CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2025 Period start date To 31/12/2025 Period end date

Charity name: Dorset Search and Rescue

Charity registration number: 1121658

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To preserve and protect the health of people who are missing or overdue by assisting the police and other agencies in the search. We have a small paddle craft team but our primary skill is in LandSAR. (Land based Search & Rescue).
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Search and rescue operations for missing and vulnerable people in Dorset
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

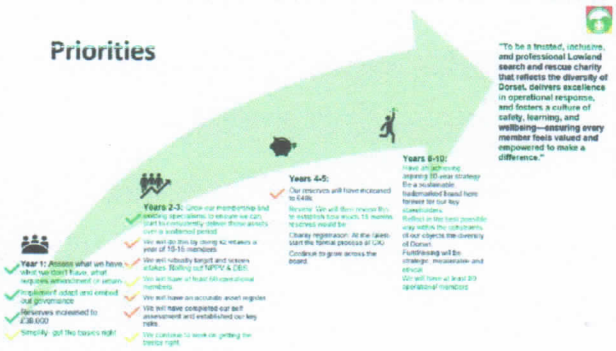
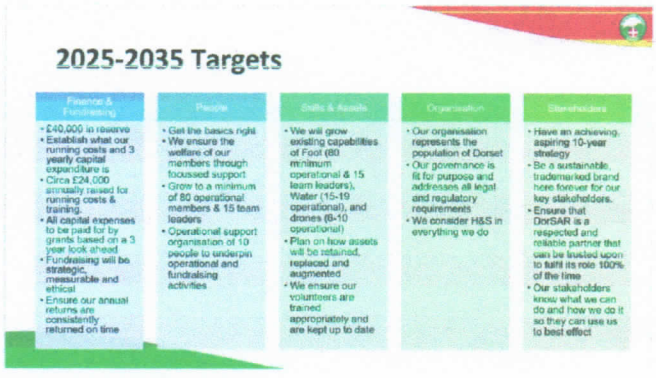
	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	A member used Benevity Causes to log volunteering hours through their employer and secured a £1,805.00 donation
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Dorset Search & Rescue (DorSAR) continued to deliver its charitable purpose by providing trained volunteer search personnel to support the emergency services in locating vulnerable missing people across Dorset and neighbouring counties. All activities were undertaken to advance public safety, protect life, and strengthen community resilience. **Operational Response** • **42 incidents** attended, totalling **319 hours** of operational deployment. • Volunteers provided ground search teams, water search capability, search management support, and specialist resources such as control vehicle operations and collaboration with regional SAR partners. • DorSAR supported multi-agency searches alongside Dorset Police, neighbouring Lowland Rescue teams, and specialist dog and water units, ensuring rapid, coordinated response for high-risk missing persons. **Training & Competency Development** • **101 exercises** delivered (**409 hours**), ensuring volunteers maintained nationally recognised Lowland Rescue competencies. • Training covered search skills, navigation, water awareness, leadership, first aid, radio communications, casualty care CPD, and search management CPD. • Structured CPD ensured operational readiness and compliance with national standards, enabling volunteers to deploy safely and effectively. **Community Events & Resilience Activities** • **148 events** undertaken (**588 hours**), including public engagement, safety education, fundraising activities, and resilience support to partner organisations. • Events strengthened community awareness of missing-person risk, promoted preventative safety messages, and supported DorSAR's

		sustainability through volunteer recruitment and fundraising. **Volunteer Contribution** • **75 active members** contributed **7,197 volunteer hours** across incidents, training, and events. • This reflects significant public benefit delivered entirely by trained volunteers, with no personal gain, in accordance with the charity's objects. **Collaboration & Use of Specialist Resources** • DorSAR deployed specialist vehicles (control vehicle, water van, Land Rover) and worked closely with regional SAR partners including Dorset Search Dogs, Hampshire SAR, Wiltshire SAR, Berkshire SAR Dogs, Buckinghamshire SAR, Wessex 4x4, and others. • These collaborations enhanced capability, extended geographic coverage, and ensured efficient use of charitable resources for public benefit.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

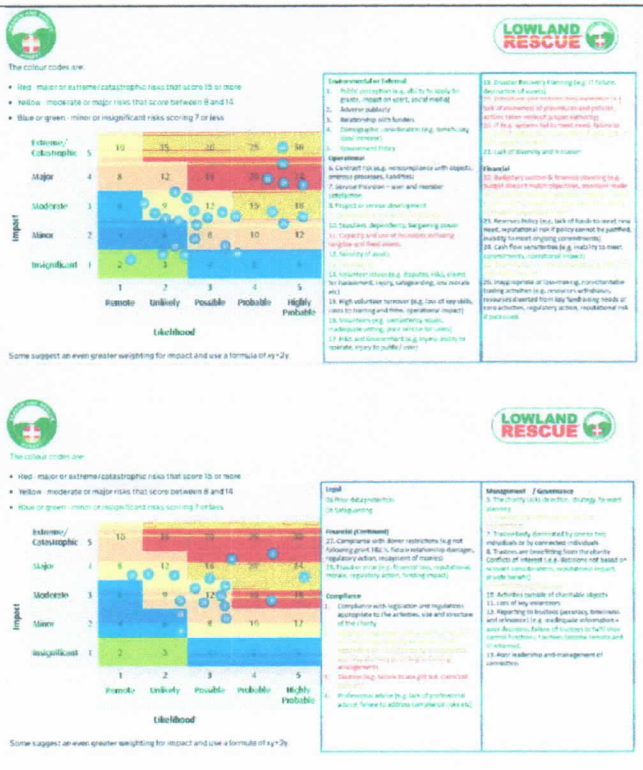
Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Our strategy was set and released to the team in September 2025. We reviewed our priorities at our March 2026 AGM.  *Those with a green tick indiocate we have achieved them in.* 

Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Finance & Fundraising • £40,000 in reserve • Establish what our running costs and 3 yearly capital expenditure is • Circa £24,000 annually raised for running costs & training. • All capital expenses to be paid for by grants based on a 3 year look ahead • Fundraising will be strategic, measurable and ethical • Ensure our annual returns are consistently returned on time We were successful with one grant this year. This funded the development of our Water team.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Cash and bank balances at the year end amounted to £75,677. Of these £23,382 related to restricted funds. The majority of restricted funds related to a successful grant application.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Sufficient reserves to maintain expenditure for 2 years.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£35,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Nil

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Our primary fundraising comes from face to face fundraising through events or a small number of legacy donations.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	

		DorSAR undertook a full review of its risks in the first quarter of 2026 for the previous reporting periods. These risks can be seen above in red.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Elected by the membership voting at the AGM or appointed via a meeting of the other trustees

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		DorSAR's trustees are made aware of their legal duties through our welcome pack and our membership with The CAN network. Trustees are also encouraged to use The Charity Commissions guides as part of their role.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Dorset Search and Rescue
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1121658
Charity's principal address	18 Norman Close Bridport Dorset DT6 4ET

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

		Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
	1	Rebekka Welch	Chair		
	2	James Woodford	Vice Chair		
	3	Paul Leslie Shelton	Secretary		
	4	Martin Adams	Members Rep		
	5	Edward Bassett	Independent Trustee		
	6	Caroline Sutton	Treasurer	March - October	
	7				
	8				
	9				
	10				
	11				
	12				
	13				
	14				
	15				
	16				
	17				
	18				
	19				
	20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

	Type of adviser	Name	Address

	Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	PAUL SHELTON	REBEKKA WELCH
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	TREASURER	Chair
Date	14/10/26.	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)	
Dorset Search and Rescue	1121658	CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2025		31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations, legacies and charity activities	17,385	24,046	-	41,431	28,556
Subscriptions 2025	1,900	-	-	1,900	2,000
Subscriptions 2026	500	-	-	500	550
Miscellaneous income	3,946	-	-	3,946	-
Interest received	25	-	-	25	21
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	23,755	24,046	-	47,801	31,127
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,755	24,046	-	47,801	31,127
A3 Payments					
Vehicle expenses	4,315	-	-	4,315	9,526
Insurances	8,735	-	-	8,735	8,488
Communications	1,640	-	-	1,640	1,756
Equipment	5,676	1,614	-	7,290	2,931
Training courses	1,371	-	-	1,371	5,920
Rent	3,750	-	-	3,750	2,063
Other expenditure	2,811	-	-	2,811	3,889
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	28,297	1,614	-	29,911	34,573
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
ID Card Reader	-	-	-	-	972
Gazebo/Shelter	-	-	-	-	1,563
Sub total	-	-	-	-	2,535
Total payments	28,297	1,614	-	29,911	37,108
Net of receipts/(payments)	(4,542)	22,432	-	17,890	(5,981)
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	56,837	950	-	57,787	63,768
Cash funds this year end	52,295	23,382	-	75,677	57,787

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Bank Accounts	52,245	23,382	-
	Cash	50	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	52,295	23,382	-
		OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Control vehicle	Unrestricted	-	-
Support vehicle (Land Rover)	Unrestricted	-	-
Water vehicle crew cab	Unrestricted	-	-
3 Rescue boats & 2 outboard motors	Unrestricted	-	-
Radio equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
3 Generators	Unrestricted	-	-
Drone	Unrestricted	-	-
3 Mountain bikes	Unrestricted	-	-
Vehicle shelter	Unrestricted	-	-
ID Card Printer	Unrestricted	-	-
Gazebo/Shelter	Unrestricted	-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
P. Shelton	Paul Shelton	14/10/26

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Charity Name DORSET SEARCH AND RESCUE		
On accounts for the year ended	31 DECEMBER 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1121658
Set out on pages	CC16a Receipts and Payments Accounts		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	KWheldon	**Date:**	14/10/26
Name:	Kevin Wheldon FCA		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ICAEW		
Address:	Edwards and Keeping Limited Unity Chambers, 34 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1HA		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	