Bensham Grove Community Centre
Registered Charity No. 1188101

Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2025

Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	**Bensham Grove Community Centre**		
Charity no:	1188101		
Structure:	Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.		
Trustees:	*Chair*	Shirley Brown	
	Vice Chair	Vikas Kumar	
	Treasurer	Angela Knox	(up to November 2025)
	Secretary	Shirley Allen	
	Others	Susan Adamson	
	Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.		
Address:	Sidney Grove Bensham Gateshead NE8 2XD		
Bankers:	Lloyds 15 West Street Gateshead NE8 1DP		
Independent Examiner:	Mark Thompson MAAT 42 Lesbury Road Newcastle NE6 5LB		

Trustees' Annual Report

Background

Bensham Grove Community Centre exists to provide a welcoming, accessible space at the heart of Bensham, Gateshead, serving both local residents and the wider community. The Centre continues to fulfil its founding purpose as a place where people come together to learn, connect, and grow. Working in partnership with volunteers, local organisations, the local authority, and a wide range of community groups, the Centre delivers opportunities that strengthen social cohesion, support wellbeing, and enhance the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds.

In February 2020, the Centre became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), modernising its governance arrangements while remaining true to its original aims. The stewardship and preservation of our Grade II listed building now form a formal part of our charitable objectives. Our most recent AGM took place in July 2025, and trustee appointments are due for renewal in 2024 in accordance with our constitution.

The Centre continues to employ a full-time caretaker and a part-time cleaner, and the Board remains committed to supporting our part-time Community Centre Manager and administrator. As demand for our pottery studio has grown, we have expanded our team of part-time technical staff and specialist consultants to ensure safe, high-quality provision.

We remain grateful for the continued support of Lankelly Chase Foundation and *Gateshead Community Bridgebuilders,* whose funding enables us to employ full-time and part-time Bridgebuilders (Community Development Workers). Their work across our diverse communities has been transformative, helping us reach new audiences and strengthen community representation, social groups, and refugee support programmes.

Review of Activities and Performance

This year has been marked by growth, creativity, and resilience. The Centre continues to deliver a rich programme of activities, with adult education and lifelong learning at its core. From craft groups and wellbeing sessions to programmes for older people, neurodiverse learners, and newly arrived communities, the Centre is active and vibrant every day.

A wide range of voluntary and not-for-profit organisations also use our rooms, increasing footfall and broadening the opportunities available to local people. Each week, more than 1,000 participants use the Centre—an achievement made possible by the dedication of our volunteers.

When Learning Skills withdrew many of their courses at short notice, the Centre responded quickly and effectively. Within weeks, we brought key craft programmes in-house to ensure continuity for learners. We extend our sincere thanks to staff, tutors, technical assistants, and our pottery supervisor for their exceptional commitment. We continue to work with Gateshead Council and the WEA to offer a small number of adult learning courses.

The Main House, restored in 2013 through a major Heritage Lottery project, continues to flourish. Our studio rooms, opened in 2021, are now fully occupied and contribute significantly to the Centre's sustainability. This year we developed new stained-glass installations funded by the Queen's Jubilee Awards—an inspiring example of what community groups can achieve with creativity and determination.

We have welcomed many new groups and organisations into the Centre, and participation continues to grow. Our much-loved garden remains a vibrant community space. The gardening group has expanded the Bee Garden and created a new kitchen garden, showcasing their horticultural skills. Raised beds continue to be used by local residents who do not have gardens of their own.

In March, we were honoured to host a special ceremony, organised by Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group, at which our Vice Chair, Vikas Kumar MBE DL, received his Commission as Deputy Lieutenant from the Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, Ms Lucy Winskill. It was a memorable occasion and a great source of pride for the Centre.

In June, the UP Garden project welcomed a visit from the Minister of Faith, Communities and Social Cohesion, Lord Khan, who came to learn about the work led by Jude Sellen Cole and her team, including the Torii gate installation and the Woven Lives Project. This recognition reflects the creativity and dedication of everyone involved.

The Centre is now used seven days a week, from early morning until 9pm. Our community is wonderfully diverse, reflecting the multicultural character of Bensham and including many people with learning disabilities who value the Centre's inclusive and welcoming environment. We were also delighted to once again host GemArts Mini Mela as part of their award winning Masala Festival —a joyful celebration of South Asian arts, culture, and community.

Risks, Reserves, and Investments

Risk assessments are carried out regularly across all projects, with a strong focus on safety and wellbeing. Funds not immediately required are held in interest-bearing accounts. Over the past year, we have updated our financial procedures, safeguarding policies, Equality and Diversity commitments, Environmental Policy, and Health & Safety documentation. Work continues on updating our business plan to reflect the evolving needs of the community and the current financial climate.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Signed:  .Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: 29/9/26

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of **Bensham Grove Community Centre**

On accounts for the year ended **31 December 2025** **Charity no 1188101**

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- 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 Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
   - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
   - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; 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: 27 March 2026**

Name: Mark Thompson MAAT

Address: 42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle
NE6 5LB

Bensham Grove Community Centre
Staement of Financial Activities for the period
1 January to 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted	2025 Designated	2025 Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
Income						
Grants	2	500		91361	91861	78921
Rent and Room Hire		49858			49858	83307
Donations		11322			11322	1098
Classes Fees		58961			58961	29465
Subscriptions		55184			55184	23815
Sales		2191			2191	2808
Fundraising		120			120	
Reimbursements		298			298	256
Membership		1984			1984	1993
Bank Interest		1974			1974	2079
Studio Hire		20250			20250	17240
BG Womens Group		0			0	1750
Contribution to Pottery Tech		0			0	14496
Pottery Fundraising		6727	6727		13454	1645
Pottery Resources		9939			9939	25783
Total Receipts		**219308**	**6727**	**91361**	**317397**	**284655**
Expenditure						
Activities and Events						
Events		4294			4294	1323
Payments from Grants				90817	90817	93636
Dawn Brown Fund Grants				1161	1161	1647
BG Womens Group					0	1000
HLF Project		0			0	7830
Pottery Project		14295			14295	1620
Pottery Expenditure		14372	1676		16048	18537
Equipment, Materials and Maintenance		0			0	11800
Transport/Volunteers Expenses		940			940	782
Performing Rights Licence		251			251	240
Staff Wages	3	98919			98919	91512
Refreshment Sales		374			374	755
Management and Administration						
Gateshead Council (Running Costs)		0			0	0
Insurance		1762			1762	6816
Accountancy	4	780			780	810
Printing, Post & Stationery		278			278	634
Refuse Collection		572			572	572
Utilities		38711			38711	47742
Reimbursements		1338			1338	1894
General Administration		2031			2031	111
Total Payments		**178917**	**1676**	**91978**	**272571**	**289261**
Surplus for the period		40392	5051	-617	44826	-4606
Transfers between Funds		-298		298		
Balance at 1 January 2025		185734	93025	34366	313125	224706
Balance at 31 December 2025		**225828**	**98076**	**34047**	**357951**	**220100**

Bensham Grove Community Centre
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
Current Assets			
Business instant access		0	277
Treasurer's account		102433	64855
Virgin Deposit		156942	154968
Total Current Assets		**259375**	**220100**
Current Liablilites			
Net Assets at 31 December 2025		**259375**	**220100**
Represented by:	5		
Restricted Funds		34047	34366
Designated Funds		98076	93025
Unrestricted Funds		127252	92709
Total		**259375**	**220100**

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee :

Signed ..... Position ..... Chair of the Board.

Signed ..... Position ..... Vice-Chair.

Date ..... 29/9/26 .....

Bensham Grove Community Centre
Notes to the accounts, 2025

1. **Accounting Policies**

a The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

Bensham Grove Community Centre meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b Grants received are accounted for on a received basis and credited to income.

c Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Receipts and Payments Account when received.

2. **Grants receivable**

Grant - Ballinger Trust LC Funding	7000
Gateshead Council UP (Garden Grant)	5300
NERO (Neuro)	3858
Coffee Connectors	2340
Pakistani Women's Group Project	1150
Dawn Brown Fund	2174
Unique B Women	560
Lankelly Chase (Staffing)	68979
UP Garden (Unrestricted)	500
Total Grants	**91861**

3. **Trustees, staff and related party transactions**

The organisation employed 9 members of staff during the period of the accounts. No payments were made to trustees.

4. **Costs of financial services**

During the year £780 was paid for the independent examination of the 2024 accounts.

5. **Analysis of Funds:**

Restricted Funds	**Open Bal**	**Income**	**Expend**	**End Bal**
Dawn Brown Fund	539	2174	1161	1552
Ballinger Trust	6463	7000	9606	3857
Lankelly Chase	8262	68979	55549	21692
Community Foundation Grant (Admin)	3329		3329	0
Community Funding (Wages)	13012		13012	0
Gateshead Council UP Garden Grant	281	5300	5443	138
Social Change Grant - Grief Café	2480		1157	1323
NERO (Neuro)		3858	1100	2758
Coffee Connectors		2340	1154	1186
Ballinger (Womens Group)	298		84	214
Pakistani Women's Group Project		1150	322	828
Unique B Women		560	60	500
Total	**34664**	**91361**	**91977**	**34048**

Designated Funds

1. Legal Liability Fund		35000
(Funds set aside should the organisation wind-up, to pay for Redundancy & other contractual obligations).		
2. Buildings & Maintenance Fund		58000
(Funds for replacement and upkeep of the building)		
4. Pottery Fundraising		
Balance b/fwd	25	
Income	6727	
Expenditure	1676	5076
Total Designated Funds		**98076**

Total Funds:

Restricted Funds	34048
Designated Funds	98076
General Funds	127251
	259375

The Charity aims to keep six months running costs in General Funds, as recommended by The Charity Commission.