TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2025

List of Trustees during the financial year and term of office:

- Simon Rogers (Chair) - Feb '26
- Anne Emmins - Feb '27
- Sherry Secker - Feb '26

1. GOVERNANCE ADMINISTRATION:

The Besom in Esher is a CIO constituted in the CIO Foundation Constitution dated 19 Feb 2019.

How its trustees are appointed and trained
Trustees are appointed by existing trustees at the Board Meetings.

How the charity's decision-making processes work.
The Besom in Esher holds quarterly meetings where main decisions are discussed and agreed upon.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objects of the CIO are the relief of poverty, financial and other hardships to persons in the Borough of Elmbridge through the distribution of gifts of household items, and the carrying out of decorating and gardening projects to meet their needs.

3. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organisation exists to provide a bridge between those who want to give time, money, skills or possessions to those in need. It is focused on doing this in the Borough of Elmbridge in Surrey. Those in need are referred by social workers in Elmbridge and Surrey and these needs are then matched with those willing to give. In organising and carrying out the work of the charity, the Trustees have read the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trustees are confident that the work of the Charity fulfils these requirements.

4. ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2025

4.1 Supporting Needs in the Community

During the first quarter of 2025, The Besom in Esher supported individuals and families across Elmbridge by providing furniture, household goods and practical help. We received 10 referrals from local agencies, helping people move into new accommodation following personal crises or ill health, and supporting those setting up home for the first time.

Demand continued, particularly for starter packs and household furniture. However, increasing operational and staffing challenges affected the charity's ability to respond to referrals and donations as the year progressed.

4.2 Operational Challenges

The charity's operational capacity was significantly affected by the loss of its van following repeated fox damage to its wiring in late 2024. Time Givers continued to collect and deliver smaller

donations using their own vehicles, but the lack of a van prevented the collection and delivery of much-requested larger furniture items.

Long-term illness, bereavements, mental health challenges and retirements within the Core and Van Teams further reduced capacity. The remaining team was unable to manage the volume of referrals and donations, and efforts to recruit additional Time Givers through supporter churches had limited success.

As a result of these pressures, the Trustees decided to pause referrals and donations in April 2025.

Despite attempts to address the persistent fox problem, including recommended natural deterrents, no effective solution was found. This combined with the operational challenges led the Trustees to decide not to replace the van; however the insurance settlement was retained pending a future decision to purchase a new van.

4.3 Governance and Future of the Charity

Alongside these operational challenges, the charity faced a significant governance issue as the existing Trustees approached the end of their permitted terms of office.

Under Clause 12(3) of the Governing Document, a Trustee who has served three consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a fourth term, although they may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year. With all three Trustees having completed their three consecutive terms, securing new Trustees became essential to the charity's continuation.

Clause 9(3)(a) of the Governing Document also provides that, if the number of Trustees falls below the minimum of three, the remaining Trustees may act only to call a Trustee meeting or appoint a new Charity Trustee.

Efforts to recruit new Trustees through supporter churches initially had limited success. In September, following the loss and retirement of key team members and in light of the governance position, the Trustees decided to suspend all activities and undertake a comprehensive review of the charity's future. This included consideration of trustee recruitment, merger with another organisation or, if a sustainable way forward could not be found, closure of the charity.

Following this review, a targeted strategy was developed for relaunching the charity, with the recruitment of a new Trustee body identified as the essential first phase. A trustee recruitment campaign was therefore developed for implementation.

Post year-end note: The trustee recruitment campaign was successfully completed in mid 2026, enabling the charity to move forward with the next phase of its relaunch.

5. PREMISES AND BUILDING WORK

During the spring, blocked roof drainage at the Chapel caused water to overflow from the guttering. The blockages were cleared and a drainage survey was undertaken to assess the feasibility of reconnecting the water supply to the Mortuary/Store. Infrared heaters were also installed in the Chapel, improving comfort and enabling the space to be heated more quickly when in use.

At the beginning of 2025, the Trustees obtained quotations for Phase 2 of the building works for

improvements to the Mortuary/Store, including a small kitchenette and WC and extensions to the electrical supply. Given the uncertainty surrounding trustee recruitment, team capacity and the charity's future, the Trustees decided to defer Phase 2 until the charity's position became clearer.

6. SAFEGUARDING

No safeguarding issues were raised.

7. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Besom in Esher relies on donations from individuals and churches.

As mentioned in our 2024 report, foxes attacked the wiring of our van wiring in late autumn 2024. This was reported to the Insurance company at the end of December 2024, but the case was not resolved until January 2025, when the van was written off due to the damage. We received a settlement from our insurance company of £14,650. As the fox issue was not resolved and we also paused activity in mid 2025, as described earlier in this report, we have not purchased a new van but have retained the funds, and a future decision will be made if van run activities are to be started again.

Regular Income from Churches in 2025 was broadly similar to 2024, with regular donations from individuals reduced, but this is in accordance with the general reduction in activity.

In 2024, we received restricted donations for building work. The main Chapel was renovated in 2024, and in 2025 we further improved the space with the addition of Infrared Heaters, which enabled the space, which is not well insulated, to be heated quickly and economically when it is used by volunteers and has made the space much more comfortable and usable.

In 2025, we also obtained a quotation to carry out Phase 2 of the proposed building works to include:

- Connecting a water supply to the mortuary/store
- Extending the electricity supply to the mortuary/store
- Installing a kitchen and WC in the mortuary/store

However, due to the reduction in activity, the decision to carry out this work has been deferred, and we retain £7,128 in restricted funds previously given for capital expenditure on buildings.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - 1 JAN 2025 - 31 DEC 2025:

A. Income and Expenditure Summary	
1. Income	**£**
Donations from churches (unrestricted)	1,200
Donations from churches (restricted)	-
Donations from individuals (unrestricted)	203
Donations from individuals (restricted)	175
Gift Aid Recovered	53
Investment Income (bank interest)	336
Insurance Refund for error calculating NCB	521
Total Income	**2,488**
2. Expenditure	**£**
Charitable activities – direct costs	220
Support and administrative costs	999
Rent	68
Light, Power and Heating	820
Building works (restricted funds)	3,492
Depreciation on Motor Vehicles	-
Total Expenditure before asset disposal	**5,598**
Less: disposal of asset (Van)	(1622)
Net Expenditure	**3,975**
Net deficit for the year	**(1,487)**
B. Balance Sheet Summary	**£**
Fixed Assets	-
Current Assets:	
Restricted funds	7,128
Unrestricted funds	6,972
Unrestricted funds (Van Settlement)	14,650
Total Current Assets	28,750
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(91)
Net Assets	**28,659**

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Simon Rogers (Chair)

Dated 29 October 2026