REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157691

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

FOR

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Report of the Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report

Statement of Financial Activities

Balance Sheet

Notes to the Financial Statements

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2025

"Helping you feed our hungry neighbours"

The trustees present their report with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. 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 (FRS102)(effective 1 January 2019).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

OUR OBJECTIVES VALUES AND AIMS OF THE CHARITY

Our Objectives are:

To relieve persons in central Bedfordshire and the surrounding area that are in poverty or financial hardship in such ways as the Trustees from time to time think fit, in particular, but not exclusively by:

1. Providing food packages to support individuals and families who are experiencing food deprivation.
2. Providing other items to meet immediate and essential needs, as resources allow.
3. Developing other forms of support to meet immediate need and alleviate financial hardship.

To achieve these objects The Need Project has the following:

Our Values are:

We are a Christian organisation motivated by Jesus' teaching on poverty and injustice. We operate according to Christian principles of compassion, honesty, integrity, openness, kindness and care of all people, regardless of backgrounds or beliefs (or none). We are passionate about inclusion and being non-judgemental is central to what we do. We believe that everyone has the right to have food on their plate, dignity, skills, a chance to work and hope for the future.

Our Aims are:

The Trustees employ a number of strategies to assist The Need Project to alleviate poverty or financial hardship and meet its Objectives by:

- Providing free food parcels.
- By providing food and other essentials to families and individuals referred to the charity by recognised social work agencies, local authorities, community bodies, churches, charities or other organisations whose purpose includes the prevention or relief of poverty ('referral agencies').
- Developing effective relationships with local councils (County, unitary, parish and town), referral agencies, faith groups and community groups.
- Ensuring wide community participation in the charity's projects through giving and raising awareness.
- Developing a culture of lifelong learning throughout the organisation to allow the trustees, core staff and volunteers to do their allotted jobs effectively.
- Building strong links with the local media and regularly updating the charity's website to stimulate public awareness of the charity's work and the issues facing people in poverty and distress.
- Setting up social enterprises which add value to the charity's existing projects by generating surpluses.
- Identifying, evaluating and incorporating best practice in project templates to ensure that projects become self-sustaining and are easy to replicate.
- Working closely with churches to help the Christian faith community to take a more active, practical and effective role in social action.
- Providing educational support to enable those referred to become more self-sufficient where it is appropriate, and resources allow

"OUR" KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

We have summarised below the outputs, outcomes, impacts and benefits of the work of the Need Project, but as Christian Charity it is our conviction that the Lord has done His work of meeting peoples' needs through our labours.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

We have established partnerships with the following organisations:



Business - Best Before

Bridge Farm Shop

Co-Op

Discolicious

M&S

Sainsburys

Tesco

The Fruit Basket

Waitrose

Councils

Central Bedfordshire Council

Flitwick Town Council

Shefford Town Council

Stotfold Council

Business - Other

Boxall Taxis



Cultivo Lounge Letchworth

Meadowcroft Foodservice

The Therapy Lounge

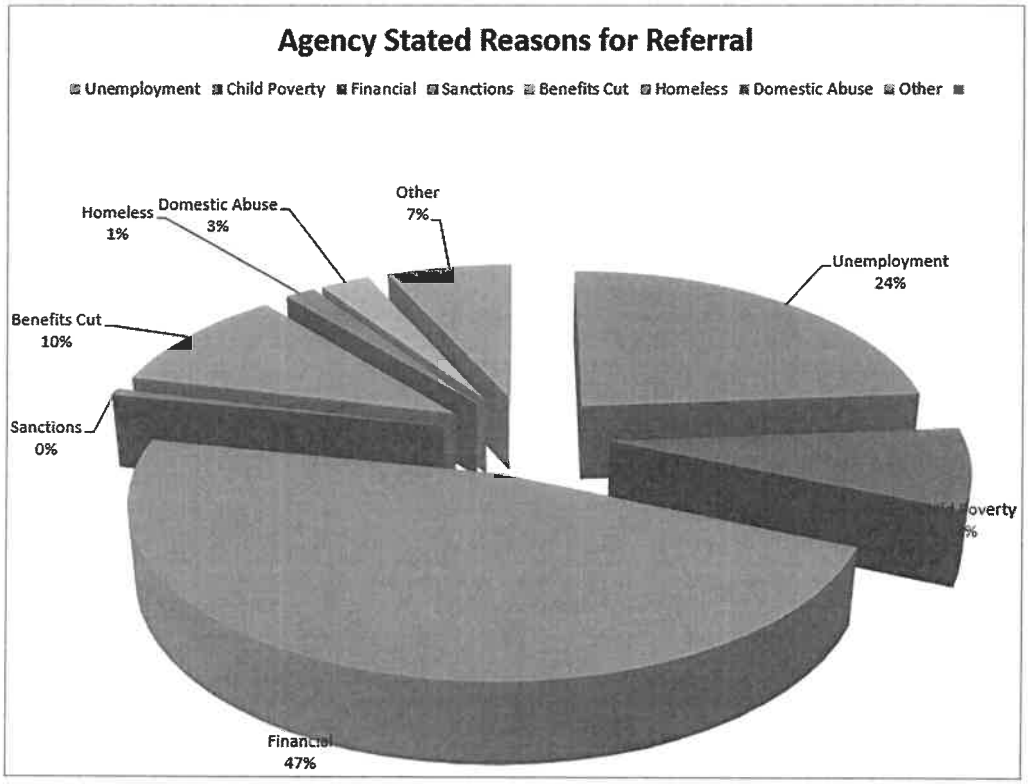
Rebecca L Faret Solicitors

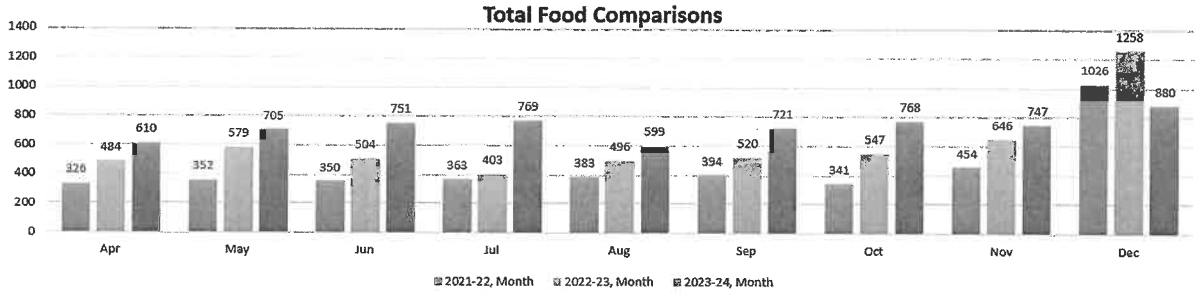
Harrisons Accountancy

Strictly Beds & Bunks

These are the stats for the year:

January – December 2025





Total value to date at £65 per parcel (Apr - Dec) £ 452,150.00

Hub Summary	Total to Date	Monthly Average
Stotfold	4384	365
Flitwick	670	56
Biggleswade	462	39
Cranfield	420	35
Gamlingay	857	71

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

We purchased new premises – the Methodist Church in Stotfold and started renovations. Thanks to the considerable help and support of many people, the renovations were completed smoothly and without any disruption or delay to our food parcel service.

We have worked hard to strengthen our social media presence, with the aim of raising awareness of who we are and the work we do. We have received very positive feedback on our efforts, which has been encouraging and has helped us engage with a wider audience.

The most significant change was Gordon's retirement after more than 23 years of founding and leading the Need Project. Following his retirement, we successfully appointed a new Project Director in November. Gordon remains a Trustee of the project and is still very much involved.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WE HAVE MADE

CLIENT FEEDBACK:
"I just wanted to say thank you so much for the food parcels I have been given by the Need Project. It has been very helpful and I really appreciate it.
Going forward, I won't be collecting as I feel there are people that need it more than we do. I have also recently started using the Community Fridge, which is a great set up and we have been lucky enough to get a bag of food from there twice a week.
Thank you so much for being there and for your generosity. You do an amazing job at looking after people"

REFERRER FEEDBACK:
"I just wanted to email to say thank you for letting me come and choose some gifts for one of our school families. They have been very gratefully received"

"To everyone at the Need Project
Thank you for your work this year
Have a well-deserved break"

PROJECT LEADER'S REPORT

This year has been one of significant progress and positive change for our organisation. We were delighted to finally move into our new premises in December 2025, which have already proved to be an excellent base for our operations. The additional space and improved facilities will enable us to work far more efficiently, enhancing both our day-to-day service delivery and the experience of our volunteers and clients.

We also successfully completed the handover to our new Project Leader, ensuring a smooth transition and continued stability for the organisation.

Despite these positive developments, demand for our services remains consistently high, with food parcel numbers continuing at elevated levels. Current trends indicate that this demand is unlikely to ease in the near future, as many households continue to face the ongoing pressures of the cost of living, rising household expenses, and wages that are not keeping pace with everyday costs.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build new relationships with organisations and services across our local community, while continuing to strengthen our existing partnerships. By working collaboratively, we aim to improve the support available to those who need it most and ensure our services remain responsive, effective, and sustainable. We continue to acknowledge all the hard work our volunteers put in to keep the project running as well as it does.

As we look to the future, financial sustainability will continue to be one of our greatest challenges. While we remain deeply grateful for the generosity of our supporters, we recognise that increasing demand for our services brings increasing financial pressures.

We thank God for his continued grace and provision for the project.

Gordon & Ellie

https://theneedproject.org

TREASURER'S REPORT

The results for the period show an income of £336,671 (2024 £231,206) and expenditure of £405,539 (2024 £209,490) resulting in a deficit of £68,868 (2024 surplus £21,716). Comparatives are for the 9 months to 31.12.24.

The Development Fund has been utilised in the year due to the purchase of a building.

The Operations reserve stands at £70,208 (2024 £72,270).

Total funds, including the above, stand at £262,788.

Reserves policy is to provide for 6 months operational costs, excluding buying food. Funds are held in the designated fund – operational reserves.

TRUSTEE INFORMATION

Trustees

Ian Adams – Chair Of Trustees from December 2025

Gordon Hamilton

Stephen Backhouse

Bob Cain (until November 2025)

Penny Hollander (from November 2025)

Andrew Nock (from November 2025)

Doug Deards (until March 2026)

Ellie Hamilton (from March 2026)

Dawn Addams

Project Leader

Gordon Hamilton

The Trustees met 4 times in 2025. All meetings were held in person

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

I am pleased that this is a charity where the Trustees work very closely with management, staff and the volunteers of the Need Project. This ensures that decision making is grounded on what is needed for the Project's major objective of feeding our hungry neighbours to be fulfilled.

We continue to operate through a willing and effective network of volunteers enabling home delivery through local Hubs, food pick-ups for clients and best before allocations through partners.

Partnerships for client referral (such as Central Beds Council social workers) and for delivery remain key to the success of the Need Project.

We moved into a new building in December 2025 which has helped with the storage of food, the effectiveness of the operation and provided a basis for allowing the project to develop work for client resilience, not just a response to immediate need.

We also employed a new project lead after the retirement of Gordon Hamilton, who established the project and served it faithfully for 25 years. I am pleased that he continues as a Trustee.

We continue to work to secure funding and some uncertainty of Government backed funding was and continues to be a concern. But as Chair of Trustees, I am most content that a large number of households, in a big area, have continued to experience the love that Jesus Christ told his followers to provide to all people, from all backgrounds.

Ian Adams, Chair of Trustees

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Our main goals for the project are to ensure our long-term sustainability, and increase our operational efficiency, which includes:

- Secure funding to realise the goal of creating a community space in Stotfold in the Church building
- Sustain and secure funding for the purchase of food in bulk to meet the demands of food poverty in our region
- Continuing to raise awareness of who we are and what we do

On behalf of the Trustees of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire.



Chair of Trustees – Ian Adams

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Neil Harding

Neil C Harding FCA

Bradshaw Johnson
Chartered Accountants
Croft Chambers
11 Bancroft
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 1JQ

27 October 2026

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Year Ended 31.12.25 Unrestricted funds £	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	2	313,219	212,925
Other trading activities	3	21,807	16,621
Investment income	4	1,645	1,660
Total		336,671	231,206
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds		2,700	3,234
Charitable activities			
Running food bank		388,934	206,256
Other		13,905	-
Total		405,539	209,490
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(68,868)	21,716
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		331,656	309,940
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		262,788	331,656

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE NEED PROJECT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	31.12.25 Unrestricted funds £	31.12.24 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	305,103	5,640
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	10	9,478	7,868
Debtors	11	7,018	17,439
Cash at bank		195,122	323,749
		211,618	349,056
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(52,193)	(23,040)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		159,425	326,016
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		464,528	331,656
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year		(201,740)	-
NET ASSETS		262,788	331,656
FUNDS	14		
Unrestricted funds		262,788	331,656
TOTAL FUNDS		262,788	331,656

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22 October 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

S J Backhouse - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charity, 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.

The Need Project Central Bedfordshire meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

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.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	-	Not depreciated
Motor vehicles	-	20% on cost

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from 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.

Irrecoverable vat
Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Cash & cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

continued...

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Year Ended 31.12.25	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24
	£	£
Donations	69,698	41,478
Gift aid	25,233	7,130
Grants	218,288	164,317
	313,219	212,925

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	Year Ended 31.12.25	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24
	£	£
Government / Local Authority	79,954	62,510
Business	20,782	7,560
Charities / Trusts	62,145	85,094
Church	53,326	7,639
Schools	2,081	1,514
	218,288	164,317

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 31.12.25	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24
	£	£
Fundraising	21,807	16,621

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year Ended 31.12.25	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24
	£	£
Deposit account interest	1,645	1,660

continued...

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Included in staff costs is remuneration paid to two trustees.

Both of the trustees were employed by the charity before their appointment.

Their remuneration relates solely to their employment activities - they receive no remuneration for being a trustee.

The other trustees (who receive no remuneration for this role) agreed to this arrangement as it was beneficial for the charity and agree any changes to the remuneration.

This has been the position for the year ended 31 December 2025 and for the period ended 31 December 2024.

The trustees involved are:

G Hamilton - salary £44996 and pension £1350 (last period £34004 and £990)

D Addams - salary £27803 and pension £834 (last period £20893 and £612)

Trustees' expenses

Mileage costs were paid in the year to R H Cain, one of the Trustees, of £344 (2024: £1,487) to cover the cost of delivering food parcels.

6. STAFF COSTS

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

	Year Ended 31.12.25	Period 1.4.24 to 31.12.24
Food bank staff	4	3

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

7. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S FEES

The independent examiner's fee was £1,200 for the year ended 31 December 2025 (period ended 31 December 2024: £900).

8. 2024 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	212,925
Other trading activities	16,621
Investment income	1,660
Total	231,206
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	3,234

continued...

8. 2024 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £
Charitable activities	
Running food bank	206,256
Total	209,490
NET INCOME	21,716
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	309,940
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	331,656

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2025	-	22,560	22,560
Additions	303,975	-	303,975
At 31 December 2025	303,975	22,560	326,535
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2025	-	16,920	16,920
Charge for year	-	4,512	4,512
At 31 December 2025	-	21,432	21,432
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2025	303,975	1,128	305,103
At 31 December 2024	-	5,640	5,640

Freehold property is included at cost and is not being depreciated.

10. STOCKS

	31.12.25 £	31.12.24 £
Stocks	9,478	7,868

continued...

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.25	31.12.24
	£	£
Other debtors	-	1,660
Gift aid	5,887	15,033
Prepayments	1,131	746
	7,018	17,439

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.25	31.12.24
	£	£
Other creditors	52,193	23,040

13. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.12.25	31.12.24
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Mortgage - Kingdom Bank	7,205	-
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Mortgage - Kingdom Bank	7,205	-
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Mortgage - Kingdom Bank	21,615	-
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable by instalments:		
Mortgage - Kingdom Bank	172,920	-

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.25	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	104,386	(68,868)	157,062	192,580
Designated - Development fund	155,000	-	(155,000)	-
Designated - Operations reserve	72,270	-	(2,062)	70,208
	331,656	(68,868)	-	262,788
TOTAL FUNDS	331,656	(68,868)	-	262,788

continued...

14. 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	336,671	(405,539)	(68,868)
TOTAL FUNDS	336,671	(405,539)	(68,868)

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds	309,940	21,716	-	331,656
TOTAL FUNDS	309,940	21,716	-	331,656

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds	231,206	(209,490)	21,716
TOTAL FUNDS	231,206	(209,490)	21,716

Designated funds

The designated development fund includes donations received towards the longer-term development of the charity, including the purchase of a permanent home for The Need Project. This was purchased in the current year.

The designated operations reserve provides for 6 months operational costs, excluding buying food, in line with the reserves policy.

continued...

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Other than trustee employment and expenses, which are disclosed in note 5, there were no related party transactions during the year ended 31 December 2025.