

Annual Report – October 2026

It is five years this October since Frome Market Health Hub opened its doors for the first time in the offices of the FLA at Standerwick. As a board, it is worth reminding ourselves how things have moved ahead and the benefits the organisation and NHS partnership has brought to the farming community. We can remember with pride the early meetings brought about by Martin Brown, who's conviction in the rightness of the project to improve farmers' health by making care more accessible, was the very essence on which the charity was established and continues to thrive. Our dear friend and founding trustee, Michael Joyce, who formally opened the Health Hub on 13th October 2001 would have been proud of our achievements.

NHS Partnership

There have been several changes in the NHS senior leadership personnel who oversee activity at the Health Hub, in the last year. In some ways this is helpful because those who take over at the helm often bring new energy and a different perspective. Currently, we are working with Rachel Dyer and Helen Hutchinson - both are a breath of fresh air. Rachel, in particular, is showing greater interest in growing our services in ways that should work well for our Hub users. For example, there is a move to bring a vaccinations team to the market which would enable farmers to receive a range of vaccinations from flu to shingles. There is also renewed interest in providing Prostate Cancer testing events.

It is disappointing to note that at the time of writing we have still not had any use from the dermatology camera we purchased a year ago. We are aware, also, that the NHS provided cholesterol testing kit is problematic, outdated and rarely in good working order. The organisation has offered to purchase better equipment for use at our clinics but the offer has not yet been taken up.

In the past year to April 2026, our District Nurse, Jane Collins, has seen 117 farmers, to whom 63 were given referral letters for their own GPs. Jane is very good at coming out to reception, seeing someone waiting to see Tash and inviting them in to have their blood

pressure checked. In this way, she has unearthed issues that her patient probably would not have acted upon without her nudge. One such example was someone who was struggling to make sense of newly prescribed medication from this GP and was so confused about it that he wasn't taking it at all. Jane talked him through the issue, generally put his mind at rest and he has been back to let her know that all is well. This patient said he wouldn't have wanted to trouble his GP, so Jane's intervention was very helpful.

In this same period, it is noticeable that there was no health and wellbeing practitioner (HWP) on thirteen of the clinic sessions and that 11 farmers presented at the Health Hub in need of support. Aware that we see very few people with mental health issues this is the subject discussed often at monthly clinical meetings designed to connect FMHH with our sister organisations across the county. As a group, we find it difficult to think of ways to draw reluctant potentials in to have a chat with Izzy or Julie. It is easy to fall back on the excuse of the service only being available twice a month though that is unlikely to be the only reason why we are not seeing those struggling with their mental health. It is also noticeable that our patient demographic is mostly men in their late 60s into 70s and 80s.

Our Team

Adam Kwasniki (Physiotherapist) is building his client base here. Still working only one morning each month, he has been fully booked on those sessions and he knows that there is budget for him to expand the service as and when the need arises.

Tash's podiatry clinics are as popular as ever even though she now comes every week. We try to prioritise new patients and fit in those who come without an appointment, but Tash's diary is otherwise fully booked 6 weeks ahead.

We have achieved greater continuity by having our own receptionist, Kirstie Meeker, here every week. Kirstie is very good indeed at providing a warm welcome though her job reaches beyond the greeting of patients at reception and booking their ongoing appointments. Kirstie is also taking the lead on our website and phone communications which now allow for online and telephone bookings to be made, cancelled and checked. At the end of each Wednesday morning session, she also cleans the entire building, checks stores of essentials and keeps a very clean and tidy home for us.

Online Update

I reported in May that our website was in the design and build process. The site is now live, and training has taken place for the bookings system. We are grateful to Falcon Digital, a small web design company that is winning many industry awards, has built our site for us FoC. We pay a subscription for the use of software and for our domain name – that's all.

Financials

At our AGM earlier this year, I was able to report that our finances had benefited significantly not only from a £4,000 annual grant from The Richard Oatley Foundation, donated as a recognition of potential ongoing running costs in our new building; but also, we received £20,000 award from The Golden Bottle Trust (Hoare's Bank). This sum was

awarded, as requested, in order to pay for an increase in the frequency of Podiatry and Physiotherapy clinics and for our own dedicated Receptionist. These three are remunerated as followed:

Physiotherapist	£200.00 per session
Podiatrist	£180.00 per session
Receptionist	£15.00 per hour + monthly mobile phone charges

At the time of writing the Health Hub has not received any form of utility bill making it difficult to give an accurate prediction on potential overheads. However, the building is used by other organisations more often than by us and so it is possible the Richard Oatley Foundation is covering the cost of utilities. I have not been advised either way, but the question has been asked.

While it seems likely that we will finish our fiscal year in a healthy financial position, we must be mindful of fee costs going forward. To that end I would like to continue building a stewarding relationship with our key donor in the hope that we might make a further application for funding, if not next year, then in the year following. If it is agreeable to Trustees, I intend to prepare a short report for each of our major donors to demonstrate the use of donated funds and familiarise them with our progress, aims and ambitions.

Our Trustees

Thank you to Lucy Nelson for finding our seed funding and continuing to raise awareness among the donor community of Somerset. To Martin Hemmet, thank you for allowing the charity to occupy rooms in the FLA offices on what are always the busiest working days of the week, for the first four years of our existence. It was Martin Hemmet who we thank, also, for introducing the organisation to the Richard Oatley Foundation thereby changing in a stroke our ability to carry out our objects in a purpose-built setting at the heart of the market. To Lorna Filby, thank you for our branding and initial communications tools in co-operation with Mole Valley Farmers. Our finances, overseen by Andrew Vickery, are stronger now than five years ago and support our team of paid professionals. Andrew's help and guidance on are greatly appreciated.

My thanks to all trustees whose guidance and help in specific areas is most gratefully received. My particular thanks is to Martin Brown who has decided to step down from Chairing the Board. Martin was the founding member of this group without whose enthusiasm and openheartedness we would not be here today. We are all immensely indebted to Martin for his passion and drive to do something exceptional to help the farming community.

Frome Market Health Hub
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		
Receipts		
Receipts from donors	35,338.66	14,532.50
Bank interest received	52.40	37.37
Total receipts	35,391.06	14,569.87
Payments		
Expenses reimbursed by Medlock Charity	4,148.91	-
Podiatrist	4,465.00	4,000.00
Hospitality	-	152.00
Project management	-	13,533.50
Physiotherapy	609.99	-
Receptionist	270.00	-
Subscriptions	408.00	-
Other expenses	551.18	-
Bank charges	4.30	4.90
Total payments	10,457.38	17,690.40
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	**24,933.68**	**(3,120.53)**
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 April 2025	5,971.88	9,992.41
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 March 2026	30,905.56	5,971.88
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Assets		
Cash Funds		
Bank current account	30,905.56	5,971.88
Liabilities		
Bank charges	-	0.50
Net Assets at 31 March	30,905.56	5,971.38

The financial statements for the year were approved by the trustees on 22/10/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Martin Brown
Chairman and Trustee

Andrew Vickery
Finance Officer and Trustee