REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1153450

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

FOR

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES SOUTH WEST

Barretts
Chartered Accountants &
Chartered Tax Advisers
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ12 2JS

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES SOUTH WEST

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

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ENGAGING COMMUNITIES SOUTH WEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2019).

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

Charity law requires the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity. This is at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Board of Trustees follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which 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.

The Board of Trustees 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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Our Purpose

Championing local people and communities
Our Vision

An inclusive, innovative, and independent champion for the aspirations of local people
Our Mission

To help make communities heard and enable responsive, person-centred solutions by transforming the way local services are designed and delivered
Our organisational statement

Engaging Communities South West works to help communities transform the way local services are designed and delivered, by offering engagement, evaluation, communications support, digital support, training and advice to the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.

Our strategic Themes

- Community Voice - We deliver projects that help people and communities to make their voices heard
- Access and Empowerment - We deliver projects that empower people to have more control over their own lives and improves access to the service and support that they need to live well.
- Strategic Support - We support organisations to plan, communicate, evaluate and improve projects and services through a person-centred, community- responsive, and evidence based approach

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year through our business plan. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help.

The review also helps us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Chair's Report 2025/2026

During 2025/26 'Healthwatch Torbay & Engaging Communities South West' has continued to progress the organisation's aims and objectives.

We continually monitor these goals and have met our targets in terms of organisational structures, working practices, and stakeholder & partner engagement.

Our performance and reputation is often publicly recognised by our statutory partners who remain aware of our abilities and potential. In consequence, these bodies continue to approach ECSW for advice and assistance. Of particular import is the organisation's leading role in the voluntary and community sector and we maintain our position as a lead innovator in new forms of local statutory and voluntary collaborative working both locally and nationally.

Our role as organiser of the Torbay VCSE Alliance has provided ECSW with the opportunity to work in cooperation, and to improve coordination, across the sector. This has enabled us to further move beyond the long-established culture of competition and division. Such openness and mutual support also promotes silo-breaking for the benefit of all our communities. By using our skills and expertise to gather service user feedback, this has further opened the organisation to additional commissions.

Our provision of a Wellbeing Hub at Paignton Library, offering advice, information and support to the whole community, continues to be a success. It is now a recognised example of quality cost-effective practice which will soon be replicated in other settings. Resourcing to this end has recently been acquired.

Consultation and engagement with residents continues. By working alongside our local communities, we can be innovative and move beyond traditional consultation. Our objective is to truly promote the co-design and co-delivery of health, social care and wellbeing services.

To progress this strategy, we use a variety of engagement tools to gather local intelligence and identify trends across health and social care provision. Having established a reputation for Digital work, we are working towards the identification of additional resources to enhance this realm in the coming years.

We continue to process and then pass on any harvested anonymous data to those in a position to make positive change, including Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, Devon Partnership Trust, the Care Quality Commission, the Local Authority, Healthwatch England, One Devon ICB, and other key stakeholders.

Any data and subsequent recommendations are passed on to local, regional, and national decision-making platforms. We have accordingly seen our reputation grow significantly, locally, regionally and nationally, and believe that we have made a significant contribution towards improving health & social care provision across our county and beyond.

The Board of Trustees are fully informed of the opportunities and risks to the organisation. We are further cognisant of challenges, both short term and longer term, specifically around increasing demand, the changing landscape amongst voluntary and statutory partners, reductions in the availability of volunteers etc, all of which may impact on securing adequate future funding and resources for the organisation.

Of primary concern remains the government's announcement that it was to close Healthwatch; a significant contract held by ECSW. This was as part of the Ten Year Health Plan which set out major changes to the NHS; followed by Dr Penny Dash's review on patient safety.

We have significant concerns that, for the first time in decades, communities will be without an independent patient and community voice; with no way to inform health and social care partners of what is going well and not so well, and without a path to involve our communities in the design of the services we all depend on.

The government's plans are to absorb Healthwatch' statutory duties into local councils and the NHS Integrated Care Boards. There are significant concerns over the perceived independence and capacity of both. We have, however, long worked closely with colleagues in services, having established ourselves as an equal partner in the health and care system. These colleagues understand and value the independence, constructive criticism, the investigations, and the solutions we bring.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

We have therefore been closely involved in ongoing discussions about the future of services and the essential role of communities in their design, implementation and ongoing monitoring. Hence, we are in discussions with these partners about future opportunities to continue our work, albeit in another way.

Meanwhile, as we await further clarity on the government's proposals, it is business as usual for Healthwatch and Engaging Communities: listening, signposting, and ensuring the voices of people in Torbay are heard wherever health and care decisions are made.

Public benefit

The trustees are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and regularly review all of the activities to ensure that they do provide benefit to the public.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial review

Against the backdrop of limited resources, insecurities over funding and the challenging landscape across the Health and Social Care Sector the Charity continues - with the support of the Trustees, staff and volunteers - to deliver against its charitable aims and objectives and meet its obligations under all project contracts throughout the year.

The principal funding for the Charity has been received from the Local Authority by way of Grants to core work of Healthwatch.

Additional monies have been received throughout the year to deliver projects and for specific targeted pieces of commissioned work for various stakeholders

Reserves policy

The Board of Trustees has examined the Charity's requirements for reserves considering the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted fund, not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity, should be a minimum of 3 months of core expenditure.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation became a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) with effect from 6th March 2024. It was previously a limited company which was incorporated on 9th February 2013 and registered as a charity on 16th August 2013. The CIO is established under a constitution as a Foundation CIO.

Under the requirements of the constitution trustees are elected for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected (if they wish to stand for re-election) at the next annual general meeting. All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

Organisational structure

The organisation must have a minimum of 3 Trustees with no maximum number. They meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Board of Trustees come from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility for the provision of the services rests with the Chief Executive.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1153450

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Registered office
Paignton Library & Information
Great Western Road
Paignton
Devon
TQ4 5AG

Trustees
Dr K Dixon Chairman
Mrs P Teague
A L Tidy
Mrs L J Parkin
J Hui
S M Honeywill
Ms S L Ebden

Independent Examiner
I P Barrett FCA FCIE
Barretts
Chartered Accountants &
Chartered Tax Advisers
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ12 2JS

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21st October 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
S M Honeywill - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Engaging Communities South West ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

I P Barrett FCA FCIE

Barretts
Chartered Accountants &
Chartered Tax Advisers
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ12 2JS

Date: 22nd October 2026

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES SOUTH WEST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**2026 Total funds £**	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		**298,966**	**123,919**	**422,885**	431,020
Investment income	2	**598**	**-**	**598**	498
Total		**299,564**	**123,919**	**423,483**	431,518
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charity		**251,899**	**128,499**	**380,398**	390,059
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**47,665**	**(4,580)**	**43,085**	41,459
Transfers between funds	9	**1,396**	**(1,396)**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**49,061**	**(5,976)**	**43,085**	41,459
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**311,586**	**35,900**	**347,486**	306,027
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**360,647**	**29,924**	**390,571**	347,486

The notes form part of these financial statements

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES SOUTH WEST

BALANCE SHEET
31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**2026 Total funds £**	2025 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	**41,344**	**-**	**41,344**	4,498
Cash at bank and in hand		**364,172**	**29,925**	**394,097**	386,770
		405,516	**29,925**	**435,441**	391,268
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	**(31,396)**	**-**	**(31,396)**	(30,308)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**374,120**	**29,925**	**404,045**	360,960
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**374,120**	**29,925**	**404,045**	360,960
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	8	**(13,474)**	**-**	**(13,474)**	(13,474)
NET ASSETS		**360,646**	**29,925**	**390,571**	347,486
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				**360,646**	311,586
Restricted funds				**29,925**	35,900
TOTAL FUNDS				**390,571**	347,486

The charity is entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act 2011 for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records that comply with the Charities Act 2011 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011elating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charities subject to the small charities regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21st October 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
S M Honeywill - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charityôs pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Deposit account interest	**598**	498

continued...

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Trustees' expenses

Expenses of £424 (2025:£793) in total were reimbursed to two (2025: two) trustees during the year.

4. STAFF COSTS

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

	2026	2025
Administration and project staff	**10**	9

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost represents the contribution payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £23,422 (2025: - £24,531).

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES- YEAR TO 31/03/2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	383,536	47,484	431,020
Investment income	498	-	498
Total	384,034	47,484	431,518
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charity	308,048	82,011	390,059
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	75,986	(34,527)	41,459
Transfers between funds	(970)	970	-
Net movement in funds	75,016	(33,557)	41,459
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	236,570	69,457	306,027
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	311,586	35,900	347,486

continued...

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade debtors	41,344	245
Prepayments and accrued income	-	4,253
	41,344	4,498

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	31,396	30,308

8. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Provisions	13,474	13,474

The provision of £13,474 relates to an admission agreement between the charity, Devon County Council and Torbay Borough Council regarding potential pension liabilities for employees of the charity, previously employed by Torbay Borough Council to remain in the scheme administered by Devon County Council. At the date of the admission agreement the actuarial risk exposure was £13,474, an amount that the charity has to hold in an account under the control of all three bodies.

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.25	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.26
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	208,901	47,664	1,396	257,961
Business Development Reserve	34,435	-	-	34,435
Core Costs Reserve	68,250	-	-	68,250
	311,586	47,664	1,396	360,646
Restricted funds				
Insite TSDFT	13,758	-	-	13,758
Whole Home Healing	7,727	(7,727)	-	-
Digital EHCH Befriending Pilot	1,307	(1,307)	-	-
Care Home Network	7,170	(7,170)	-	-
Healthwatch Torbay	5,938	-	(5,938)	-
Children & young people vaping	-	6,167	-	6,167
NHS Devon/HWT Comm	-	10,000	-	10,000
MacMillan Phase 2	-	(4,542)	4,542	-
	35,900	(4,579)	(1,396)	29,925
TOTAL FUNDS	347,486	43,085	-	390,571

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**299,564**	**(251,900)**	**47,664**
Restricted funds			
Whole Home Healing	**7,727**	**(15,454)**	**(7,727)**
Digital EHCH Befriending Pilot	**1,307**	**(2,614)**	**(1,307)**
Care Home Network	**7,170**	**(14,340)**	**(7,170)**
Paignton Hub Year 1	**79,941**	**(79,941)**	**-**
Children & young people vaping	**17,774**	**(11,607)**	**6,167**
NHS Devon/HWT Comm	**10,000**	**-**	**10,000**
MacMillan Phase 2	**-**	**(4,542)**	**(4,542)**
	123,919	**(128,498)**	**(4,579)**
TOTAL FUNDS	**423,483**	**(380,398)**	**43,085**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds	236,570	75,986	(970)	311,586
Restricted funds				
Insite TSDFT	13,758	-	-	13,758
Paignton Library	4,057	-	(4,057)	-
Whole Home Healing	7,776	(49)	-	7,727
Torbay MacMillan	(756)	(214)	970	-
Torbay Council COMF Digital Care Home Resident Wellbeing South	13,015	(13,015)	-	-
Digital EHCH Befriending Pilot	1,307	-	-	1,307
Care Home Network	7,170	-	-	7,170
Healthwatch Torbay	4,898	1,040	-	5,938
Teignmouth Stakeholder Group	900	(900)	-	-
Awards for All Digital	17,332	(17,332)	-	-
PCH & VCSE Network	-	(4,057)	4,057	-
	69,457	(34,527)	970	35,900
TOTAL FUNDS	306,027	41,459	-	347,486

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds	384,034	(308,048)	75,986
Restricted funds			
Whole Home Healing	-	(49)	(49)
Torbay MacMillan	16,877	(17,091)	(214)
Torbay Council COMF Digital Care Home Resident Wellbeing South	-	(13,015)	(13,015)
Healthwatch Torbay	1,040	-	1,040
Teignmouth Stakeholder Group	-	(900)	(900)
Awards for All Digital	(8,302)	(9,030)	(17,332)
PCH & VCSE Network	37,869	(41,926)	(4,057)
	47,484	(82,011)	(34,527)
TOTAL FUNDS	431,518	(390,059)	41,459

Restricted funds relate to specific targeted pieces of commissioned work with various stakeholders undertaken throughout the year.

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2026.

11. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is under the ultimate control of the trustees.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES SOUTH WEST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Grants	**352,181**	304,183
Donated services and facilities	**-**	12,984
Core costs recovered	**70,684**	113,853
Room hire	**20**	-
	422,885	431,020
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	**598**	498
Total incoming resources	**423,483**	431,518
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	**150,237**	161,127
Social security	**3,325**	(5,280)
Pensions	**23,422**	23,117
Insurance	**3,546**	2,615
Telephone	**1,429**	1,693
Postage and stationery	**1,315**	1,640
Sundries	**1,549**	2,200
Projects and research	**147,480**	148,038
Computer software and maintenance	**9,732**	3,347
Meeting room hire/refreshments	**1,045**	1,538
Trustee expenses	**86**	266
Repairs and renewals	**17**	162
Business development	**15,309**	27,538
Rent, rates and service charge	**11,665**	11,664
H R Support	**2,525**	2,567
	372,682	382,232
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	**90**	87
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	**7,626**	7,740
Total resources expended	**380,398**	390,059
Net income	**43,085**	41,459