GROW LEWISHAM TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2025

1ST January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Charity name: Grow Lewisham

Charity Registration Number: 1206030

1. Objectives and Activities

1.1 Summary of the purposes of the charity

- *To work towards all Lewisham residents and surrounding areas having access to regenerative urban growing spaces within their local areas.*
- *To support the local and wider community by providing the skills and resources they need to support themselves and those in need to grow and share their knowledge of growing practices.*
- *To provide fresh organic sustainable food to those most in need and who suffer from food poverty through linking up with community food providers e.g. food banks/ community kitchens.*
- *To develop and increase regenerative urban growing to mitigate the effects of climate change through local production, reduced food miles, soil regeneration and increased biodiversity.*
- *To work with partners to build a network that connects with existing food and growing groups to make a sustainable borough wide food system.*
- *To promote community cohesion and mutual aid within the borough of Lewisham.*

1.2 Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

The main activities of Grow Lewisham during 2025 have been:

- Maintaining The Plot Community Garden
- Supporting the Herbal Plot and other community growing spaces
- Supporting and taking an active role in the Lewisham Food Growing Network
- Recruiting and supporting volunteers
- Campaigning for the ‘Right to Grow’ and to stop the use of herbicides / pesticides in Lewisham

- Fundraising
- Working with local partners and communities to promote local food growing
- Running free workshops and events thereby increasing skills and supporting further activities
- Becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission and setting up required systems and policies, including improving our financial systems.
- Creating a new community orchard space
- Producing and delivering fresh produce to Lewisham Foodbanks

1.3 Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

The Trustees have regarded the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

1.4 Additional information

Contribution made by volunteers:

Volunteers are involved across all of Grow Lewisham's activities from the individual growing sites to the Steering Group. Whilst we have kept records of numbers of volunteers attending sessions and activities we only started recording the numbers of hours monthly / annually that are contributed at the beginning of 2026 and only for volunteers at the Garden and Orchard.

2. Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

During 2025 Grow Lewisham achieved the following:

- **The Plot**

Holding workshops, regular gardening sessions and social events. We started the development of the outdoor kitchen, incorporating carpentry workshops and design sessions with volunteers. Plans were made to add solar panels to enable us to charge tools and power the outdoor kitchen. Local residents and The Queens group have their own personal growing spaces. We are increasing biodiversity as a partner of the London Blue Chain Project run by Froglife. Froglife ran a workshop to support the renovation and maintenance of the pond.

- **The Orchard**

The Orchard has been developed, with accessible hoggin pathways, flood management and a total of xx fruit trees planted and maintained by volunteers as well as fruit bushes and other planting. Links were made with Community Payback, and weekly sessions agreed, which are run by the Grow Lewisham Lead Gardener.

- **The Herbal Plot**

The Herbal Plot involved residents and volunteers and has links with the sensory garden at Lewisham Hospital. It has extended further to incorporate an orchard area and more growing spaces around the carpark. Julian received a grant to develop a kitchen and other areas around the estate. It is widely used by the residents of Lewisham Park estate.

- **Bridgehouse Gardens**

Bridgehouse Gardens became independent of Grow Lewisham and are continuing to grow, develop their programme of activities and thrive.

- **Staffing and Volunteers**

We continued to employ a part time Lead Gardeners and a Project Manager with funding from the National Lottery - this extends until the end of 2025. We applied for further funding from GLA and Lewisham council which will extend the lead gardener role into 2027. The NL funding. Enabled GL to arrange and pay local practitioners to run free workshops over the sites. Workshops were attended by between 13 and 40 people per session.
We gained new steering group members, and a new chair at last year's AGM, enabling us to develop a more joined up communications strategy and new ideas going forward.

- **Working with local people, groups, communities and organisations**

We continue to have links with the local community at the Plot, including The Queens Walking Group, local residents and the Oldstead Road Allotment Group,. We are working with Lewisham Local on the Food Growing Network, linking different growing groups and organisations in the borough. We made new links with Community Payback, a scheme supporting offenders to contribute to community based initiatives and gain new skills.

Building a borough wide food growing network
We continue to work with Lewisham Local to build a borough wide food growing network, connecting different growing groups together to share events, workshops, resources and best practice. We help support the quarterly network meetings that take place at different locations across the borough.

- **Initiating and supporting campaigns**

We have been involved in initiating and supporting the Right to Grow in Lewisham - co-ordinating and sharing ideas with other London Boroughs and Capital Growth as well as working with LL. the food network and Lewisham councillors to increase accessibility to Food Growing in the borough.
We are still pushing to ban the use of glyphosates by LBL.

- **Fundraising**

We successfully secured National Lottery funding to recruit paid workers - a Project Manager and 2 Lead Gardeners.

The activities of Grow Lewisham have benefited Lewisham residents in the following ways:

- Offering free accessible food and growing related activities, workshops and events

- Providing free healthy organic food to volunteers and visitors
- Increasing and sharing skills related to food
- Activating and improving public green spaces
- Working in partnership with other groups and organisations in order to maximise reach and benefit
- Providing volunteering opportunities
- Providing fresh produce to the most needy Lewisham residents.
- Providing paid work opportunities
- Providing activities and spaces that are welcoming and bring people together
- Bringing resources into the Borough through fundraising
- Campaigning for more people to have access to growing spaces and resources.

3. Financial Review

See separate report – to be added here for submission to the Charity Commission



Annual Financial Statements

31 December 2025

Charity number 1206030

Grow Lewisham

Legal Information

Year Ended 31 December 2025

LEGAL INFORMATION

Chairs
Kathryn Shipp
Dr Rosamin Najmudin

The Trustees

Kathryn Shipp – Chair/ Treasurer
Joan Bailey– Steering Group Member
Julian Lahai-Taylor – Steering Group Member
Imogen Slater – Secretary/ Steering Group Member

Anne Bliss - Steering Group Member
Nadine Broadbar - Steering Group Member

Registered Charity Number: 1206030
Constitution dated: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered 04 December 2023
Registered Address: 1 Southview Road, Bromley, BR1 5RD
Registered Telephone Number: 07895713582

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS
Bankers: Metrobank plc, 1 Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA

1 Accounting policies
1.1 Basis of accounting
Grow Lewisham's accounts are made up on a receipts and payments basis. The accounts show cash received minus cash paid for the year.

This is an option for charities registered in England and Wales that are not companies

with gross income under £250,000. See section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act').

Note that an audit or independent examination is only required if the charity's gross income is over £25,000. This was not the case in 2025.

1.2 Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
Restricted funds comprise funds which are subject to specific restrictions imposed by the donor, and which are available for the better performance of the charity in accordance with those specific restrictions.

1.3 Insurance
Grow Lewisham holds employees' liability as well as public and product liability insurance policies specifically for charities with McClarrons Ltd.

1.3 Rental expenses
Grow Lewisham's main site is The Plot at Oldstead Road. It is owned by London Borough of Lewisham who give Grow Lewisham use of the land for free.
Grow Lewisham also supports two independent growing projects at Bridgehouse and at Lewisham Park. No rental expenditure was incurred in 2024 for the use of either of these sites.

1.4 Steering Group Members' remuneration and expenses
The Steering Group is the charity's board of trustees. No member of the Steering Group was remunerated for services as a Trustee (2024: nil).
Steering Group members only receive reimbursement for charity expenditure in accordance with the charity's constitution.

2. Report format
The following report uses the Charity Commission's suggested template for charities using the receipts and payments basis. It encompasses both the Receipts and Payments Account (income statement) and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Trustees' Annual Report is presented separately.

	Charity Name: CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES		No (if any) 1206030	
	Receipts and payments accounts			
	For the period from	Period start date 1/1/2025	**To**	Period end date 31/12/2025

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Seccion A Receipts and Payments

Table2

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	# Total Funds	# Last Year (2024)
A1 Receipts	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Groundwork London		5483		5483	5000
Donations	240			240	300
Lottery-Awards for all				0	19640
Rushey Green Time		3000		3000	
Transition Network				0	4992
LB Lewisham				0	
Cooperative Bank				0	-
Merchant Taylors Foundation				0	1770
Kathleen Faragher				0	20
Jt Teggin				0	20
So Jung Rim	300			300	
Kate Shipp	106			106	
SubTotal(Gross income for A1 Receipts)	646	8483		9129	31742
A2 Asset and Investment Sales none in either year					
	B25				
Sub Total					
Total Receipts	646	8483		**£9,128.88**	**£31,742.00**
A3 Payments					
Project management (Bridgehouse Gardens and Growing Network)					600
Project management					1,706
workshopBHG		1608		1608	
Building materials					9
Coordinator role					300
Events		230		230	296
Workshop delivery					2,273
Lead grower					1,275
Compost					343
Administrative		7476		7476	1,286
Seeds and plants					82
Insurance					359
orchard		1530		1530	
Rent					
Fixed assets					
The Plot		8029		8029	
Tools					35
Garden sessions					300
Materials					401
Materials/refreshments					1,012

Refreshments					47
Workshop					1,323
Workshop materials					8
Workshop BHG					525
Workshops					552
defaulted	72		72		16
HALSETAD LND GBR		78	78		
LONDON LND GBR	42		42		
N/A	1970		1970		
Sub Total	2084	18951	**21035**		**12,748**

A4 Asset and Investment	**Purchases**				
Sub Total					
Total Payments	2084	18951	21035		12,748
Net of Receipts(paymen	-1438	-10468	-£11,906.37		£18,994.00
A5 Transfers Between Funds					
A6 Cash funds last year e	7804	16189	23993		4999
Cash funds this year end	6366	5721	£12,087		£23,993

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Grow Lewisham bank account	6,366	5,721	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,366	5,721	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None.	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	None.		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Fund to which

	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use					-
					-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-

	Details		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	None.			-	
				-	
				-	
				-	
				-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature		Print Name		Date of approval

1)Income and Expenditure 2025

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
Income	646		8483	9129
Expenditure	2084		18951	21035
Net of receipts	-1438		-10468	-11906

Both fund categories ran a deficit in 2025, the patterns differ sharply: Unrestricted income was modest(£646) against unrestricted spending of £2084 a manageable -£1438 shorfall.
Restricted funds, by contrast, we can see in table above £8483 of income against £18951 of expenditure gives a net of receipts of -£10468 deficit that accounts for 88% of the years total decline.
accounts for 88% of the year's total decline.

2)In Gross Income and Gross Expenditure (year 2024 vs year 2025)

	2024		2025	Change
Gross Income	£31,742		£9,129	-£22613(-71%)
Expenditure	£12,748		£21,035	£8287(+65%)
Net surplus/deficit	£18,994		-£11,906	-£30,900

2024 was a stronger year than 2025: Income was substantially higher and expenditure was almost 40% lower. The combination of falling income and rising costs in 2025 produced a swing of nearly £31000 betweenthe two years from a healthy surplus to asignificant deficit.

3) In section A6: year 2024 and year 2025 Cash funds moved as follows:

Opening balance in 2024 = £4999
In year 2024 the Net surplus=£18994; closing balance of 2024/Opening balance of 2025=£23993
2025 Net deficit=£11906; closing balance 2025 = £12087

4) Key Observations:

-Cash reserves dropped by nearly 50% during the year. This means that GL used a large portion of its reserves to continue operating.
-Income collapse is the primary driver. Gross income fell 71% year on year, while expenditure actually rose 65% a double squeeze that turned an £18994 surplus into a £11906 deficit.
-Restricted funds are under the most pressure. They account for 88% of the total deficit and have fallen from £16189 to £5721, worth monitoring closely, as restricted spending is tied to specific donor or funder conditions and cannot be offset by unrestricted reserves.

1) Project management expenditure was explicitly applied for and is fully funded by restricted funds. It relates to employment of a Project Manager and 2 Lead growers (part time) from the National Lottery People and Planet fund which was granted in

2024 and covers an 18 month period (ending Dec 2025)

2) The lead growers were on site on Sundays throughout the spring and summer, lending expertise to ensure a successful growing season in hot weather.

3) Funds from Rushey Green Timebank are for the Lewisham Park Herbal Plot specifically for a solar and kitchen build.

4) Payments were made to Bridgehouse Gardens to complete their independent state. These were funds previously paid to GL for projects at this site.