Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre

Annual Report & Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Registered Charity Number: 1192644

Reference & Administrative Details

Charity Name:	Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre
Registered Charity Number:	1192644
Charity's Principal Address:	100 Widemarsh Street Hereford HR4 9HG
Trustees:	Samantha Lewis (Chair) Philip Chandler Christopher Tipping Shaun Leavy Sarah Kaye Harriet Dearden Rosalind Kearney John Richard Collyer Maria Boyle
Bank:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner:	R J Francis & Co Ltd Suites 1 & 2 Marshall Business Centre Faraday Road Hereford HR4 9NS

Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre

Charity Registration No: 1192644

Purpose of the Charity

To promote the health, wellbeing and resettlement into the community of any and all ex HM Armed Forces personnel, ex HM Armed Forces Reservists or former members of the Merchant Navy who have served alongside their Armed Forces comrades during a conflict (also referred to as veterans) along with their families, carers and dependents who reside in Herefordshire or the surrounding area and who are in charitable need including those who are suffering from mental or physical illness of any description or are in need of rehabilitation as a result of such illness, who are experiencing difficulties adjusting to post service civilian life, are experiencing hardship, unemployment or homelessness in such ways as the trustees of the charity think fit by:

- Providing a single point of contact to assist in the provision of physical, psychological, practical support, advice and encouragement to relieve a veteran's distress, illness or hardship.

- Providing or assisting in the provision of activities and facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time activities with the object of improving veterans' wellbeing, self-esteem, self-confidence and aiding their transition back into local society.

- Providing or arranging provision of education, vocational skills training, or other assistance and to create and facilitate job opportunities along with assisting hm armed forces veterans to prepare for and find employment.

- Operate a drop in and activity centre staffed by volunteers, and HM Armed Forces veterans to provide advice, empathy, support and a sign posting service to help HM Armed Forces veterans who are experiencing problems due to one of the above challenges. To assist them with access to local service providers and support organisations that may be able to provide help or support.

Public Benefit & Review of the Year

The 2025 reporting year has been one of significant growth and development for the Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre. The charity has strengthened its reach across the county, expanded its wellbeing and community activities, developed new partnerships and continued to build its capacity to provide practical and meaningful support to veterans and their families.

During 2025, HVSC recorded over 1,100 veteran contacts, over 450 family contacts and had continued contact with serving personnel. These figures demonstrate a substantial increase in engagement with the Centre and the growing demand for accessible support across the Armed Forces community.

The Trustees recognise that behind each contact is an individual or family with their own circumstances and support needs. The continued growth in engagement reinforces the importance of maintaining an accessible, welcoming and responsive service.

Wellbeing, connection and community

A key area of development during the year has been the expansion of activities designed to support physical wellbeing, mental resilience and social connection.

HVSC has continued to create opportunities for veterans to participate at their own pace, whether through gentle movement, outdoor activities, shared experiences or informal peer support.

Activities during the year included a Pilates and Yoga Wellness Day, free weekly Tai Chi sessions delivered in partnership with Matt Hudd's Martial Arts Academy, a Reset and Contrast Therapy experience combining cold-water immersion and sauna therapy, and outdoor metal-detecting activities in the Herefordshire countryside.

These activities provide more than opportunities for recreation. They create relaxed environments in which veterans can reconnect with others, build confidence, improve wellbeing and develop relationships through shared experience.

The charity has also continued to recognise the importance of informal support. Coffee mornings, community activities, outreach and peer-led conversations provide opportunities for veterans to talk openly, share experiences and access further support when needed.

Community outreach and tackling isolation

During the year, HVSC continued to strengthen its presence across Herefordshire, with outreach activities in Ross-on-Wye, Leominster, Ledbury and Hereford.

Ross-on-Wye has been particularly successful, and the charity is exploring the development of quarterly multi-agency support hubs, bringing together organisations including DWP, Taurus Healthcare and West Mercia Women's Aid, alongside other local services.

Home and community visits have also remained an important part of the charity's work, providing practical assistance, signposting and personal connection for veterans who may struggle to access the Centre.

Volunteers have played a particularly important role in this area, undertaking home visits, providing befriending support and helping veterans attend coffee mornings, social activities and community events. Their contribution helps address isolation and supports individuals to reconnect with their local communities.

Practical support and individual outcomes

The value of HVSC's work is demonstrated through the practical difference it makes to individuals and families.

One example during the year involved a veteran who approached the Centre following approximately six months of homelessness. Working alongside DWP, Blue School Street and SSAFA, HVSC helped him access financial and housing support while also providing ongoing assistance with his mental wellbeing.

He has since secured his own home in Ross-on-Wye and now attends the weekly local coffee morning, helping him rebuild social connections and address isolation.

This demonstrates the importance of joined-up, sustained support, recognising that resolving an immediate crisis is often only the first step towards rebuilding stability, independence and confidence.

The charity has also facilitated practical assistance through local businesses and supporters. This included the provision of a ramp for a veteran's family through Cornerstone Landscape Gardening and Construction, and the donation of two computers and a desk by TIA Group to help veterans with CV writing, job applications and employment searches.

Strengthening partnerships and national connections

Partnership working remains central to HVSC's approach. During the year, the charity continued to develop relationships with local organisations, businesses, statutory services and military charities, enabling it to offer a broader range of support and opportunities.

Examples include the ongoing provision of free weekly Tai Chi sessions through Matt Hudd's Martial Arts Academy, support from The Green Dragon Hotel for the Veterans Charity Ball and fundraising assistance from The Beefy Boys.

Fundraising and community support

The charity continues to rely on donations, fundraising and the generosity of local individuals, businesses and organisations to sustain its work. As an independent charity without guaranteed core government funding, securing sustainable income remains an important priority.

During the year, HVSC received support from across Herefordshire, including a £3,000 donation from Herefordshire Freemasons and contributions from a wide range of community fundraising activities.

Other fundraising support included £968 raised by Hereford Cathedral School, £750 from Tracy Ricketts through her Baton of Hope fundraising and £148 from Breinton Village Hall. Local individuals also organised fundraising through activities such as car boot sales and fitness challenges.

The Trustees are grateful to all those who have contributed their time, resources and financial support. These contributions directly enable HVSC to continue its outreach, wellbeing activities, practical assistance and opportunities for veterans to reconnect with their communities.

Priorities for 2026–27

Building on the progress made during the year, HVSC will focus on reaching more veterans and families, strengthening its services and developing sustainable opportunities for growth.

Key priorities include:

- Expanding community outreach and developing further local partnerships and multi-agency support hubs.
- Continuing to develop wellbeing activities, outdoor opportunities and peer-led support.
- Developing a new project specifically aimed at younger veterans.
- Strengthening the charity's organisational capacity, impact measurement and longer-term financial sustainability.
- Become a member of COBSEO to develop national relationships and bring further opportunities and learning back to Herefordshire.
- Strive to support and participate within VALOUR.

The Trustees remain committed to ensuring that HVSC continues to develop as a trusted, accessible and collaborative source of support for the Armed Forces community.

The year has demonstrated what can be achieved when practical support, partnership working and community connection come together. While the Centre's reach continues to grow, its underlying purpose remains unchanged: to ensure that veterans and their families know where to turn, can access the support they need and are not left to face life's challenges alone.

Financial Review

The income generated by the charity this year from fundraising, donations and grants totalled £162,107 (2024: £126,638).

As of 31 December 2025, the charity had reserves of £110,025 (2024: £120,614). The charity remains reliant on individual charitable donations and grant awards.

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre 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 Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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.

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.

Signed: A A Houston FCA

On behalf of R J Francis & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Suites 1 & 2 Marshall Business Centre
Faraday Road
Hereford
HR4 9NS

Date: 30 October 2026

Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre
Registered Charity No 1192644

Income & Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Fundraising & donations received	25,603	-	25,603
Grants received	9,997	126,507	136,504
Interest received	211	-	211
Total Incoming Resources	35,811	126,507	162,318
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Wages	-	147,275	147,275
Rent	9,600	-	9,600
Water rates	427	-	427
Light & heat	1,315	-	1,315
Telephone & internet	1,083	-	1,083
Repair & renewals	617	-	617
Insurance	1,288	-	1,288
Bank charges	60	-	60
Training costs	-	500	500
Event costs	1,076	1,242	2,318
Brunch costs	2,113	626	2,739
Travel costs	187	-	187
Armed Forces Football	61	936	997
Sundry expenses	4,500	-	4,500
Total Resources Expended	22,328	150,579	172,907
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	13,484	- 24,073	- 10,589
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	20,843	99,771	120,614
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	34,327	75,698	110,025

Herefordshire Veterans Support Centre
Registered Charity No 1192644

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
As at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Assets			
Cash at Bank and in Hand			
Cash in Hand	2,164	-	2,164
CAF Bank Account	32,162	75,698	107,860
	34,326	75,698	110,025
Liabilities			
	-	-	-

The trustees approve the Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Assets & Liabilities.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Samantha Lewis
Chair

Date: 30 October 2026