CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st January 2025 Period start date
To: 31st December 2025 Period end date

Charity name: Whitby Park Community Garden

Charity registration number: 1186825

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Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance education for the public benefit in the subjects of horticulture, healthy eating, conservation of natural resources and improvement of wildlife diversity, by providing opportunities for learning in and around Whitby Park Community Garden. To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Cheshire West and Chester the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship, or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.
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	We have continued to deliver the 11 week 'Gardening for All' programme as part of Cheshire's Natural Health Service (ChNaHS) in collaboration with The Mersey Forest and Chester and Cheshire West Council. The programme aims to promote participants wellbeing and physical activity through social engagement and advancement of people's education in the subjects of horticulture, healthy eating, conservation of natural resources and improvement of wildlife diversity, by providing opportunities for learning in and around the garden and wider Whitby Park. There continues to be an increasing appetite for growing good food, eating healthier and living better active lives, whilst connecting with people, wildlife, green space and the local community. The 'Gardening for All' programme provides a range of seasonal horticultural activities and learning opportunities delivered throughout the year such as: Cultivation of fruit, vegetables, flowers and herbs; Composting and creating healthy soil; Preparing the ground for planting; Seed sowing; Transplanting; Propagation; Lifting and dividing; Watering and rainwater harvesting; Indoor and outdoor growing spaces; Pruning; Food harvesting; Seed collection and storage; Plant and tree identification; Introduction to different cultivation methods such as, crop rotations, no dig; permaculture and biodynamics. As well as horticultural activities, we also facilitate woodwork projects, such as making bird boxes and bird feeders. We have also had a team of volunteers working on the design and construction of raised beds to make the garden more accessible for all. We collaborated with Cheshire Zoo to offer a photography course We have expanded our service offer to include green arts and crafts which provide more activities for volunteers throughout the autumn and winter season. Some of the products that we create are bought by members of the community along with the fresh food and flowers that we produce. We are also increasing biodiversity in the garden and the wider park through the development of wildlife areas and projects that support a healthy diverse ecosystem.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have acted accordingly.

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	Many of the participants who complete the 11 week activity programme continue to return as volunteers. Every year the volunteer base grows in strength and together we have developed the garden into a diverse and vibrant outdoor space. During 2025, there were approximately 50 regular/ long term volunteers working in the garden. The garden is accessible and open to all and welcomes new participants on a weekly basis. Throughout 2025: • 40 new participants registered to do the eleven week 'Gardening for All' programme. • 27, (two thirds) of those who registered went on to complete the programme. • 14 of those who completed the programme in 2025 continued to volunteer and remain active in the garden. The sessions (often personal and tailored for each participant): • Provide a range of activities to improve participants' health and wellbeing, increase social connections and improve the local environment. • Provide a friendly and supportive environment where participants can connect with each other and their community. • Provide a learning environment that helps participants improve their self-esteem and confidence. • Support participants to access longer term volunteering opportunities. • Remove barriers to learning and improve skills that are required to access further employment and training. • Encourage and explore different and unusual varieties of fresh produce through tasting and sharing favourite recipes. The garden is an important part of many peoples' lives. Some volunteers have been coming to the garden every week for many years. We delivered volunteer social events throughout the year, including a summer BBQ, a Christmas get together and a New Year planning event. The wider community also benefited from visiting the garden, engaging with volunteers, connecting with nature and can try fresh locally grown produce from the garden.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The financial results for the year ended 31 December 2025 show that income exceeded expenditure, resulting in a surplus for the period. Total income for 2025 was £6,771.39, comprising £4,456.39 recorded as donations and sale and £2,315.00 from grants and event income. Cost of goods sold was £315.00, leaving gross income after these costs of £6,456.39. Other expenses totalled £4,916.98, bringing total expenditure, including cost of goods sold, to £5,231.98. Overall, the charity recorded a surplus of £1,539.41 for 2025.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The financial reserve policy has reduced to an estimated one-year from two (cost plus activities). Trustees place a maintain priority on maintaining this and will continue to review as the charity progresses. The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£1500
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	None
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Continued discussions are happening between Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) over the renewal of a lease for the land. We have still been unable to secure this in 2025 due to the council changing the way they lease land and assets. We have secured and engaged legal counsel for conveyance (pro-bono) for the lease and negotiations with CWAC will start formally with them in 2026.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		None
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution Foundation model constitution for a CIO
How is the charity constituted? (e.g., unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
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	Voting members are the charity trustees only

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Whitby Park Community Garden
Other name the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	1186825
Charity's principal address	Whitby Hall Lodge, Stanney Lane, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 6QY England, United Kingdom.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee
John Boden	HQ	09/12/2019	Founder
Nina Dales	HQ	09/12/2019	Founder
George Jones	HQ	09/12/2019	Founder
Andrew Warham	HQ	08/02/2024	Trustee Committee

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
n/a		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

Description of the assets held in this capacity.	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this fall within the custodian charity's objects	n/a
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	n/a

Exemptions from disclosure

Other optional information – None

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature

John Boden

Full name John Boden

Position – Trustee

Date - 31st December 2025



Whitby Park Garden
Profit and Loss
Year Ending December 2025

Whitby Park Community Garden	Column1	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Total
Income Collected (GBP)														
Sales	Donation and Sales Income	£15.70	£48.66	£195.79	£898.09	£680.12	£383.78	£229.64	£868.23	£325.97	£242.78	£129.17	£438.46	£4,456.39
Sales	Payment (funding & grants)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,865.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£450.00	£0.00	£2,315.00
Gross Profit		**£15.70**	**£48.66**	**£195.79**	**£898.09**	**£680.12**	**£2,248.78**	**£229.64**	**£868.23**	**£325.97**	**£242.78**	**£579.17**	**£438.46**	**£6,771.39**
Less Cost of Goods Sold														
Cost of Goods Sold	Cost of Goods Sold (general)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£85.00	£0.00	£0.00	£230.00	£0.00	£315.00
Less Expenses														
Meals & Entertainment	Entertainment	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£150.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£102.00	£252.00
Meals & Entertainment	Meals & Entertainment (general)	£0.00	£0.00	£303.84	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£303.84
Office Expenses & Postage	Office Supplies	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£79.98	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£79.98
Other Expenses	Business Insurance	£16.80	£0.00	£16.80	£16.80	£16.80	£16.80	£16.80	£16.80	£16.80	£16.80	£16.80	£16.80	£184.80
Supplies	Supplies (general)	£477.90	£220.51	£0.00	£666.99	£0.00	£0.00	£71.88	£1,477.08	£0.00	£100.00	£82.00	£0.00	£3,096.36
Uncategorized Expenses	Uncategorized Expenses (general)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
Total Expenses		**£494.70**	**£220.51**	**£320.64**	**£833.79**	**£16.80**	**£16.80**	**£168.66**	**£2,078.88**	**£16.80**	**£616.80**	**£328.80**	**£118.80**	**£5,231.98**
Net Profit (GBP)		**-£479.00**	**-£171.85**	**-£124.85**	**£64.30**	**£663.32**	**£2,231.98**	**£60.98**	**-£1,210.65**	**£309.17**	**-£374.02**	**£250.37**	**£319.66**	**£1,539.41**

Aviva: Public