723
Designated funds	16		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u><u>868,277</u></u>		<u><u>584,388</u></u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and FRS 102 relating to small entities.

Approved by the board of trustees on *16 December 2025*  
and signed on its behalf by



**D. BARTLETT**  
Trustee

**SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP**  
(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
NET CASH FLOW PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	1	257,966	74,527
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest received		9,540	9,245
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayments of borrowing		(17,234)	(20,026)
Interest paid		(662)	(2,237)
Increase in loan finance		-	-
Fixed asset additions		(55,389)	(12,929)
NET CASH FLOW		<u>194,222</u>	<u>48,580</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		194,222	48,580
Cash and cash equivalent at start of the period		<u>414,411</u>	<u>365,831</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	2	<u>608,633</u>	<u>414,411</u>

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 1 RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Net movement in funds for the period	283,889	52,875
Interest received	(9,540)	(9,245)
Depreciation	14,742	14,910
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(7,840)	(2,577)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(46,766)	14,541
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	23,481	4,023
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>257,966</u>	<u>74,527</u>

#### 2 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>608,633</u>	<u>414,411</u>

#### 3 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	Other non- cash changes	At 31 March 2025
Cash at bank and in hand	414,411	194,222	-	608,633
Debt due within one year	(17,865)	18,645	(11,033)	(10,253)
Debt due after one year	(20,789)	-	10,284	(10,505)
	<u>375,757</u>	<u>212,867</u>	<u>(749)</u>	<u>587,875</u>

# **SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

### **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **a) Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (second edition - October 2019) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of the 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 note.

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

#### **b) Income**

Income received by way of donations and gifts is included in full in the statement of financial activities when received.

Revenue grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate and when the conditions of receipt have been complied with. Where the grant has to be matched to a different period the deferred element is deducted from incoming resources and carried forward in creditors.

Legacies are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities when receipt is probable, and their value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### **c) Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Voluntary income costs and trading costs comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising and trading.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the statement of financial activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Cost related to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

# **SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

### **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

#### **d) Operating leases**

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

#### **e) Tangible fixed assets**

Assets that cost more than £500 are capitalised at cost price. Depreciation is provided using the following rates and bases to reduce by annual instalments the cost, less estimated residual value of the tangible assets over their estimated useful lives:

Leasehold improvements	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance
Plant and machinery	25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	33% straight line

#### **f) Stock**

Stocks held at the year end for distribution are stated at fair value. Donated stock is not valued but recognised in income and expenditure when the item is distributed.

#### **g) Funds**

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for charitable purposes.

Restricted funds represent grants and donations which are allocated by the donor for specific purposes. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the appropriate fund.

#### **h) Financial instruments**

The charity 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.

## **SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

#### **i) Donated goods**

The value to the charity of donated goods are recognised in donations when the item is distributed, with an equivalent amount recognised as charitable expenditure.

#### **2 LEGAL STATUS**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The charitable company was incorporated on 23 August 1999 in the United Kingdom and was registered on 24 November 1999 with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The charity is a public benefit entity.

The registered office of the charitable company is Unit 33 Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate, Mount Pleasant Road, Southampton, SO14 0SP.

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 3 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<i>Donations and similar income</i>				
Gift aided donations	10,356	14,264	24,620	30,102
Non gift aided donations	6,720	38,846	45,566	23,461
Gift aid recoverable	-	6,155	6,155	7,568
Donated goods for Furnish to Flourish	103,405	-	103,405	56,514
Donated goods for Christmas Complete	184,536	-	184,536	-
	<u>305,017</u>	<u>59,265</u>	<u>364,281</u>	<u>117,646</u>

#### 4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCOME

Grants and contracts	647,494	88,537	736,031	731,609
Furniture charges	45,857	103,184	149,041	145,195
White goods charges	154,827	73,393	228,220	46,847
Removal charges	5,100	807	5,907	10,173
Delivery charges	2,313	736	3,049	3,059
	<u>855,591</u>	<u>266,657</u>	<u>1,122,248</u>	<u>936,883</u>

#### 5 TRADING INCOME

Pallet furniture sales	-	-	-	100
Shop sales	-	457	457	1,942
	<u>-</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>2,042</u>

#### 6 Other Income

Other income relates to amounts received from HMRC due to input VAT not recovered in prior years.

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 EXPENDITURE	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO ACTIVITIES</b>				
Wages and salaries	242,093	67,951	310,044	275,793
Donated furniture costs	103,405	-	103,405	56,514
Fundraising costs	-	33,643	33,643	33,198
Basic package equipment, beds and microwaves	50,704	-	50,704	59,685
Electric top up	272,653	-	272,653	227,105
White goods purchases	190,110	-	190,110	172,654
Christmas expenses	6,720	13,969	20,689	17,478
Donated packages for Christmas Complete	184,536	-	184,536	-
Motor expenses	3,647	7,558	11,205	26,326
	1,053,868	123,121	1,176,989	868,753
<b>SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED TO ACTIVITIES</b>				
Rent	-	61,286	61,286	47,280
Water and rates	-	7,002	7,002	8,027
Insurance	-	12,900	12,900	12,123
Light and heat	-	20,703	20,703	17,389
Repairs and maintenance	-	35,050	35,050	14,802
Office costs	-	2,059	2,059	2,194
PPS	-	6,919	6,919	7,832
IT costs	-	8,753	8,753	8,185
Accountancy	-	15,036	15,036	8,441
Legal and professional	-	36,000	36,000	7,000
Travel and subsistence	-	14,857	14,857	15,148
Training costs	-	3,171	3,171	5,842
Sundry	-	35	35	35
Interest charges	-	662	662	2,237
Bank/card charges	-	1,760	1,760	1,650
Depreciation	-	14,742	14,742	14,910
	-	240,935	240,935	173,095
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,053,868</b>	<b>364,056</b>	<b>1,417,924</b>	<b>1,041,848</b>

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 8 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation	14,742	14,910
Auditors' remuneration:		
- audit (current year)	8,000	5,300
- audit (prior year)	4,000	-
- other services	3,036	3,141
	<u>310,044</u>	<u>275,793</u>

#### 9 EMPLOYED STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Employed staff costs were as follows:	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and wages	280,430	251,852
Social security costs	20,153	15,827
Pension	9,461	8,114
	<u>310,044</u>	<u>275,793</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during this or the prior year.

At the year end there were outstanding pension contributions payable of £1,952 (2024: £1,463). Total pension contributions of £8,098 (2024: £6,914) were paid by the charity and are included in the SOFA.

Key management comprises two individuals who were paid a total of £74,907 (2024: £75,235 to two individuals).

The average weekly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Employees	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

#### 10 TAXATION

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold improvements £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>					
At 1 April 2024	2,410	20,096	72,268	28,864	123,638
Additions in year	49,013	2,321	-	4,055	55,389
At 31 March 2025	51,423	22,417	72,268	32,919	179,027
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
At 1 April 2024	603	14,081	41,780	27,743	84,206
Charge for the year	2,755	3,330	7,622	1,035	14,742
At 31 March 2025	3,358	17,411	49,402	28,778	98,949
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
At 31 March 2025	48,065	5,006	22,866	4,141	80,078
At 1 April 2024	1,807	6,015	30,488	1,121	39,432

#### 12 DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	184,369	73,426
Prepayments and accrued income	18,582	38,324
VAT recoverable	3,268	6,483
Other debtors	25,753	66,974
	231,972	185,206

#### 13 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	15,767	5,984
Other taxation and social security	5,164	4,365
Bank loans	10,253	17,865
Accruals and deferred income	25,430	13,020
Other creditors	1,952	1,463
	58,566	42,697

#### 14 CREDITORS: amounts falling due in more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	10,505	20,789

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 15 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Household Support Fund	171,665	506,179	(453,239)	(47,908)	176,697
Furnish to Flourish (Dorcas Project)	-	300,177	(246,377)	-	53,800
Christmas Complete	-	191,256	(191,256)	-	-
National Lottery - Furnish to Flourish	-	132,442	(132,442)	-	-
Welfare Support Project	-	30,554	(30,554)	-	-
	<u>171,665</u>	<u>1,160,608</u>	<u>(1,053,868)</u>	<u>(47,908)</u>	<u>230,497</u>

#### *Purposes of restricted funds*

##### **Household Support Fund**

Provision of a referral processing hub for the Southampton Household Support Fund. The transfer to general funds represents 10% of total income which is allocated against overheads.

##### **Furnish to Flourish (Dorcas Project)**

Provides good quality furniture and household items.

##### **Christmas Complete**

Provides toys and gifts for children and young people who otherwise might go without presents.

##### **National Lottery - Furnish to Flourish**

Specific funding provided by the National Lottery to help provide furniture and household items.

##### **Welfare Support Project**

Provision of a welfare line and referral hub including the sourcing of items and administration of the Local welfare Provision Discretionary Fund.

#### 16 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	<u>412,723</u>	<u>541,205</u>	<u>(364,056)</u>	<u>47,908</u>	<u>637,780</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>412,723</u>	<u>541,205</u>	<u>(364,056)</u>	<u>47,908</u>	<u>637,780</u>

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted funds	General funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
31 March 2025			
Tangible fixed assets	-	80,078	80,078
Stock	16,665	-	16,665
Debtors	192,354	39,618	231,972
Cash at bank and in hand	53,800	554,833	608,633
Creditors	(32,322)	(26,244)	(58,566)
Creditors falling due in more than one year	-	(10,505)	(10,505)
NET ASSETS	<u>230,497</u>	<u>637,780</u>	<u>868,277</u>

	Restricted funds	General funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
31 March 2024			
Tangible fixed assets	-	39,433	39,433
Stock	-	8,825	8,825
Current assets	132,832	52,374	185,206
Cash at bank and in hand	47,821	366,590	414,411
Creditors	(8,988)	(33,709)	(42,697)
Creditors falling due in more than one year	-	(20,789)	(20,789)
NET ASSETS	<u>171,665</u>	<u>412,724</u>	<u>584,389</u>

#### 18. TRUSTEE EXPENSES

None of the trustees were reimbursed expenses during this or the prior year. No trustee received any remuneration in the current or prior year.

#### 19. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2025, the charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases, due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	61,490	61,490
Between one to two years	60,373	61,490
Between two and five years	110,000	170,373
	<u>231,863</u>	<u>293,353</u>

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 20 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in this or the prior year.

#### 21 DONATED GOODS

The charity receives significant donations from the public of furniture to support the Furnish to Flourish (formerly Dorcas) project. These donations have been valued at £103,405 (2024: £56,514) and are included within both income and expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

In addition, members of the public donate significant amounts of toys and other items to be given out to families in the Christmas Complete project. This is the first year these have been recognised in the financial statements, at a value of £184,536 in both income and expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### 22 PRIOR YEAR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations and legacies	59,355	58,290	117,645
Charitable activities	698,109	238,774	936,883
Fundraising income	-	28,908	28,908
Trading income	-	2,042	2,042
Other income	-	-	-
	<u>757,464</u>	<u>328,014</u>	<u>1,085,478</u>
Investment income	-	9,245	9,245
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u><b>757,464</b></u>	<u><b>337,259</b></u>	<u><b>1,094,723</b></u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Charitable activities	756,502	285,346	1,041,848
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u><b>756,502</b></u>	<u><b>285,346</b></u>	<u><b>1,041,848</b></u>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>51,913</b>	<b>52,875</b>
Transfers between funds	(51,866)	51,866	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u><b>(50,904)</b></u>	<u><b>103,779</b></u>	<u><b>52,875</b></u>
<b>FUNDS AT 1 APRIL 2023</b>	<u><b>222,569</b></u>	<u><b>308,944</b></u>	<u><b>531,513</b></u>
<b>FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2024</b>	<u><u><b>171,665</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>412,723</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>584,388</b></u></u>

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY AND REGION ACTION TO COMBAT HARDSHIP

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 23 PRIOR YEAR FUND MOVEMENTS

<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>At 1 April 2023 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024 £</b>
Household Support Fund	222,569	518,658	(517,696)	(51,866)	171,665
Furnish to Flourish (Dorcas Project)	-	88,492	(88,492)	-	-
Christmas Complete	-	2,709	(2,709)	-	-
National Lottery - Furnish to Flourish	-	127,605	(127,605)	-	-
Welfare Support Project	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
	<u>222,569</u>	<u>757,464</u>	<u>(756,502)</u>	<u>(51,866)</u>	<u>171,665</u>

<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>At 1 April 2023</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024</b>
General funds	<u>308,944</u>	<u>337,259</u>	<u>(285,346)</u>	<u>51,866</u>	<u>412,723</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>308,944</u>	<u>337,259</u>	<u>(285,346)</u>	<u>51,866</u>	<u>412,723</u>