Communities Together Durham

Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Charity number 1157214

Company number 08860961

Communities Together Durham

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

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Communities Together Durham

Directors and Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name:	Communities Together Durham
Registered charity number	1157214
Company number	08860961
Registered office address	Cuthbert House Stonebridge Durham DH1 3RY

The trustees under charity law, who were also the directors under company law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report were:

The Revd Canon Sheila Jane Bamber (from 24.01.14; reappointed 11.03.25)
The Rt Revd Sarah Elizabeth Clark (DBF nominee, from 01.08.19)
Elaine Kilgannon (from 05.03.24)
Andrew Tinkler (from 05.03.24)
Katherine Margaret Welch OBE, DL (from 26.03.14; reappointed from 11.03.25)
The Revd Dr David Edwin George Whiting (from 26.03.14; reappointed from 11.03.25)

Independent Examiner	Mr J I Henderson FCA 1 Silverdale Way Whickham Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 5SL

Structure, governance and management

Our Chief Executive Officer and Administrator are now well settled in their roles and during the year we made some other adjustments to our management structure to reflect the need to provide both support and development opportunities for team members. Recruitment of new Board members proved more difficult, but during the early part of 2026 we hope to confirm the appointment of a new Board member/Treasurer and designate a vice-chair with responsibility for Safeguarding. The Bishop of Jarrow has announced her appointment as Bishop of Ely, and we will be seeking a new Diocesan Board of Finance nominee during 2026. To facilitate succession planning we would also like to appoint at least two new trustees during 2026. During the year we resolved to move our accounting system to Xero, effective from 1 January 2026. Preparations for the transfer have included staff training, the development of a chart of accounts and the posting of 2025 transactions to the new system to enable clear financial reporting and inform budget processes.

Objectives and activities

The objects of Communities Together Durham are, for the benefit of the public:-

1.1 to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of Christian based charities in the furtherance of their objects or any one of them, mainly but not exclusively, by the provision of information, advice, support and infrastructure provision; and

1.2 the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, through the provision of grants, goods or services.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

Following a year of significant change for CTD, we started 2025 with a focus on consolidation and stability. New staff were inducted and integrated into project teams and the organisation, priorities and target areas for work were agreed, and new systems embedded in working practice.

The development team supported 19 holiday clubs through small grants, good practice advice and networking. Through more sustained engagement, five larger established projects were supported with grants of £5,000 towards the end of the year, focusing on core costs and enabling future developments, and the impact of this funding will be reviewed carefully to inform future grant schemes. The Beyond Foodbanks project, working to alleviate the shame and stigma often associated with food insecurity and instead foster dignity, choice and empowerment with long-term, sustainable solutions which meet local needs, was developed throughout the year. More than 30 different organisations will come together at a Food Summit in March 2026. In preparation for this a series of four 'harvest reflections' resulted in churches refreshing or developing their response to local need, including plans to 'use the kitchen facilities we have to help others cook wholesome, nutritious food,' and 'to use my church connections to campaign for change in Gateshead'.

We were asked to take part in a review of Heart on the Terrace (HOTT), a community project started by Holy Trinity Church in Murton in 2020. They say 'Heart on the Terrace has grown into a trusted, much-loved space offering friendship, practical support, and hope to people across Murton and the surrounding villages. For many who walk through our doors, we are not just a service – we are a lifeline'. Alongside hot drinks and lunches, a food pantry, practical support and signposting, the project is a place for meeting others and making connections, offering a range of activities including a youth club and a community choir. After extensive conversations the CTD Board agreed to take set up a partnership with the PCC and take on governance responsibility for the project. Two members of staff were transferred into the CTD team, and the project was relaunched in October. Since then, funding has been secured for a community fridge (supported by Fare Share), a community choir performed as part of the church carol service, and the community drop-in, craft and youth provision have flourished. The experience of taking on this project will inform the support we offer others, particularly in the areas of governance and fundraising.

The Durham based refugee and asylum seeker project offered weekly drop ins throughout the year, working with partners to provide information, advice and support for new arrivals and those waiting for decisions about their status. Over the year we recorded 44371 attendances as the weekly drop ins (75% of which were in Durham City), and 1371 requests for specific support, 32% of which were for material support (ranging from food to curtain poles, blazers and pushchair covers) and 29% seeking support with the asylum process. During the year we worked towards registration with the Immigration Advice Authority at level 2 and we expect to achieve this during 2026. A change in staffing in the refugee and asylum seeker project prompted a review of the integration strand of the work, and a volunteer scheme

will be introduced during 2026, alongside an expansion of ESOL provision. During the year we were able to refocus some time to support parishes in other local authority areas within Durham Diocese as they engage with refugees an asylum seekers, and we plan to develop this further during 2026.

During the year the steering group of the Faith in Communities (FIC) project recognised that its work had come to a natural end after over 10 years of activity developing and supporting locally resourced and managed church-based community projects. The remaining funds were returned to donors or, with consent, distributed in a grant scheme. FIC has made a significant difference in the communities served and robust reflection and review over the life of the project has enabled learning that will continue to inform faith-based community development practice. The project will be fully completed during 2026.

Our data capture systems are more fully embedded and during the year we focussed on developing systematic impact reporting through the use of focussed surveys. Following a pilot period, the new measures will be introduced in 2026.

We continue to broaden and deepen contacts with local churches and community groups to promote sustainable responses to the continuing challenge of poverty in the region. None of this would be possible without continuing support and partnership with the Diocese of Durham, Lord Crewe's Charity, Durham County Council and our other funders, and we are immensely grateful for their support.

Financial performance

Income remained steady during the year, but there was a significant increase in expenditure as the first full year of the Durham County Council refugee and asylum seeker project was completed. The grant for this project is secured until March 2027, and negotiations for future funding will begin after the annual reporting for the project is submitted in May 2026. The major grant from Durham Diocese (Lord Crewe's Charity) is also due for review in October 2026 (funding is secure until December 2026). During the year, with the support of the Diocese, we took on management of a new community project, Heart On The Terrace (HOTT) in Murton, transferring two members of staff from the PCC, and establishing a memorandum of understanding to ensure their continuing engagement with the project. Core funding for HOTT is largely secure until March 2027, but we are already seeking additional support.

Unrestricted reserves decreased by £6,130, lower than forecast, and now stand at £91,238. We are mindful of the need to manage these funds carefully and continue to designate £20,000 for staffing contingencies and budgeted shortfalls in core costs. Restricted reserves have increased slightly to £114,231. These relate primarily to the Durham County Council grant, and we expect the reserve to decrease substantially during the next 12-18 months.

During the year we transferred £50,000 to an interest-bearing account with Charity Bank on 40 days' notice. As our main income is paid quarterly in arrears we continue to hold remaining balances in a current account for cashflow purposes. As our core costs increase we expect to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to one year's core costs of £60k. The pressures on the voluntary and charitable sector continue, and while we do not wish to increase our reserves, we believe the present level to be appropriate.

Trustees' responsibilities in respect of the financial statements

Company Law requires the trustees, who are the directors under company law, to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable

company at the year end and of the net incoming/outgoing resources of the company for the year then ending. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable it 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.

Independent examiner

The trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 in respect of the audit requirements for small companies and opted to have an independent examination in accordance with the Charities Act.

Small company special provisions:

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the trustees on 24 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Sheila Bamber

Sheila Bamber
Director and Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees of Communities Together Durham on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on pages 8 to 15

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
   - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 28th March 2026.

Name Mr J I Henderson FCA

Address 1 Silverdale Way
Whickham
NE16 5SL

Communities Together Durham

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£
Incoming resources	3				
Generated funds					
Voluntary income		450	30,086	30,536	34,880
Activities for generating funds		28,220	250	28,470	30,506
Investment income		0	0	0	0
Charitable activities		0	0	0	0
Other incoming resources		10,500	292,493	302,993	291,555
Total incoming resources		***39,170***	***322,829***	***361,999***	***356,941***
Resources expended	4				
Generation of voluntary income		0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities		42,383	310,267	352,650	266,402
Governance costs		2,917	60	2,977	5,559
Other resources expended		0	0	0	0
Total resources expended		***45,300***	***310,327***	***355,627***	***271,961***
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(6,130)	12,502	6,372	84,980
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		97,368	101,729	199,097	114,117
Net movement in funds throughout year		(6,130)	12,502	6,372	84,980
Transfer between funds		0	0	0	0
Total funds carried forward		***91,238***	***114,231***	***205,469***	***199,097***

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing and recognised gains and losses and movement on reserves are shown above.

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts.

Communities Together Durham

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	55,233	95,275
Cash at bank and in hand		144,205	106,205
Stock (vouchers)		15,952	7,715
Total current assets		***215,390***	***209,195***
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	9,921	10,098
Net current assets		***205,469***	***199,097***
Total assets less current liabilities		205,469	199,097
Net assets		***205,469***	***199,097***
The funds of the charity	10		
Restricted income funds		91,238	101,729
Unrestricted income funds		114,231	97,368
Total charity funds		***205,469***	***199,097***

For the financial year ended 31 December 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirement of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Sheila Bamber Sheila Bamber
Director and Trustee Date 24 March 2026

Communities Together Durham

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Note 1: Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting
These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) as applicable to Charities (effective January 2016) comprising the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities ("SORP 2015").

1.2 Change in basis of accounting
There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts
No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Note 2: Accounting policies

2.1 Incoming resources

2.1.1 Recognition of incoming resources
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resource
- The trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

2.1.2 Incoming resources with related expenditure
Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

2.1.3 Grants and donations
Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

2.1.4 Tax reclaims on donations and gifts
Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

2.1.5 Contractual income and performance related grants
This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

2.1.6 Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

2.1.7 Donated services and facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measureable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

2.1.8 Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2.1.9 Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

2.2 Expenditure and liabilities

2.2.1 Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

2.2.2 Governance costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and costs of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

2.2.3 Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

2.3 Assets

2.3.1 Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Note 3 Analysis of incoming resources

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Voluntary income				
..Donations (FIC#)	0	40	40	120
Donations (RAS#)	0	27,229	27,229	34,760
Donations (HOTT#)	0	2,817	2,817	0
Donations (Other)	450	0	450	0
Activities for generating funds				
Durham Diocese	12,681	0	12,681	18,408
Durham County Council				
Pathways/Flexible Integration	15,539	0	15,539	11,950
Training Delivery				
Lindisfarne College of Theology	0	0	0	148
Other	0	250	250	0
Other incoming resource				
Grant –				
Durham Diocese (Bridge & SDF)	0	125,477	125,477	153,162
HMRC Employment Allowance	10,500	0	10,500	5,000
Faith in Community (FIC#)	0	0	0	0
Durham C C Pathways (RAS#)	0	139,851	139,851	107,557
Mears Foundation (RAS#)	0	0	0	5,000
Reloc8 UK (RAS#)	0	0	0	1,000
Bernicia Foundation (RAS#)	0	10,000	10,000	0
Refugee Action (RAS#)	0	5,000	5,000	0
Hubbub (HOTT#)	0	4,750	4,750	0
Other grants (HOTT#)	0	3,600	3,600	0
Other	0	3,815	3,815	19,836
Total incoming resources	***39,170***	***322,829***	***361,999***	***356,941***

a full breakdown of the restricted funds is included in Note 10.

Note 4 Analysis of resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Charitable activities				
Staff costs	33,602	197,662	231,264	170,135
Travel and subsistence	1,635	8,193	9,828	4,144
Administration	4,135	4,392	8,527	10,906
Programme costs	1,128	92,684	93,812	52,261
Misc	1,883	7,336	9,219	28,956
Governance costs	2,917	60	2,977	5,559
Total resources expended	***45,300***	***310,327***	***355,627***	***271,961***

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

5.1 Trustee expenses

No Trustees claimed expenses during 2025 or 2024.

5.2 Fees for the examination of the accounts

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	0	0

Note 6 Paid employees

At the end of the year the organisation employed nine members of staff. Two members of staff were seconded from Durham Diocesan Board of Finance. One person was remunerated at £53,497 per annum (FTE, including pension contributions).

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

Analysis of debtors	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Grant payments outstanding	50,850	74,785
Prepayments	823	703
Invoice outstanding	3,372	19,787
Income not banked	188	0
Total	***55,233***	***95,275***

Note 8 Creditors and accruals

Analysis of creditors	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	9,921	10,098
Total	***9,921***	***10,098***

Note 9 Transactions and related parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Note 10 Movements on funds

	Fund balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer between funds	Fund balance c/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	**97,368**	39,170	45,300	0	**91,238**
Restricted Fund					
Lord Crewe's Charity (DDBF)					
Bridge Project	0	115,046	115,022	0	24
Free Help with Debt	1,186	0	0	(1,186)	0
Restricted Fund					
Faith in Community					
URC	*4,979*	0	4,979	0	0
Lord Crewe's Charity (DDBF)	*4,612*	0	5,500	888	0
Donations	*290*	40	0	0	330
Other (transfer from DDBF restricted fund)	*2,618*	0	0	(888)	1,730
Restricted Fund					
Refugee/Asylum Project					
Lord Crewe's Charity (DDBF)	5,948	0	0	0	5,948
Durham CC	63,196	139,851	141,023	0	62,024
Middlesbrough BC	5,000	0	5,000	0	0
Donations (cash)	185	1,099	427	0	857
Donations (in kind)	7,715	26,130	17,893	0	15,952
Mears Foundation	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Reloc8 UK	1,000	0	1,000	0	0
Bernicia Foundation	0	10,000	0	0	10,000
Refugee Action	0	5,000	0	0	5,000
Restricted Fund					
Heart on the Terrace					
SDF (DDBF)	0	10,431	10,566	0	-135
Donations (cash)	0	2,817	2,183	0	634
Hubbub	0	4,750	0	0	4,750
Coalfields Regeneration	0	2,000	125	0	1,875
Believe Housing	0	1,000	700	0	300
Asda	0	600	195	0	405
Other	0	250	713	0	-463
Restricted Fund					
Money Advice S Tyneside	0	3,815	5,001	1,186	0
Total Restricted Funds	**101,729**	**322,829**	**310,327**	**0**	**114,231**
Total funds	***199,097***	***361,999***	***355,627***	***0***	***205,469***

Note 11 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets	0	0	0	0
Net current assets	91,238	114,231	205,469	199,097
Total assets	***91,238***	***114,231***	***205,469***	***199,097***

Note 12 Liability of Members

The liability of members is limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up during the period of membership, members would be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.