

Registered Charity 1197270
Governed by CIO
Registered 22 Dec 2021

Annual Report & Accounts 2025

Giving people choice, dignity, and practical support. Also a lot of clothes!

Contents

ANNUAL REPORT

- Thank you from our Chair and CEO 2
- Reference, administrative and governance details 3
- Where do we get our clothes? 4
- Objectives and Activities 5
- Achievements and Performance 6
- Our year in numbers 7
- Also this year... 8
- Financial Review 9
- Future Plans 10
- Become a Trustee 11

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Independent Examiner's Report 13
- Receipts and Payments Account 14
- Statement of Assets and Liabilities 15
- Notes to the Financial Statements 16

Thank you from our Chair and CEO

As we look back on 2025, we are immensely proud of the commitment shown by our supporters, partners, and incredible team. This year has been one of further growth, innovation and impact. We've helped more people this year than ever before and are proud of our core principles of ensuring the dignity and care of all who require our services.

Our reputation in Coventry is growing year on year, and we are grateful to all of those who trust us with their donations of clothes, time and money. We take that trust extremely seriously and we hope we've done you proud.

We are grateful to our partners from other local charities, and to the local authority departments who work with us to ensure that those in clothing poverty in Coventry have their needs met. We are far more effective when we work together, and we are proud to work alongside you.

A huge "Thank You" to our grant funders in 2025: To the Npower Business Solutions Foundation who supported us with both funding and volunteers, the National Lottery Community Fund, Cash 4 Kids, The King Charles III Charitable Fund, The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, The Alan Edward Higgs Charity and Comic Relief.

Further thanks to Clive Mark for their uniform provision, and to Tesco for clothes, hangers, and volunteer support.

And, finally, special thanks to Coventry Building Society. You adopted us as one of your charities of the year in 2025, and we were well looked after through your fundraising, financial and volunteer support.

You have all been amazing!



Katie Wilson
CEO



David Wilson
Chair



Reference and Administrative Details

Clothing Coventry

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1197270
PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: 19 Napier Street Coventry CV1 5PR
WEBSITE: www.clothingcoventry.org
TRUSTEES:
David Wilson,
Natasha Leese,
Isabelle Edgar-McCabe,
David Budd (to June 2025),
Nicholas Barnes (from February 2026)
GOVERNING DOCUMENT: CIO dated 31st October 2019

Governance Structure and Management

Clothing Coventry is governed by a board of trustees.

Clothing Coventry advertises for new trustees, who are invited to apply via an application form which is considered by existing trustees. Trustees have identified the key skills needed and applicants are invited to indicate which skills they have as part of the application process. Further information for those wishing to become a trustee is available on page 11 of this report.

Where do we get our clothes?



The vast majority of our clothes are donated by members of the public in Coventry. We advertise the times that we are available for donations and are happy to receive them at our warehouse.

We are also fortunate enough to receive help from other charities and organisations in Coventry, who collect clothes on our behalf so that we can distribute them to those in need.





Charities and businesses also offer their support by purchasing brand new items for us that we wouldn't be able to provide, either because they are not donated regularly enough (like school blazers) or because they would be inappropriate to donate (like underwear).

All donations are then sorted by our amazing team of volunteers, who ensure that the clothes get to people who need them as quickly as possible!



Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes as set out in the governing document:

The prevention or relief of poverty for the public benefit in Coventry and the surrounding area through the provision of donated clothing to individuals in need.

Clothing Coventry rents and furnishes two warehouses to store and organise clothes for distribution and to provide central drop-off point for donations.

Clothes are distributed in the following four main ways:

1) Clothing rails in areas of need across Coventry

Any community building in Coventry can host one of our rails, which Clothing Coventry keeps well stocked with clothes that are free to be taken by anybody who needs them. Our rails can be found in areas of significant poverty, and in places where struggling families traditionally receive support. This includes community centres and family hubs.

2) Our "Community Wardrobe"

Developed in 2024 and now fully embedded in 2025, the Community Wardrobe is situated alongside our warehouse in one of the most deprived areas of Coventry. People in need of clothes are referred or self-refer to Clothing Coventry, and we ensure that the Community Wardrobe is full of the right size and type of clothes for each referral, before inviting the person to visit the Wardrobe to choose the clothes they need. This model allows everyone in need of clothes to choose clothes with dignity, allowing for any personal preferences.

3) "Pop Up" events at accessible locations throughout the year

Clothing Coventry works with a large number of partners to support those in clothing poverty in Coventry. We are often invited to events during the year where people can go if they are struggling, and receive the help that they need. Clothing Coventry supports these events by setting up clothing stalls and encouraging people to take the clothing they need.

4) A three week uniform event

School uniform remains a key issue for many families in poverty, with the average household spending £400 per child each year. Clothing Coventry therefore runs an event each year for three weeks where those who need to can access high-quality uniform. This event is very popular with both clients and volunteers, and attracts many local businesses who love to help!

Trustees have due regard to Charity Commission guidance in all decision-making around the above activities.

Achievements and Performance

Clothing Coventry has just completed its fourth full year as a registered charity. The charity has continued to grow rapidly and we have adjusted how we provide our services in order to meet demand and need.

Throughout the year, we have continued to embed our “boutique” approach to providing clothes, enabling those in need of clothes to visit a designated area of the warehouse, and to choose the clothes they want from a selection of clothes their size (stocked before their arrival). This reflects our commitment to give those in need “dignity of choice”, rather than receiving a bag full of clothes chosen for them by a stranger. Feedback on this model has been overwhelmingly positive, with clients leaving feeling empowered. More than 6,000 people were helped via this model in 2025

In addition, Clothing Coventry held a uniform pop-up event for three weeks in the summer holidays of 2025. Uniform is unaffordable for many families, particularly those with multiple children, but we enabled them to attend a central location and select school uniform from a number of different stations (trousers, shirts etc) around the room. More than 2,600 children were supported during this event in 2025.

Our reputation continues to grow and we are providing support in partnership with other organisations within the city. Forty-eight different charities and 44 schools have worked with us this year. Almost 23,000 items were taken from our community rails in 2025 – a massive increase from 12,000 in 2024!

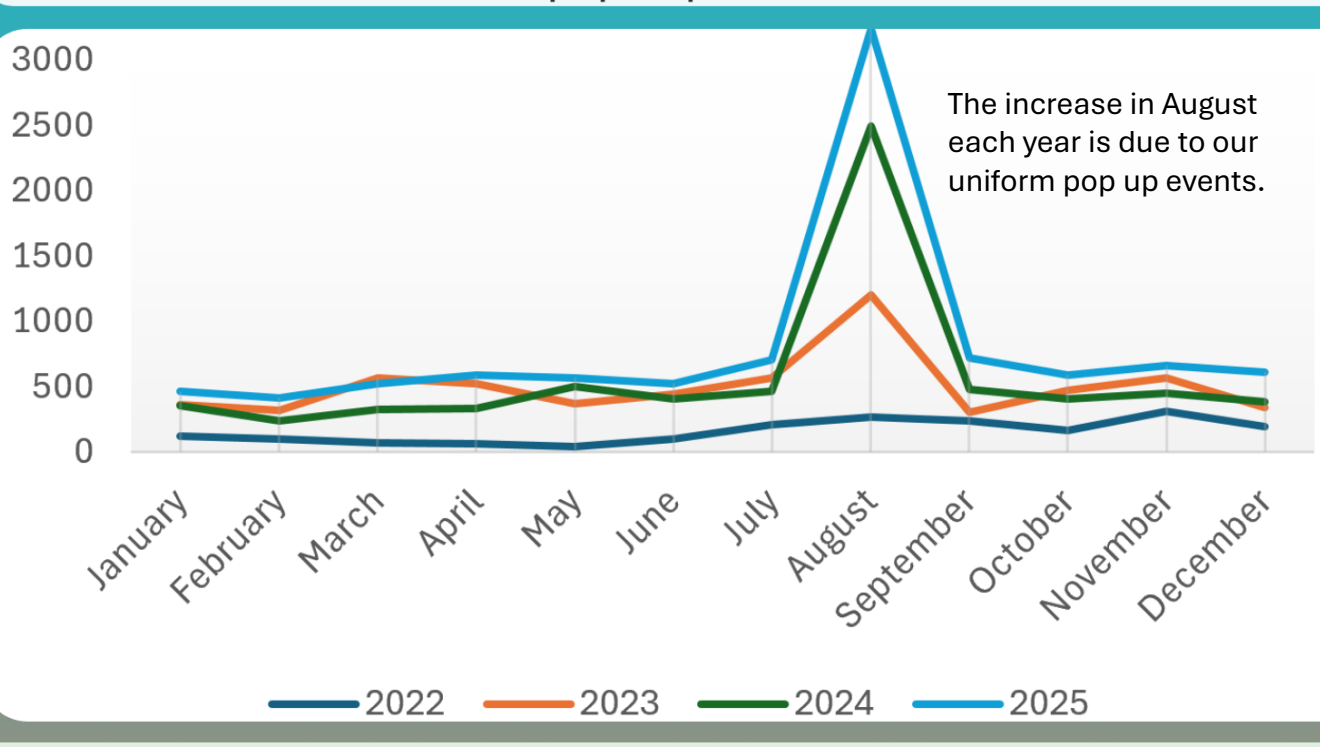


Clothing Coventry 2025

What we did together in 2025

9,622

people helped in 2025



CLIENTS IN 2025

20% Refugees or asylum seekers



31% Receive means tested benefits



14% Entitled to Pupil Premium



7% Homeless

COMMUNITY RAILS

22,955

items given out at our free community rails



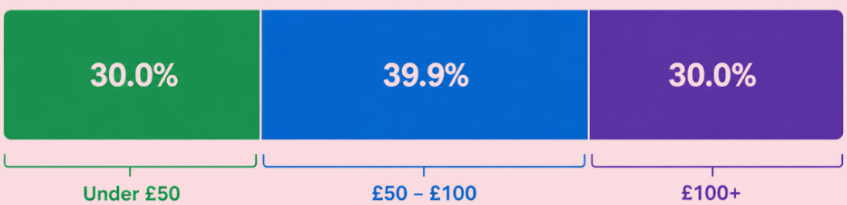
FEEDBACK

97%

positive feedback



Amount of money saved by people using Clothing Coventry



70%

saved more than £50 by coming to Clothing Coventry

Also this year...

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY AWARDS

Clothing Coventry was a finalist for the “Community Champion Award 2025” at the Coventry and Warwickshire Business and Community Awards.



We had an incredible donation of Easter eggs from CEMEX UK, which we gave to children who received clothes over the easter period.



An intrepid group of fundraisers raised money by abseiling down Coventry Cathedral!



And our amazing volunteer, Chris Tooth, was nominated as a Community Champion at the BBC Make a Difference awards for the pivotal work she does at Clothing Coventry!

Financial Review



The full financial statements follow this report. The key points for 2025 are below, rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Income

Total income was £193,000, around 13% lower than the £221,000 received in 2024. Of this, £167,000 (86%) was restricted funding for specific purposes, including £98,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund towards core wages and warehouse costs and £56,000 for our school uniform project. We thank Coventry Building Society (£10,000) and Cash for Kids (£3,000) for their donations towards specific projects. Unrestricted income was £26,000. This was made up of donations and fundraising events.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £246,000, around 7% more than the £229,000 spent in 2024. Staff wages were the largest part of this, at £136,000. Clothing Coventry pays its staff the Real Living Wage, and the CEO's salary is set below the typical market rate for a comparable role. Storage and warehouse costs form the second highest expense, at £52,000 for the year.



Net Position

Expenditure exceeded income by £53,000. Of this, £32,000 was restricted funding received in previous years and spent in 2025 on the purposes it was given for, and £21,000 was met from unrestricted funds.

Future Plans

As we look ahead to 2026, our focus remains on providing clothes to people in Coventry who need our help, and doing so in a way that allows for dignity and choice. We know the year ahead will bring challenges, but it also brings opportunities to strengthen our foundations and grow our impact.

Staying financially stable

Two of our major grants (Npower Business Solutions Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund) come to an end in 2026. Alongside new grant applications, we will remain on a secure footing by moving towards a more sustainable fundraising model, relying less on short-term grant funding and building a stronger base of regular monthly donors. We have also secured charity places in the 2026 London Marathon, and we will use this momentum to grow our year-round fundraising presence.



Helping even more people

Demand for clothing support continues to rise and shows no sign of stopping. We will continue to work with our partners to meet this demand, and ensure we are reaching those people who need us the most, while remaining committed to choice, dignity and care.

Closing Thoughts

As we close this report, we do so with gratitude for the year and determination to meet the challenges ahead. Clothing Coventry has become an integral part of Coventry's charity infrastructure and we will continue to serve our city with pride. With the help of our partners, donors, volunteers, and community, we look forward to making an even greater contribution in 2026.

Become a Trustee!

Clothing Coventry currently has capacity for more trustees to join our board. We would love to hear from you!

Trustees are people who are passionate about Clothing Coventry. They ensure that the charity is working for the benefit of the public, and that they are following their own rules as well as the law. They are responsible for making decisions that benefit the charity and the people that the charity is asking. It's tough and sometimes a bit dull, but it's incredibly rewarding!

As Clothing Coventry has grown, we have discovered more areas that need trustee support, skills and oversight. We are therefore looking for more people with the passion to help Clothing Coventry grow sustainably and serve more people in Coventry.

What skills does Clothing Coventry need from its trustees?

The current trustees have agreed to consider anybody with experience of one or more of the following areas:



How to apply

Please email **trustees@clothingcoventry.org** to introduce yourself and we will send you an application form, where you can briefly outline your skills and experience. This will then be considered at the next trustees' meeting and we will be in touch with you shortly afterwards.

The following pages are as prepared by our bookkeeper, approved by trustees and signed off by an independent examiner.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Clothing Coventry

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 12 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the 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 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 accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements regarding the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'fair and true' view which is not a matter considered as part of this independent examination.

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: P R Fuller

28th October 2026

Address:

92 Boxworth End
Swavesey
Cambridge
CB24 4RA

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**2025 Total Funds**	2024 Total Funds
	£	£	**£**	£
Income from:				
Donations and grants	15,025	166,770	**181,795**	**215,716**
Interest on deposit account	176	-	**176**	**191**
Other income	10,905	-	**10,905**	**5,559**
	26,106	166,770	**192,876**	**221,466**
Expenditure on:				
Direct Clothing Purchases	-	38,308	**38,308**	**33,691**
Wages	21,179	115,106	**136,285**	**112,298**
Storage and Warehouse	7,322	44,434	**51,756**	**40,479**
Overheads	18,728	875	**19,603**	**42,753**
	47,229	198,723	**245,952**	**229,221**
Net Income/Expenditure	(21,123)	(31,953)	**(53,076)**	**(7,755)**

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward at 01/01/2025	21,195	70,331	**91,526**
Total funds carried forward at 31/12/2025	72	38,378	**38,450**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES

At the end of the period

	Notes	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	**2025 Total Funds**	**2024 Total Funds**
		£	£	£	£
CASH FUNDS					
Bank	**2**	5	38,378	**38,383**	**91,521**
Petty Cash		67	-	**67**	**5**
TOTAL CASH FUNDS		72	38,378	**38,450**	**91,526**

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on Oct 2026

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature: .....

Full Name: David Wilson

Position: Chair of Trustees

Date: 31/10/2026

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund	Balance b/f	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f
National Lottery Community Fund	47,142	98,019	122,801	22,360
Uniform Project	22,430	56,051	62,463	16,018
Cash for Kids	-	2,700	2,700	-
Coventry Building Society	-	10,000	10,000	-
Clothes Purchases	759	-	759	-
TOTAL	**70,331**	**166,770**	**198,723**	**38,378**

Funds were gratefully received from:

National Lottery Community Fund – Core wages, Warehouse costs
Npower – School Uniform Salaries
Cash for Kids – Underwear
29th May Charitable Trust – Uniform
The Alan Edward – Uniform and Rent
Coventry Building Society – Coats
Sky Blues – Unrestricted
Centre for Civil – Unrestricted
King Charles III – Unrestricted
Groundwork UK – Unrestricted
Earlsdon Lions Club – Unrestricted

2. TRUSTEES COSTS

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits incurred for being a trustee of the charity. Trustees' expenses reimbursed during the year were £NIL (2024: Nil)

3. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

One of the Trustees is related to one of the employees. They were not part of the discussions involving setting wages.