REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 510412

SYSTON AND DISTRICT

VOLUNTEER CENTRE

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2026

THE ROWLEYS PARTNERSHIP LIMITED
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
CHARNWOOD HOUSE
HARCOURT WAY
MERIDIAN BUSINESS PARK
LE19 1WP

SYSTON AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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SYSTON AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name	Syston and District Volunteer Centre
Trustees	Mr P Lomas (CHAIRMAN) Mrs C E Ringrose (TREASURER) Mrs F Henry Mr P Castille Mr J Shelton Mr Mark Andrew Smith Mrs S Bharkhada - Appointed 16 September 2025
Charity Number	510412
Principal Address	18 School Street Syston Leicester LE7 1HN
Independent Examiner	The Rowleys Partnership Limited Chartered Accountants Charnwood House Harcourt Way Meridian Business Park Leicester LE19 1WP
Bankers	HSBC 2-6 Gallowtree Gate Leicester LE1 1DA

SYSTON AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026
TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 22 May 1980 and amended on 6 November 2000.

The Trustees are appointed or re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting and meet monthly for business.

New Trustees are advised of their obligations under charity law, the content of the Declaration of Trust as well as the structure and decision-making process of the Committee.

The Trustees of the charity delegate the day to day running of the organisation to the charity's staff.

Governance and support costs are shown in the notes to the accounts.

The types of funds are disclosed on the face of the balance sheet.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to those risks.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are to develop and provide a programme of voluntary services relevant to the interests and needs of its membership and the local community.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Achievements and Performance

The level of performance against objectives reflects the commitment of volunteers who give their time and energy freely. The leadership and management of this activity is the primary responsibility of the Trustees and paid staff.

SYSTON AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026
TRUSTEES' REPORT CONTINUED

The Centre maintains its core priority to provide transport services to the Community assisting the elderly, disabled and rurally isolated residents to sustain and develop an independent life.

This service is provided by the combination of our own vehicles and those of our volunteer drivers

As a volunteer-led organisation we are extremely grateful to our volunteer drivers but as ever need more like-minded people to offer some of their time for the benefit of others

During the last 12 months, we have seen a continued increase in demand for the services we provide. The charity supported about 59,000 miles during the year, of which over 36,000 were using volunteer vehicles. We benefitted having help of 37 volunteers having a core team of 22 drivers.

We continued to receive financial support from Leicestershire County Council. Unfortunately, with rising costs this no longer covers the cost of providing the valuable service to our community and ultimately impacts on our reserves

We were extremely fortunate to receive a very generous legacy together with a number of donations from members and families of deceased members.

The Trustees wish to express their sincere thanks for the legacy and valuable donations which, added to our income, helped us to continue to provide the much-needed support and service to our growing membership within Syston and the surrounding area.

The Board of Trustees would like to express our sincere thanks to member Josie Pick for her continued sterling efforts in raising much needed funds at the monthly Community Lunch raffle.

Our office staff Manager Andy Shelton and Transport Co-ordinator Mick Court continue to provide an excellent service to our members with the additional support of drivers Andy Hathaway and Kevin Boulter and Volunteer Carolyn Stokes for organising our minibus trips.

Our strength is in maintaining our core values whilst looking at other related opportunities which can benefit the community we operate in

The Board are responsible for ensuring that all the activities of the Centre are continued out in a professional manner in line with Health & Safety and Charity Commission guidelines. Eash of our Trustees continue to play a vital role now and even more so when the future is uncertain

Financial review

The state of the Charity's finances is shown in the attached Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, and notes to the accounts.

The total incoming resources for the year were £173,085 (2025 - £132,237), and after deducting resources expended of £152,800 (2025 - £156,436), the net surplus was £20,285 (2025 deficit - £24,199).

The net funds of the Charity on 31 March 2026 amounted to £ 293,200 (2025 - £272,915) of which £60,900 (2025 - £65,503) was restricted.

The Centre continues to operate in a period of financial uncertainty in relation to core funding from statutory bodies. In view of this the Trustees considered it prudent to retain a designated financial reserve of £112,708 to cover contingencies.

Reserves policy

The Charity's reserves policy is to maintain a level of reserves to ensure that in the event of a reduction in its key funding, the Charity could continue to deliver its services for a period of time whilst considering its position and exploring other funding opportunities. The Trustees feel that the Charity's current level of general and designated reserves is satisfactory in that respect.

Future plans

The Trustees will:

- Continue to maintain and develop our core activities of providing community transport, demand for which has increased due to the withdrawal of public transport in many areas, thereby leading to increased numbers of rurally isolated residents.
- Develop a fundraising strategy to encourage business to consider supporting our activities as part of their Corporate Responsibility programme.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 3 September 2026. .

Mr P Lomas – Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYSTON AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 7 to 16.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 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.

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.

Lisa G Parkes FCA FCCA

The Rowleys Partnership Limited
Chartered Accountants
Charnwood House
Harcourt Way
Meridian Business Park
Leicester
LE19 1WP

Date: 3 September 2026