Company Registration Number - 08164822

The Charity Registration Number is :- 1201541

Hitched Communities Ltd

Report and Accounts

31 December 2025

Hitched Communities Ltd

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

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Hitched Communities Ltd

Company Registration Number - 08164822

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

Reference and administrative details

The charity name.

The legal name of the charity is:- Hitched Communities Ltd.

The charity is also known by its operating name, Hitched Communities.

The charity's areas of operation and UK charitable registration.

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with charity number 1201541.

The charity does not operate in any overseas jurisdictions.

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts . The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

The governing document is dated 01 August 2012

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law, all trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The principal operating address, telephone number, email and web addresses of the charity are:-

255 Poulton Road
Wallasey,
Wirral, CH 44 4BT
Telephone +447851693316

Email Address gary@hitched-communities.org Web address www.hitched-communities.org

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

Hitched Communities Ltd

Company Registration Number - 08164822

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees in office on the date the report was approved were:-

Gary Wootten
Nick Godbehere - resigned 08/11/2024
Sarah Wootten
Holly Dixon
Libby Higgins
Grant Sellers - appointed 14/02/2026
David Cutter

The following persons served as Trustees during the year ended 31 December 2025 :-

The trustees who served as a trustee in the reporting period were shown as above. Nick Godbehere served until 08/11/2024. Grant Sellers was appointed after the year end so did not serve during this accounting period.

All the trustees are also members of the charity.

Objects and activities of the charity

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document.

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. For the purpose of this clause "socially excluded" means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards;) crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year.

Made On My Patch
We grew the Made-On-My-Patch community gardening programme designed to address food poverty and mental health. It involves patch networks (typically 12 households) learning to grow and enjoy fruit and vegetables with the help of a professional gardening coach, resources, onboarding and communications help, and support from local garden centres and community organisations. The patch network leader receives wrap-around support to help their gardening group thrive. A new plan was introduced in 2025 to expand the service to support those in addiction recovery, the international community and foster care. Four patch networks operated, with differing levels of success and engagement. Small grants funds were secured to develop a website and resources to support growth of the programme in future years.

Street Angels Chester
By fostering strong partnerships with the police, CCTV operators, and door staff, the initiative has become central to Chester's multi-agency safety infrastructure.
Outcome highlights include:
Critical Interventions: Successfully managing over 100 CCTV call-outs and numerous direct requests, providing essential support for intoxicated individuals, mental health distress, and gender-based violence.
Harm Reduction: Acting as both a preventative and reactive service, the project effectively defuses conflict and prevents situations from escalating.
Community Impact: Improving public perceptions of safety and trust in volunteer-led welfare.
Social Capital: Strengthening the city's social fabric and long-term resilience by fostering a greater sense of community.

Fully funded, the project responded to recommendations to increase shifts and continue its progress collaborating with night-time economy partners. The evaluation by University of Chester has been used nationally as a key tool by ROC Angels to generate sustainable funds for other Street Angels projects. The project was also presented at the Club Health International conference in Belgium to share learning and showcase its impact.

Street Angels Birkenhead
In response to the success of Street Angels Chester, Hitched Communities was approached to consider establishing a similar project in Birkenhead. Following successful core funding applications and a co-design period, the service was launched in December 2024. From an independent evaluation by University of Chester, spanning the period from January to April 2025, nine recommendations were identified to further tailor the Street Angels Birkenhead pilot. The evaluation highlighted the vital role Street Angels play in providing both practical and emotional front-line support. With enhanced hours and funding, the model was said to have the potential to become a long term asset to Birkenhead's community safety framework. During 2025, 29 shifts were completed with 560 volunteer hours, by over 20 volunteers.

The Mountain Pass
This programme was designed in response to people in addiction recovery wanting unstructured intervention work that was peer-led and developed their health and wellbeing. Now established, a range of walk leaders within the recovery community offer weekly walks and quarterly challenge walks for graduates of a substance-addiction recovery academy. During 2025 30 walks were organised across 21 walking routes, and also catered for those living with disabilities. This included a range of challenge walks outside the Birkenhead area. Five walk leaders with lived experience were recruited and trained to lead walks.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Professional services
•Across the year we secured grant funding totalling £407,116 enabling the charities that we supported to continue to deliver impact for 1000+ beneficiaries every month.
•Sustained a loneliness charity located in St Anne's in Lancashire through implementing a grant funding plan which saw us secure over £14k towards day to day running costs. We undertook a member's survey (completed by 90 members) which amongst other outcomes revealed 85% no longer felt isolated or lonely, 93% felt happier with their life and 90% felt more cared for and valued as a person. We also produced their first Annual Impact Report to help them to demonstrate the significant impact of their work.
•Developed and executed a grant funding plan that enabled us to secure £67,800 towards the cost of delivering a girl (9-14 year olds) focussed mentoring programme for those struggling to fit in and/or have a difficult home life. Mentoring covers 5 ways to wellbeing, action planning and reviews over 6-9 months, through a network of trained mentors. Bradford, West Yorkshire. The funding enabled the programme to continue to be delivered for a further two years.
•Supported the creation and public launch to a wide group of stakeholders of a three-year corporate strategy for a trust with social programmes in education, sport, health and social inclusion. Fleetwood, Lancashire.
•We secured £314,866 to support the launch and operation of a brand-new youth hub in Darlington in the Northeast by a prominent youth focussed charity. We also helped them secure £10,000 towards the provision of household starter packs for young people (16-25 years) who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless as they moved into the new supported accommodation scheme they opened.
•Supported the creation of a theory of change to support a Cheshire-based charity's ability to secure grant funding for a programme that provides families who must move into emergency accommodation with essential household items.

See Annual Social Impact Report 2025 for more detail.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in managing the activities of the charity.

Hitched Communities Ltd
Company Registration Number - 08164822

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The methods used to recruit and appoint new charity trustees.

This process is followed upon appointing new trustees
•Identify the need for new trustees
•Agree what skills, experience and knowledge are needed, and develop short job description and person specification
•Agree responsibilities and a process for recruitment
•Consider best methods of attracting a diverse range of candidates with the skills the charity needs, eg advertising and brokerage services
•Short-list and interview against agreed criteria, with panel of trustees, following structured questions
•Preferred candidates are identified and invited to join the trustees, subject to references, formal vetting and approval by the full trustee board. Unsuccessful candidates are notified and thanked for their interest.
•Vetting candidates includes potential disqualifications, declaring existing or potential conflicts of interest, potential DBS checks
•Formalise the appointment
•Review charity governing documents to appoint the new trustee legally
•Chair writes to prospective trustees, setting out duties and expectations, and to sign and return a letter.
•Send an information pack to new trustees and arrange induction
•New trustee attends first board meeting and welcomed.

Bankers	Santander, Sunderland, SR43 4FW
Accountants	KPH Audit and Assurance Services Ltd, 255 Poulton Road, Wallasey, CH44 4BT

Financial review

The charity's financial position at the end of the year ended 31 December 2025

The financial position of the charity at 31 December 2025 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income	(18,397)	30,800
Total Funds	18,459	36,856

Financial review of the position at the reporting date, 31 December 2025 .

The trustees consider the financial performance by the charity during the year to have been satisfactory.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Policies on reserves.

No funds are restricted and are available for general use. We run a policy to retain at least three months of operational costs in reserve, reported quarterly and updated in line with risk register.

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

Details of The Independent Examiner

Mrs Tracey Pritchard
Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales
255 Poulton Road
Wallasey
Merseyside
CH44 4BT

Hitched Communities Ltd
Company Registration Number - 08164822

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Statement of the Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations,the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), .

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that , on the face of the report, there are no material inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

Hitched Communities Ltd
Company Registration Number - 08164822

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Method of preparation of accounts - Small company provisions

The financial statements are set out on pages 11 to 26.

The financial statements have been prepared implementing the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016)

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 9 September 2026.

Gary James Wootten
Director and Trustee

Hitched Communities Ltd

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charitable company on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the charitable company on pages 11 to 26 for the year ended 31 December 2025 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) as modified by FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) , and under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 15.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner and the basis of the report

As described on page 7, you, the charitable company's Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Company for the purposes of Company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and all other applicable law and with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, applicable to smaller entities, and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the memorandum and articles of the charity for the conducting of an audit, and that the accounts do not require an audit in accordance with Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements are not required to be audited under any legal provision, or otherwise, and are eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

a) examine the financial statements of the charity under Section 145 of the Act;

b) follow the applicable procedures in the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under s145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act setting out the duties of an independent examiner in relation to the conducting of an independent examination. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company and of the accounting systems employed by the charitable company and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that, on a test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures made, the financial statements comply with the SORP.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries and does not cover all the matters that an auditor would consider in arriving at an opinion. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide

Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Hitched Communities Ltd

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, I have completed my examination: and can confirm that:-

The accounts of this charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006;

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under 145 of the Act and in accordance with Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act which may be applicable;

and that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:-

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and Section 130 of The Charities Act 2011;

the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination;

have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Signed:- T. Pritcha

Mrs Tracey Pritchard - Independent Examiner

Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales

255 Poulton Road

Wallasey
Merseyside
CH44 4BT

This report was signed on 9 September 2026

Hitched Communities Ltd - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2025, as required by the Companies Act 2006)

	SORP Ref	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2025	2025	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
Income & Endowments from:					
Donations & Legacies	A1	3,970	-	**3,970**	35,000
Charitable activities	A2	29,650	-	**29,650**	37,250
Total income	**A**	**33,620**	**-**	**33,620**	**72,250**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	B2	47,017	5,000	**52,017**	41,450
Other	B3	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	**B**	**47,017**	**5,000**	**52,017**	**41,450**
Net movement in funds		**(13,397)**	**(5,000)**	**(18,397)**	**30,800**
Reconciliation of funds:-	**E**				
Total funds brought forward		31,856	5,000	**36,856**	6,056
Total funds carried forward		**18,459**	**-**	**18,459**	**36,856**

The 'SORP Ref' indicated above is the classification of income set out in the formal SORP documents. As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the Balance Sheet.

A separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as this statement includes all recognised gains and losses.

All activities derive from continuing operations

The notes attached on pages 15 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts.

Hitched Communities Ltd - Analysis of prior year total funds, as required by paragraph 4.2 of the SORP

Hitched Communities Ltd - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

	SORP Ref	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Income & Endowments from:				
Donations & Legacies	A1	30,000	5,000	**35,000**
Charitable activities	A2	37,250	-	**37,250**
Total income	**A**	67,250	5,000	**72,250**
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	B2	41,450	-	**41,450**
Total expenditure	**B**	**41,450**	**-**	**41,450**
Total funds brought forward		6,056	-	**6,056**
Total funds carried forward		**31,856**	**5,000**	**36,856**

All activities derive from continuing operations

The notes attached on pages 15 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts.

The resources applied on fixed assets for charity use represents the cost of additions less proceeds of any disposals.

Movements in revenue and capital funds for the year ended 31 December 2025

Revenue accumulated funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Last year Total Funds 2024 £
Accumulated funds brought forward	31,856	5,000	36,856	**6,056**
Recognised gains and losses before transfers	(13,397)	(5,000)	(18,397)	30,800
	18,459	**-**	**18,459**	**36,856**
Closing revenue funds	**18,459**	**-**	**18,459**	**36,856**

Summary of funds	Unrestricted and Designated funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Last Year Total Funds 2024 £
Revenue accumulated funds	18,459	-	**18,459**	36,856

The notes attached on pages 15 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts.

Hitched Communities Ltd - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

Hitched Communities Ltd
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2025 as required by the Companies Act 2006

	2025 £	2024 £
Income		
Income from operations	33,620	72,250
Gross income in the year before exceptional items	**33,620**	**72,250**
Gross income in the year including exceptional items	**33,620**	**72,250**
Expenditure		
Charitable expenditure, excluding depreciation and amortisation	51,817	41,250
Depreciation and amortisation	200	200
Total expenditure in the year	**52,017**	**41,450**
Extraordinary items	-	-
Net income before tax in the financial year	**(18,397)**	**30,800**
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	-	-
Net income after tax in the financial year	**(18,397)**	**30,800**
Gift Aid donations made	-	-
Retained surplus for the financial year	**(18,397)**	**30,800**

All activities derive from continuing operations

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the headings and subheadings used in the Income and Expenditure account have been adapted to reflect the special nature of the charity's activities.

The notes attached on pages 15 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts.

Hitched Communities Ltd - Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	SORP Ref		2025 £		2024 £
Fixed assets		A				
Tangible assets		A2		399		599
Total fixed assets				399		599
Current assets		B				
Debtors	7	B2	780		2,459	
Cash at bank and in hand		B4	17,410		34,547	
Total current assets			18,190		37,006	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	C1	(130)		(749)	
Net current assets				18,060		36,257
				-		-
Net assets						
The total net assets of the charity				**18,459**		**36,856**
The total net assets of the charity are funded by the funds of the charity, as follows:-						
Restricted funds						
Restricted Revenue Funds	11	D2	-		5,000	
				-		5,000
Unrestricted Funds						
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	11	D3	18,459		31,856	
				18,459		31,856
Total charity funds				**18,459**		**36,856**

The 'SORP Ref' indicated above is the classification of Balance Sheet items as set out in the formal SORP documents. As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the SOFA.

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The charity is subject to Independent Examination under charity legislation, and the report of the Independent Examiner is on page 10.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Gary James Wootten
Trustee
Approved by the board of trustees on 9 September 2026

The notes attached on pages 15 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts.

Hitched Communities Ltd

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting policies

Policies relating to the production of the accounts.

Basis of preparation and accounting convention
The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) and 'FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) , and in accordance with all applicable law in the charity's jurisdiction of registration, except that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), in preference to the previous SORP, the SORP 2005, which has been withdrawn, notwithstanding the fact that the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 refer explicitly to the SORP 2005. This has been done to accord with current best practice.

Risks and future assumptions

The charity is a public benefit entity.
Finance could be limited to maintain and grow charitable activities. Assume funding is secured to deliver programmes and retained consultancy fees remain in place to cover charity core costs.

Policies relating to categories of income and income recognition.

Nature of income

Gross income represents the value, net of value added tax and discounts, of goods provided to customers and work carried out in respect of services provided to customers.

Categories of Income
Income is categorised as income from exchange transactions (contract income) and income from non-exchange transactions (gifts), investment income and other income.

Income from exchange transactions is received by the charity for goods or services supplied under contract or where entitlement is subject to fulfilling performance related conditions. The income the charity receives is approximately equal in value to the goods or services supplied by the charity to the purchaser.

Income from a non-exchange transaction is where the charity receives value from the donor without providing equal value in exchange, and includes donations of money, goods and services freely given without giving equal value in exchange.

Income recognition
Income, whether from exchange or non exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

Policies relating to expenditure on goods and services provided to the charity.

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.
Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Volunteers

In accordance with the SORP, and in recognition of the difficulties in placing a monetary value on the contribution from volunteers, the contribution of volunteers is not included within the income of the charity.
However, the trustees value the significant contribution made to the activities of the charity by unpaid volunteers and this is described more fully in Note 5.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

There are no endowment funds.

2 Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3 Winding up or dissolution of the charity

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

4 Staff costs and emoluments

Salary costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross Salaries excluding trustees and key management personnel	13,022	3,840
Employer's National Insurance for all staff	1,039	117
Employer's operating costs of defined contribution pension schemes	203	47
Total salaries, wages and related costs	**14,264**	**4,004**

Numbers of full time employees or full time equivalents	**2025**	**2024**
The average number of total staff employed in the year was	1	1
The average number of full time staff employed in the year was	1	1
The estimated full time equivalent number of all staff employed in the year was	1	1

The estimated equivalent number of full time staff deployed in different activities in the year was:-

Engaged on charitable activities	1	1
The estimated full time equivalent number of all staff employed as above	1	1

5 Defined contribution pension schemes

Any liabilites and assets associated with the scheme are shown under debtors and creditors.

6 Remuneration and payments to Trustees and persons connected with them

Gary Wootten received 2 secondment payments covering September to December 2025 totalling £8,000.00

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

7 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	1,550
Other debtors	780	909
	780	**2,459**

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	85	-
Other creditors	45	749
	130	**749**

9 Income and Expenditure account summary

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 January 2025	36,856	6,056
Transfers in for the year	-	-
Prior year adjustments	-	-
At 1 January 2025	36,856	6,056
Surplus after tax for the year	(18,397)	30,800
At 31 December 2025	**18,459**	**36,856**

10 Related party transactions

	2025	2024
	£	£
Hitch Marketing Ltd		
Sarah Wootten and Gary Wootten are directors of Hitch Marketing Ltd.		
Gary Wootten contracted hours	8,000	18,963
KBH Accountants Ltd		
Libby Higgins is a director		
Accountancy fees	-	1,020

Hitched Communities Ltd

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

11 Change in total funds over the year analysed by individual funds

	Funds brought forward from 2024	Movement in funds in 2025	Transfers between funds in 2025	Funds carried forward to 2026
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted and designated funds:-				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	31,856	(13,397)	-	**18,459**
Total unrestricted and designated funds	**31,856**	**(13,397)**	**-**	**18,459**
Restricted funds:-				
Street Angels Birkenhead	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	**5,000**	**(5,000)**	**-**	**-**
Total charity funds	**36,856**	**(18,397)**	**-**	**18,459**

12 Analysis of movements in funds over the year as shown in Note 11

	Income	Expenditure	Other Gains & Losses	Movement in funds
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted and designated funds:-				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	33,620	(47,017)	-	**(13,397)**
Restricted funds:-				
Street Angels Birkenhead		(5,000)	-	**(5,000)**
	33,620	**(52,017)**	**-**	**(18,397)**

Hitched Communities Ltd

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

13 The purposes for which the funds as

Unrestricted and designated funds:-

Unrestricted Revenue Funds	These funds are held for meeting the objectives of the charity, and to provide reserves for future activities, and , subject to charity legislation, are free from all restrictions on their use.

14 Ultimate controlling party

The charity is under the control of its legal members.
Every member of the charity is obliged to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding **£10** to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

Hitched Communities Ltd

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025 as required by the FRS 102 SORP 2019

This analysis is classified by conventional nominal descriptions and not by activity.

15 Donations, Grants and Legacies

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Revenue grants and donations from non public bodies				
Small grants individually less than £1000	1,970	-	**1,970**	-
Gift Aid Donations from subsidiaries	-	-	-	-
The Stephen Beard Foundation	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
Global Charities	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
Wirral CVS - Step Up	-	-	-	15,000
Post Code Neighbour	-	-	-	20,000
Total private sector revenue grants	**3,970**	-	**3,970**	**35,000**

Revenue grants and donations from non public bodies (Include Gift Aid donations from subsidiaries) - Prior Year analysis

	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Prior Year	30,000	5,000	**35,000**

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025 as required by the FRS 102 SORP 2019

Total Donations, Grants and Legacies

Current year		Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current Year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Total Donations, Grants and Legacies	A1	3,970	-	3,970	35,000

Prior year		Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Total Donations, Grants and Legacies	A1	30,000	5,000	35,000

16 Income from charitable activities - Trading Activities

Current year	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total funds 2024 £
Primary purpose and ancillary trading				
Sale of goods and services in accordance with the charity's objects	29,650	-	29,650	37,250
Total Primary purpose and ancillary trading	**29,650**	**-**	**29,650**	**37,250**

Prior year	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Primary purpose and ancillary trading			
Sale of goods and services in accordance with the charity's objects	37,250	-	37,250
Total Primary purpose and ancillary trading	**37,250**	**-**	**37,250**

Hitched Communities Ltd

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025 as required by the FRS 102 SORP 2019

17 Total Income from charitable activities

Current year		Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Total income from charitable trading		29,650	-	**29,650**	37,250
Income from funders		-	-	-	-
Total from charitable activities	**A2**	**29,650**	**-**	**29,650**	**37,250**

18 Expenditure on charitable activities - Charitable trading

Current Year		Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Cost of services for primary purpose trading - Including movement in stock		**24,552**	**4,961**	**29,513**	**33,171**
Travelling expenses		**4,163**	**-**	**4,163**	**1,751**
Total charitable trading costs	**B2b**	**28,715**	**4,961**	**33,676**	**34,922**

Prior Year		Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Cost of services for primary purpose trading - Including movement in stock		33,171	-	**33,171**
Travelling expenses		1,751	-	**1,751**
Total charitable trading costs	**B2b**	**34,922**	**-**	**34,922**

Hitched Communities Ltd

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025 as required by the FRS 102 SORP 2019

19 Support costs for charitable activities

Current Year	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Salaries - Administrative staff	13,022	-	**13,022**	**3,840**
Defined contribution pension cost - administrative staff	203	-	**203**	**47**
Employers' NI - Administrative staff	1,039	-	**1,039**	**117**
Training and welfare - staff	395	-	**395**	**-**
Administrative overheads				
Telephone, fax and internet	98	-	**98**	**37**
Subscriptions to periodicals	474	-	**474**	**167**
Software licences and expenses	731	-	**731**	**556**
Liability and contents insurance	584	-	**584**	**544**
Sundry expenses	351	39	**390**	**-**
Professional fees paid to advisors other than the auditor or examiner				
Accountancy fees other than examination or audit fees	1,200	-	**1,200**	**1,020**
Financial costs				
Bank charges	5	-	**5**	**-**
Depreciation & Amortisation in total for	200	-	**200**	**200**
Support costs before reallocation	**18,302**	**39**	**18,341**	**6,528**
Total support costs - Current Year	**18,302**	**39**	**18,341**	**6,528**

The basis of allocation of costs between activities is described under accounting policies

Hitched Communities Ltd

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025 as required by the FRS 102 SORP 2019

Prior year	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	£
Employee costs not included in direct costs				
Salaries - Administrative staff	3,840	-	**3,840**	
Defined contribution pension cost - administrative staff	47	-	**47**	
Employers' NI - Administrative staff	117	-	**117**	
Administrative overheads				
Telephone, fax and internet	37	-	**37**	
Subscriptions to periodicals	167	-	**167**	
Software licences and expenses	556	-	**556**	
Liability and contents insurance	544	-	**544**	
Professional fees paid to advisors				
Accountancy fees other than examination or audit fees	1,020	-	**1,020**	
Financial costs				
Depreciation & Amortisation in total for	200	-	**200**	
Support costs before reallocation	**6,528**	-	**6,528**	
Total support costs - Prior Year	**6,528**	-	**6,528**	

The basis of allocation of costs between activities is described under accounting policies

Hitched Communities Ltd

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025 as required by the FRS 102 SORP 2019

20 Total Charitable expenditure

Current Year		Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2025	2025	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
Total charitable trading costs	**B2b**	28,715	4,961	**33,676**	**34,922**
Total support costs	**B2d**	18,302	39	**18,341**	**6,528**
Total charitable expenditure	**B2**	**47,017**	**5,000**	**52,017**	**41,450**

Prior Year		Prior Year Unrestricted Funds	Prior Year Restricted Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2024	2024	2024
		£	£	£
Total charitable trading costs	**B2b**	34,922	-	**34,922**
Total support costs	**B2d**	6,528	-	**6,528**
Total charitable expenditure	**B2**	**41,450**	-	**41,450**

2025
A review






Hitched Communities

Company Registration Number - 08164822
The Charity Registration Number is - 1201541

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Mission

"We exist to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society."







Reflections on 2025

2025 was a busy year for us. With charitable core funding secured in late 2024 we had a clear mandate to deliver a variety of projects to support vulnerable people, as we continued to evolve from a professional services organisation to one that more directly delivers community services to support socially excluded and vulnerable people in parts of Cheshire and Merseyside.

With help from the Hitch Marketing community fund and endorsement from the board, I was released on an interim basis to provide leadership more operationally, day-to-day to help co-design, pilot and scale a range of projects, and help create the reputation and foundations for growth to recruit a permanent operational team and support our growing volunteer base.

Looking ahead, 2026 will see the scoping and creation of a new pilot project, with a focus on young people and adults, whilst continuing to maintain our operational leadership in our role with Street Angels, further develop the potential of Made On My Patch and hand over The Mountain Pass project whilst enabling other successful lived experience walking groups to be set up in other places.



Gary Wootten
Chair of Trustees
Interim Project Development Director

Our 2025 mandate

2025 started with a clear mandate:

To maintain and expand **The Mountain Pass** project in Birkenhead

To maintain activity for the **Street Angels Chester** project

To grow the **Made On My Patch** project

To pilot and expand the **Street Angels Birkenhead** project

To maintain professional services for selected projects and organisations that share charitable objectives.

We achieved all these objectives.

Read on to hear the story linked to each of them.

Projects / The Mountain Pass

This programme was designed in response to people in addiction recovery wanting unstructured intervention work that was peer-led and developed their health and wellbeing.

Now established, a range of walk leaders within the recovery community offer weekly walks and quarterly challenge walks for graduates of a substance- addiction recovery academy. With the help of Postcode Lottery funding, in 2025, we set about training up five walk leaders within the recovery community and explored ways to broaden walking difficulty to ensure a wider group of individuals could take part in walks with different abilities.

During 2025 30 walks were organised across 21 walking routes, and also catered for those living with disabilities. This included a range of challenge walks outside the Birkenhead area.

We captured stories from participants during one of the challenge walks in this video.

The following combination of perspectives from Kate, Ollie, Kim and Claire helps demonstrate the project improves health, builds unbreakable peer support networks, removes logistical and fitness barriers, and fosters long-term personal development.

Recovery, Mental & Physical Well-being

> “It’s really good for your mental health. It’s good for your physical health... Being with nature is like really calming.”
>
> *– Kate & Kim*

> “It’s about socialising as well... everything is really good for my mental health. It’s probably the favourite day for me.”
>
> *– Kim*

> “It’s been an integral part of my recovery, really... It’s done me absolute wonders, just being out in nature.”
>
> *– Claire*

> “I’m just really, really grateful that they’re part of my recovery journey. It’s like kind of going to a meeting but you’re in nature so it ticks a lot of boxes for me.”
>
> *– Claire*

A Safe, Non-Judgmental Community

> You're meeting new people and you know we've all got a similar background, so you can talk to people who understand you.
>
> – *Kate*

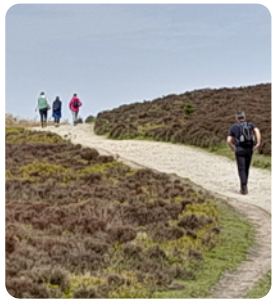
> I was a bit worried about how I'd start conversations but everyone was approachable... I was able to talk and relate about what we're going through.
>
> – *Ollie*

> We share stories just in a confidential space. Non-judgmental as well.
>
> – *Claire*

> It's really good sharing stories with people that don't judge you... it's talking out in the [open] with like-minded people.
>
> – *Kim*

> It's not quite the same as just going for a walk on your own... it's just being amongst these people. It's amazing.
>
> – *Claire*









Inclusivity & Accessibility

> This is better because... we go somewhere like Wales, and with me not driving, I get to go to places that I wouldn't have seen otherwise.
>
> – *Kate*

> You do cater for all different levels of fitness... yeah it's um it's helped me so much.
>
> – *Claire*

> I'm quite limited to where I can go and it's nice getting out and seeing new places... there's lots of places even on the Wirral alone that I didn't even know were there.
>
> – *Kim*

Hitched Communities

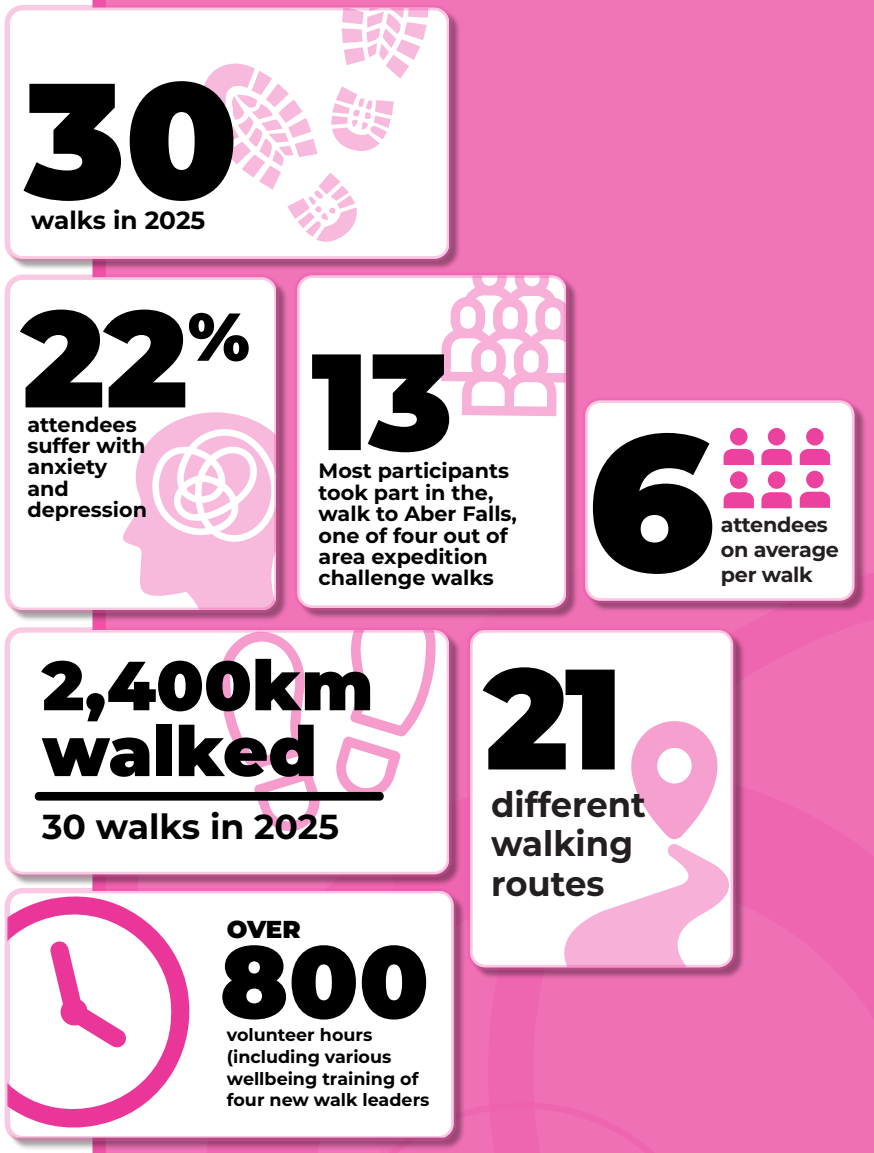
Structure, Routine & Personal Growth

> "It's just a friendly environment to get out in, if you're looking for a bit of routine, a bit of structure to your week."
>
> *– Ollie*

> "Through doing the group I've now done training to become one of the walking group leaders... Wellness training, first aid training, and I got to scout the walks."
>
> *– Kate*

For 2026 we plan to hand over the project locally to be more informal, whilst offering some support to help with that transition, such as offering an occasional out of area challenge walk. We will also update our experience of designing, supporting and evaluating the project over the past three years, to hopefully inspire other community groups to learn from our experience and run walking groups in their settings.

#mindfulness #recovery #addiction #wellbeing #resilience #birkenhead



Projects / Street Angels Chester

Hosted by Vineyard 53 and managed by Hitched Communities, the Street Angels Chester project was evaluated by University of Chester a second time during 2025. In 2025 Street Angels Chester delivered a substantial number of shifts (73, including 13 shifts on the safety bus in partnership with the police), contributing 1827 volunteer hours, and conducting 5261 interventions, with 1019 pieces of equipment handed out.

By fostering strong partnerships with the police, CCTV operators, and door staff, the initiative has become central to Chester's multi-agency safety infrastructure.

Outcome highlights include: Critical Interventions: Successfully managing over 100 CCTV call-outs and numerous direct requests, providing essential support for intoxicated individuals, mental health distress, and gender-based violence.

Harm Reduction: Acting as both a preventative and reactive service, the project effectively defuses conflict and prevents situations from escalating.

Community Impact: Improving public perceptions of safety and trust in volunteer-led welfare.

Social Capital: Strengthening the city's social fabric and long-term resilience by fostering a greater sense of community.

Fully funded, the project responded to recommendations to increase shifts and continue its progress collaborating with night-time economy partners. The evaluation by University of Chester has been used nationally as a key tool by ROC Angels to generate sustainable funds for other Street Angels projects. The project was also presented at the Club Health International conference in Belgium to share learning and showcase its impact.

A short introductory video was created to help capture the impact of the project during 2025. View it here.





Here are some quotes from the video that highlight the project's profound impact on local businesses, emergency services, and vulnerable individuals.

Relief for Stretched Emergency Services & Venues

> Street Angels for us are a necessity. They help us out when we have highly intoxicated people, people who are distressed that we are unable to take care of... they're a major help.
>
> *– Doorstaff*

> The police, the ambulance service, they're all very stretched... it's quite nice to be able to radio through to Street Angels, get them down and they can deal with it there and then.
>
> *– Paul White, Venue Manager for the Commercial in Chester*

> Whenever we've needed you, you've been there and it's like I say, I rave about you all the time. Youse is fantastic.
>
> *– Doorstaff*

Compassion, Dignity, and Human Connection

> It's mainly like just acknowledging us and talking to us that actually gives you a little boost... even just a little conversation would help us and honestly the work that you guys do is unbelievable.
>
> *– Rough Sleeper*

> I think it's a brilliant project and at the end of the day it's just a matter of helping each other out.
>
> *– Lady*

> Street Angels in one word is love .
>
> *– Steve*

Practical, Immediate Support on the Ground

> They're able to assist them to taxis, get them water, give them flip flops...
>
> *– Doorstaff*

> It's a great thing to have in your city.
>
> *– Paul White, Venue Manager for the Commercial in Chester*

Call for More Volunteers

> The more people that you have volunteering just means that we can have more teams about as well... it'll be a really good idea to have as many people as possible.
>
> *– Doorstaff*

You can also listen to interviews with volunteers to capture their perspectives on the project: Here and here.



Hitched Communities



The full evaluation from University of Chester can be found here.

In 2026 we plan to respond to recommendations from the recent independent evaluation, seeking sustainable funding, growing the volunteer base and exploring new ways to further embed our footprint, ideas and influence into the fabric of the night time economy to maximise the impact for vulnerable people.

#nighttimeeconomy #improvedsafety #improvedhealth #improvedwellbeing #reducedviolence #signposting #chester

13 safety bus shifts

1,019 pieces of equipment handed out

20 race day shifts

73 NTE shifts

1,827 volunteer hours

40+ onboarded volunteers

6 training gatherings

5,261 meaningful interventions

Projects / Made On My Patch

We grew the Made-On-My-Patch community gardening programme designed to address food poverty and mental health. It involves patch networks (typically 12 households) learning to grow and enjoy fruit and vegetables with the help of a professional gardening coach, resources, onboarding and communications help, and support from local garden centres and community organisations. The patch network leader receives wrap-around support to help their gardening group thrive. A new plan was introduced in 2025 to expand the service to support those in addiction recovery, the international community and foster care. Four patch networks operated, with differing levels of success and engagement. Small grants funds were secured to develop a website and resources to support growth of the programme in future years.



We captured stories from participants during one of the patch network allotment days in this video.

These quotes extracted from the video help illustrate the impact of the project's core benefits.

Reducing Isolation & Fostering Connection

> "It's basically a gardening initiative, bringing people together to work together and learn these skills. Hopefully, reduce isolation and build up friendships."
>
> *– Gary Wootton, Director of Hitched Communities*

> "We've got a WhatsApp group where the volunteers can talk and we meet up regularly as well. So, I feel like there's a good level of support. It's like a friendship group really, yeah, but it works."
>
> *– John, Volunteer Leader*

> "We've got our team here... getting our hands dirty, and digging up the soil... there's like a little movement gathering here to do the work."
>
> *– Mark, Overseer of The Meeting Place, Wirral*

Mental Well-being & Fresh Air

> [It's] a great opportunity to bring people here... Give them some breath of fresh air, different environment from what they're used to and they can put their hands to something, see something grow..."
>
> *– Mark, Overseer of The Meeting Place, Wirral*

> We're picking beds where we want to put particular plants and we're going to clear those first... Hopefully you have lots of fun."
>
> *– John & Gary*

Healthy Eating, Sustainability & Skill Sharing

> Our vision... is to grow the number of patch networks... so that as many households as possible, and the individuals can benefit from growing their own fruit and vegetables."
>
> *– Gary Wootton, Director of Hitched Communities*

> They can put their hands to something, see something grow, and take something home with them even."
>
> *– Mark, Overseer of The Meeting Place, Wirral*

> I would like um, tomato, potato, cucumber, pepper... I would [make Iranian recipes] if you want, I make and bring to you and then you like it."
>
> *– Maheen, Participant*





Personal Growth & Leadership

> I've been involved with allotments and Community Gardens in the past, but really kind of visiting... as a volunteer... I've never really took on a leadership role before, so this will be a first for me."
>
> *– John, Volunteer Leader*

Hitched Communities

In 2026 we plan to launch a new website and video explainers that will enable the service to provide flexible content and a more effective way to onboard new patch networks in the future. Once in place, and project funds secured, we will look to embark on a broader engagement and uptake campaign, with a focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged population groups.

#improvedmentalhealth #improvedwellbeing #improveddiet #improvedphysicalactivity #improvedconnection #livedexperience #neighbourhoods #wirral #cheshire

20%
of participants became more active and had improved health and wellbeing

OVER 14
different types of fruit and vegetables grown

21
volunteer households

45%
increase in confidence, connectedness or knowledge





Projects / Street Angels Birkenhead

In response to the success of Street Angels Chester, Hitched Communities was approached to consider establishing a similar project in Birkenhead. Following successful core funding applications and a co-design period, the service was launched in December 2024.

Early in 2025 the project was evaluated by the University of Chester. We grew the project to become a core and valued system project for the night time economy in Birkenhead throughout the year.



Prior to launching at the start of 2025, a co-creation session was set up with key stakeholders in Birkenhead, and included an orientation walk. Here is a a video curated from that day: Here are some of the highlights of the initiative's core benefits, collaboration, and vision during that meeting.

A Dedicated Network of Care and Safety

> "A night-time group of people who will go around and help people in trouble or in need... to support them and guide them, and lead them to different associations or organisations that can help them."
>
> *– Mark Fishleigh, The Meeting Place*

> "Helping people on the streets and seeing what they need and how we could just bless them and encourage them."
>
> *– Greg Epton, Former Street Pastor*

> "I'm very passionate about Birkenhead and Birkenhead needs more angels around."
>
> *– Amy Butterworth, Volunteer*

Unified Community and Multi-Agency Collaboration

> "It's been great. We've had the police, lots of different churches. Lots of people contributing their ideas about what Street Angels Birkenhead should look like..."
>
> *– Gary, Director*

> "We've had lots of interest from the police, from Make It Happen—which is a great community organisation—local churches, and local community groups."
>
> *– Paul Blakey, ROC Angels*

> "It's great to connect with the Street Pastors that used to do an amazing work here, pre-Covid... it's just been a great afternoon of connectings."
>
> *– Paul Blakey, ROC Angels*

Adapting to Modern Community Needs

> "With all of the change that's happening in the town, [I'm excited] to see how it is that a new project can help people in these days."
>
> *– Greg Epton, Former Street Pastor*

> "We are just taking a walk around the town just to understand the issues of the different areas... so that those who are struggling with different issues in the night time, we can now be there to support them."
>
> *– Mark Fishleigh, The Meeting Place*



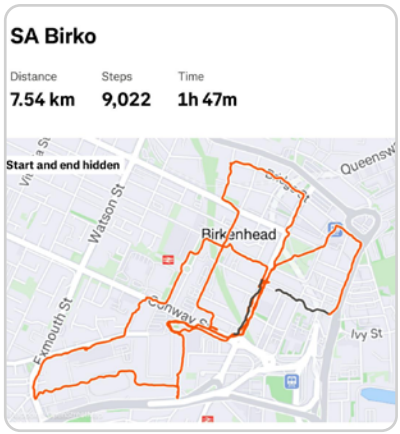
Practical, Frontline Support

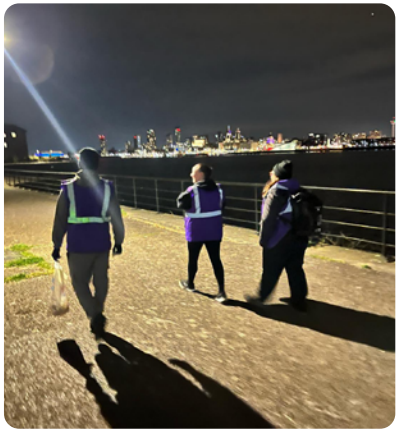
> "They're with a pack of different things on their back—water and different things to help people, to support people from the area to make the connections."
>
> *– Mark Fishleigh, The Meeting Place*

From an independent evaluation by University of Chester, spanning the period from January to April 2025, nine recommendations were identified to further tailor the Street Angels Birkenhead pilot, which were acted upon during the remainder of the year, where possible.

Hitched Communities

The evaluation highlighted the vital role Street Angels play in providing both practical and emotional front-line support. With enhanced hours and funding, the model was said to have the potential to become a long term asset to Birkenhead's community safety framework. A link to the evaluation can be found here.





3 training gatherings

20+ onboarded volunteers

29 shifts in 2025

560 volunteer hours

In 2026 we plan to respond to recommendations from the recent independent evaluation, seeking sustainable funding, growing the volunteer base and exploring new ways to further embed our footprint, ideas and influence into the fabric of the night time economy to maximise the impact for vulnerable people.

#nighttimeeconomy #improvedsafety #improvedhealth #improvedwellbeing #reducedviolence #signposting #birkenhead

Professional Services

Across the year we:

- **Secured grant funding totalling £407,116** enabling the charities we supported to continue to deliver impact for 1000+ beneficiaries every month.
- **Sustained a loneliness charity located in St Anne's in Lancashire** through implementing a grant funding plan which saw us secure over £14k towards day to day running costs. We undertook a member's survey (completed by 90 members) which amongst other outcomes revealed 85% no longer felt isolated or lonely, 93% felt happier with their life and 90% felt more cared for and valued as a person. We also produced their first Annual Impact Report to help them to demonstrate the significant impact of their work.
- **Developed and executed a grant funding plan that enabled us to secure £67,800** towards the cost of delivering a girl (9-14 year olds) focussed mentoring programme for those struggling to fit in and/or have a difficult home life. Mentoring covers 5 ways to wellbeing, action planning and reviews over 6-9 months, through a network of trained mentors. Bradford, West Yorkshire. The funding enabled the programme to continue to be delivered for a further two years.
- **Supported the creation and public launch to a wide group of stakeholders of a three-year corporate strategy** for a trust with social programmes in education, sport, health and social inclusion. Fleetwood, Lancashire.
- **Secured £314,866 to support the launch and operation of a brand-new youth hub in Darlington** in the Northeast by a prominent youth focussed charity. We also helped them secure £10,000 towards the provision of household starter packs for young people (16-25 years) who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless as they moved into the new supported accommodation scheme they opened.
- **Supported the creation of a theory of change** to support a Cheshire-based charity's ability to secure grant funding for a programme that provides families who must move into emergency accommodation with essential household items.

These are significant impacts for the charities we have supported. However, in 2026 we will be moving away from active development of professional services, and focussing activity on community projects.

The Team



Gary Wootten / Interim Project Director

Trustees agreed for Gary to fulfil a part-time interim secondment to provide operational expertise to lead the growing portfolio of projects being delivered by the charity, and associated team, ahead of securing longer term funding for a permanent charity manager. The secondment was subsidised by the Hitch Marketing Community Fund.



Andrea Powell / Administrator

Trustees supported a training programme to broaden Andrea's skills and experience to build capacity and capability in volunteer management and fundraising within the charity.

There are ambitions to grow the team in 2026 to coordinate and develop the project portfolio.

Directors

Gary Wootten – Chairperson

Libby Higgins – Secretary

Holly Dixon – Governance lead for internal and external communications

Sarah Evans – Governance lead for safeguarding

Dave Cutter – Governance lead for data compliance

Vacancy – Governance lead for funding portfolio and social impact

Trustees agreed to recruit a new trustee to take on governance of funding and impact

Treasurer's Report for the AGM of Hitched Communities Ltd

Financial Year: 1 January – 31 December 2025

1. Overview

The 2025 financial year was another active year for Hitched Communities Ltd, with continued delivery and development of projects including Street Angels Chester and Birkenhead, Made On My Patch and The Mountain Pass, alongside the charity's professional services work.

Financially, the year saw a reduction in income compared with the particularly strong position achieved in 2024, while expenditure increased as the charity invested more in staffing and support for its activities. This resulted in a planned use of some of the reserves built up in the previous year.

2. Income

Total income for the year was **£33,620**, compared with **£72,250 in 2024**. This comprised:

- **Donations and Grants: £3,970**, compared with £35,000 in 2024.
- **Charitable Activities: £29,650,** compared with £37,250 in 2024, primarily representing income from delivering professional and community programmes.

The significant reduction in overall income largely reflects the lower level of grant and donation income received during the year compared with 2024.

3. Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was **£52,017**, compared with **£41,450 in 2024**.

This comprised:

- **Direct charitable activity costs: £33,676**
- **Support costs: £18,341,** including increased staffing costs
- **Depreciation: £200**

Direct charitable delivery costs remained broadly consistent with the previous year, while support costs increased as the organisation invested more substantially in staffing and the infrastructure required to deliver and develop its activities.

Total staff costs increased from **£4,004 in 2024 to £14,264 in 2025.**

4. Deficit and Reserves

The charity recorded a **net deficit of £18,397** for the year, compared with a surplus of £30,800 in 2024.

As a result, total funds carried forward reduced from **£36,856 to £18,459.**

At 31 December 2025:

- **Unrestricted funds: £18,459**
- **Restricted funds: £Nil**

The £5,000 restricted fund brought forward for Street Angels Birkenhead was fully utilised during 2025.

Although reserves have reduced during the year, they remain above the charity's policy of retaining at least three months of operational costs. Maintaining and rebuilding unrestricted reserves will remain an important consideration as future programmes and funding commitments are agreed.

5. Financial Position

As of 31 December 2025:

- **Cash at bank: £17,410**
- **Debtors: £780**
- **Liabilities due within one year: £130**
- **Fixed assets: £399**
- **Net assets: £18,459**

The charity therefore remained solvent at the year end, with very low external liabilities and sufficient liquid resources to meet its current obligations.

6. Related Party Transactions

During the year, **£8,000** was paid in respect of Gary Wootten's contracted/secondment work. This is disclosed within the accounts as a related party transaction.

All related party transactions are disclosed within the financial statements and are subject to the charity's normal governance procedures.

7. Looking Ahead

The financial priority for 2026 will be to ensure that the charity continues to balance the delivery and expansion of its programmes with the need to maintain an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves.

Particular focus will be placed on:

- Securing sustainable and, where possible, multi-year funding.
- Continuing to develop income from professional and charitable activities.
- Monitoring staffing and support costs as the organisation grows.
- Rebuilding unrestricted reserves following their planned use during 2025.
- Ensuring sufficient core funding is available alongside funding for individual projects.

Conclusion

The 2025 accounts reflect a year in which Hitched Communities continued to deliver and develop a wide range of charitable activities while making use of some of the strong reserves accumulated in 2024.

Although the year resulted in a deficit of £18,397, the charity ended the year with £18,459 of unrestricted funds, £17,410 in cash and only £130 of current liabilities.

The organisation therefore remains in a sound financial position, but continued attention to sustainable income generation and the rebuilding of reserves will be important as Hitched Communities continues to develop its activities.

Hitched Communities

Final reflections and thank you

We want to thank all our supporters and volunteers for passionately shaping and backing our plans over this past year. We have got to know so many people and it truly is a privilege to be working in the community and practically helping and seeing the difference our work is doing to see people grow and develop and move forwards in fulfilling their purpose and potential.

Hitched Communities

Company Registration Number - 08164822
The Charity Registration Number is - 1201541