

Annual Report and Accounts 2023 – 2024

Charity Number: 1133707

Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered in England Number: 06934618

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Introduction from the Chair of Trustees

North Devon Voluntary Services Ltd is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, providing a Council of Voluntary Service (CVS) for the district of North Devon.

During the 2023/24 financial year, NDVS continued to build on our relationships with other Devon-based organisations. As one of the partners that make up Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA), we managed workstreams with an aim of bolstering the resilience and sustainability of the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) community through various campaigns and projects, as mentioned in the Chief Officer's report below. In particular, we took advantage of several opportunities to work more closely with our neighbour organisation Torridge CVS (TTVS) to attract funding to jointly support multiple projects in Northern Devon.

We have maintained our hosting arrangements developed in the last three years, demonstrating the strength of our organisation to both act as an employer for local organisations and projects, and to create additional bridges to the voluntary and community sector. NDVS continues to provide employment support services for VCSE organisations which are delivering key projects and services within the community.

We lost a couple of trustees during the year due to personal commitments and retirement. Our Chief Officer held events encouraging new trustees, which has boosted our numbers again with some new talent, all of whom are experienced in Third Sector activities. We look forward to making use of their varied skillsets.

Our Honorary Treasurer has worked closely during the year with our Finance Officer and our Bookkeeper to ensure that we remain fiscally responsible and transparent. Our Reserves Policy for contingencies was revised to be able to cover 12 months of operation, as recommended by the Charity Commission, and to provide a savings buffer against unexpected costs such as IT equipment repair and replacement.

The 2023/24 financial year was the first complete year that our new multi-talented and energetic Chief Officer was able to lead our core and project staff to even greater levels of achievement and productivity. We suddenly lost our office administrator during the year, but the Chief Officer managed to cover the tasks by extra employment and increased responsibilities for our core staff, which has worked well. The current team works harmoniously together, supporting each other as necessary. The trustees would like to thank our Chief Officer for the professional and expert way she has provided an environment for the staff to be a coordinated team.

The UK financial crisis during the year has made successfully resourcing funding streams more difficult, which requires more time and professional effort. NDVS continues to support local organisations to remain resilient, but times are difficult for many of them.

NDVS is confident that we can continue to provide CVS support to VCSE organisations within North Devon for some time yet. We look forward with optimism to working ever more closely with local authorities, our partner organisations and the health services, where we think we are ideally placed to provide valuable and essential support in our area.

In summary, I believe that NDVS remains strong, resilient, and viable for 2024/25.

Jon Wilkes



Introduction from the Chief Officer

I am very pleased and honoured to be writing, this report in relation to my first full year as Chief Officer. And it's been guite a year!

We have seen several changes internally and externally, and we said goodbye to some cherished and dedicated staff and trustees.

Funding landscape remains tough, but we are in financial good health and would like to thank our Finance Team, Anna and Pepi, for their continued hard work and meticulous attention to detail.

Part of our strategy and all-important income stream is to host projects. You will note that we are continuing to support an array of fledging VCSE organisations as well as statutory bodies, through this complex yet rewarding work.

Being selected by Dartington Design Lab, as a partner, for their Kailo Project, allowed us to employ Jill Bond who acted as a conduit for this work. This initiative is focussed on youth mental health, and their deeper discovery and co-design stage. Despite this funding coming to an end, we are delighted to report that through Jill's dedicated work on our Annual Community Awards we have secured additional funding and now Jill is our Events and Communications Officer.

Thanks to National Lottery Awards 4 All funding, we have been able to continue with a series of revitalising volunteering campaigns. Nationally there has been a shortage of individuals coming forward to volunteer, compounded by the cost-of-living crisis and people wanting to give their times in different formats. We have used these events to connect our VCSE organisations with others, as well as educated them on how to market their requirements. We have invited members of the public to meet such groups as well as to inform them on the benefits of volunteering.

To support these events and this work, in general, we have been able to employ Sammy Antell as our Volunteer Connector. This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and in partnership with North Devon Council.

As well as hosting several relevant events, we have also ensured that the team are represented at the events of others. You may have seen many of us showcasing our new NDVS fleeces. Some notable events include Barnstaple's Fair Proclamation, North Devon Homes Summer Fayre as well as various networking events.

From an advocacy and strategic partnership perspective, we have continued to be the voice and ears of the sector and bang the drum for the amazing work that is implemented by the Third sector, as well as expose the challenges.

Our Third Sector Leadership hub continues to go from strength to strength. The Woodyard Community Hub Project, emerging from Naomi Jefferies utilising it as a soundboard, as well as bring about a series of Supervision Skills training.

Louise Flagg, our Partnership's Officer continues to fly the flag with group development, volunteer management, and co-ordinating our subsidised training offer. Louise may have shortened her titled but has widened her reach and impact. She is also such a strong ambassador for our online platform Devon Connect. Our partnership offer is expanding every week, and we are looking forward to working on our membership offer, during the next financial year.

We also held a successful Strategy Day back in February, ensuring we are aligned to our Core vision and our aims and objectives are still fit for purpose. Always good to make time to get together and reflect. We will be producing a Theory of Change and streamlined workplan, thanks to this work. The year started with Simone Thompson then CEO of our sister CVS, Taw, and Torridge Voluntary services, and I submitting a stage one proposal to the National Lottery for a partnership's reaching community fund.

We did this as funding was running out for the One Communities Community Development, and we truly believe in the importance of this work.

Building a strong and vibrant VCSE sector in North Devon and Torridge

"The overall aim of this bid is to build a strong, vibrant, and connected VCSE sector, using a community development alliance model, to bring about social change and improve the quality of life across North Devon and Torridge.

A model that is sustainable through greater integration with all sectors. Enabling social mobilisation amongst all parts of our communities (including those hidden/quiet voices), resulting in proud, thriving, healthy, self-reliant, solution focused, cohesive and collaborative resourceful northern Devon communities for generations to come.

Building and enhancing the work of the One Northern Devon 'One Communities' community partnership model. Providing a national framework of community development best practice."

We want to prove how important community development is and the difference it can make and that there is long term future investment, so it is business as usual. We are both very grateful to our range of strategic partners, and Board, for their support. Blood, sweat, tears (and lots of chocolate) but I am happy to say that the end of the financial year saw a successful outcome.

My highlight of the year has to be our annual community awards back in November. It's still gives me such a buzz remembering it. We witnessed Barnstaple Hotel packed with nearly 200 people who give so much, are selfless and make such a difference. The room was engulfed with a tangible feel good factor that has left a long-lasting afterglow #WeGetBackMoreThanWeGive.

And that is why our mission and passion is stronger than ever, to continue to support those that do good to flourish through 2024. Shouting from the rooftops about the work and impact our VCSE organisations provide. Enhancing our revitalising volunteering campaigns, offering much needed training, development and support alongside celebrating all things community and the much-needed positive impact that is being made day by day.

And that is why I love my job so much and despite having its challenges, it is so rewarding. In a World so often swallowed up by so much doom and gloom I get to witness all the good in our communities, people passionate

about making a difference, and listening attentively to what the community wants and needs, and then mobilising social action to make it happen, and become a reality. I would like to finish my report by thanking my Board for their continued support and belief. NDVS would be nothing without my hardworking, passionate, and dedicated team. I would like to extend my gratitude to all our funders for understanding the importance of investing in our infrastructure organisations, alongside an array of support from our strategic, partnerships, all allowing us to continue to help enable those that do good to flourish! Resulting in positive social impact spreading throughout our communities.

But finally, my sincere appreciation to all of you that form part of a VCSE organisation, for all your strength, resilience and dedication to happy, healthy, resilient and thriving communities.



Marie Gould

Our Structure



Diagram NDVS Team (Core and hosted projects) end of March 2023

In terms of our leadership structure, we have a board of Trustees that are embedded in the local community. There is a broad range of skills that the trustees bring to the charity, ranging from third sector, health/social care and HR. They will have overall legal responsibility for project delivery and financial management.

Our CEO reports into the Board and Marie Gould has come to the charity with background of 30 years in education (further education – business and management) and is Senior Leader's MBA Exeter University educated.

The core team is headed up by Marie and comprises:

- · Partnerships Officer working across the community and support group and partnership working.
- Events and Comms Officer working on organising a range of community events as well as our communications strategy.
- Admin and HR Officer this will be a new post that we are currently recruiting support the HR function and wider team with admin tasks. (funding dependent)
- Finance Officer coming with a background in projects and education and qualified in both finance and business admin/management.
- Book-keeper finance qualifications to level 4

As a strong and prominent CVS, we host projects to support with HR, finance and line management. This also allows us to gain vital community feedback from the people working directly with the community.

- Volunteer Connector
- Project Events and PR Officer
- Project Co-ordinator National Lottery Heritage funded project.
- Community Developer National Lottery Reaching Communities funded project.
- Marketing and Volunteer Co-ordinator as above
- 3 x Social Prescribers Local PCN funded

North Devon Voluntary Services Limited Aims and Objectives

North Devon Voluntary Services (NDVS) is an independent charity based in Barnstaple, providing support and specialist advice to voluntary organisations and social enterprises in our local area. Our mission is to strengthen and champion the work of local organisations by representing, developing supporting and celebrating voluntary and community action. Ultimately, we help those who do good, to flourish!

As the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) we are a small local charity that operates within North Devon. CVS' are "the place at which local voluntary and community organisations speak to each other". We are the local voice of the Third Sector; we are also the ears so that we can make sure that the strategic players know what gaps there are in the community and who is best placed to fulfil this need.

We offer a wide variety of services and support for local organisations; for example, training; funding advice; group development; support and so much more. Our vision is to be the beacon of light for the voluntary and community sector in North Devon; advising; listening; signposting, celebrating, and connecting.

We also host several projects, supporting fledgling organisations with a variety of functions such as HR and Finance. Part of this strategic aim is to build closer links with the Primary Care Network (PCN) Wellbeing teams so we can understand the themes of referrals being handled by their social prescribers. In turn we can support filling any gaps in services and needs, through VCSE organisations or other suitable partners.

We work very closely with One Northern Devon (OND) - a partnership of organisations that recognise that unfair and avoidable differences in social, economic and environmental conditions affect the opportunities people have, to lead healthy and happy lives. In recent years, we have employed or hosted Community Developers supporting Community Development across North Devon.

Holding these four functions, as guiding principles, as members of National Association of Voluntary and Community Action



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North Devon Voluntary Services Limited Our Impact

Over the last year we have been working with the Voluntary and Community sector as follows:



Training and workshops

Our subsidised training programme has gone from strength to strength. Through a variety of channels, including Volunteer Management Forum and our Leadership Hub, we listen to the sector and then try and respond with as many relevant training packages as we can.



Throughout the year, further, to securing funding, we have been able to facilitate and organise several events.

We also support a range of strategic partners with their events, in a few ways.

Through evaluation we know that this work helps us to learn, network, connect and really showcase the awesome work that is happening within our communities, as well as the many challenges.



North Devon Voluntary Services Limited VCSE representation

Strategic Development and Voluntary Sector Representation



This is a key part of our work; particularly as statutory service providers look to form partnerships with the sector.

Our work has included attending strategic meetings, networks and forming relevant partnerships.

Always advocating for the sector and making its voice heard, loud and clear.

VCSE Community Stakeholders

We also ensure strong voluntary sector representation across the community



Forums

NDVS continues to support existing local forums, as well as facilitating and supporting formation of new ones.



Devon Connect and Communication

Devon Connect continues to go from strength to strength and is gaining traction with organisations as well as the general public. The revitalising events are raising the profile and encouraging more organisations to place their listings and make use of the additional features the platform offers such as teams meeting, document sharing, conversations and linking postings to specific areas as well as campaigns promoting areas such as Youth Matters and Trustees

The employment of a Volunteer Connector has really helped expand this work in a positive manner, building on the foundations of our Community and Partnerships Officer.



Hosted Projects and Services

NDVS acts as a host for individual strategic projects delivering in the North Devon and northern Devon areas. It is vital that NDVS provides this service as it enables projects/initiatives to be delivered locally and benefit from our networks and sector intelligence. These hosted projects are listed below:

Devon Access to Services (DAS)

DAS, now in its 17th year, is a project hosted by NDVS and funded by Devon County Council (DCC). Our focus is supporting the 61 members of Devon Community Car Forum (DCCF) and providing information and support to people who need help accessing the services they need.

DAS distributed the annual DCC grant £41,286 to the 51 Full Members of the Devon Community Car Forum via the new fund holder. This grant is made in return for data relating to volunteer car journeys across the Devon County Council area.

Working in partnership with DCC, Devon wide NHS Trusts, and the Car Forums we distributed 1954 Volunteer Driver Hospital Parking Permits to the 57 participating car schemes. The NHS Trusts in Devon now all use Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems.

There is a growing realisation that as large organisations turn to digital solutions to improve productivity, workload is transferred to organisations helping people who do not or cannot use digital technology. This is a relatively small number of people but represents many of the users of car schemes and other voluntary organisations. We have noticed for example the increased workload managing the parking permit system.

DAS continued its regular activities hosting Car Forum meetings and providing professional advice and support. We collected statistics, case studies and shared best practice to all the car schemes. We are grateful to Harley the T level student from Petroc for checking and updating entries in our devonservices.org.uk. DAS would like to thank Devon County Council and NDVS for their continued support of the project.

Community Car Scheme Activity	2020-21 Covid	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (provisional)
Number of Volunteer drivers (estimated 1900 pre covid)	580	1100	1206	1228
Journeys to and from primary care	17,205	31,685	39,744	39,684
Journeys to and from secondary care	21,029	38,726	48,575	48,503
Journeys to social and welfare activities	3,916	18,118	27,202	33,444
Total number of journeys	42,150	88,529	115,521	121,631
Journeys for passengers in wheelchairs	1,633	1,873	2,766	2,353
Miles travelled	570,000	972,703	1,382,925	1,234,971
Volunteer hours	77,261	103,813	133,935	129,238
Notional value of vol hours min wage	£673,716	£924,974	£1,395,603	£1,478,482
Drivers' expenses paid	£206,172	£377,813	£480,971	£497,822
Operational costs of schemes	£390,628	£509,920	£704,806	£913,565
Received from passengers	£262,728	£517,861	£693,403	£775,952
All other fundraising (inc grants)	£138,144	£552,195	361,529	£353,453
Total cost of providing services	£596,800	£887,733	£1,185,777	£1,411,387
Funding -deficit/+surplus	£195,928	+£182,323*	-£130,845	£281,982

*2021-22 Two schemes received large bequests which has inflated the deficit/surplus figure. Many schemes are still struggling to meet their costs.

To find out more about car schemes in your area, please call us on 07840 452147 or search <u>www.devonservices.org.uk</u>

Connected Communities Programme

Connected Communities is a project which has been developed within the framework of Devon County Council's Prevention Strategy. The aim is to support vulnerable adults in their community and promote independence through enabling access to voluntary and community activities.

For those adults who are isolated or vulnerable the programme offers support that is individual to their needs from either the voluntary sector or the community. We focus on the individual and work with them to identify opportunities, including signposting that will reduce isolation and meet social needs.

This role remains a vital link between vulnerable clients and the VCSE sector and statutory services and proved its worth during the challenges of Covid-19 and the associated restrictions. Clients were able to receive the support they needed to remain independent in their own homes but at the same time safe and connected.

The Community Connector takes referrals from the Social Care Assessors, the Sensory Team, Occupational Therapists, the Community Enabling Team, Pathfinder and Rapid Response Team. The worker will provide support either face to face, by telephone or via email. The holistic and solutions-based nature of this role has resulted in several significant outcomes. For example, increased access to grants and funding, improved relationships and confidence in services, home improvements, and improved access to services.

This project ceased in August 2023

Health and Social Care Teams

The Devon County Council Health and Social Care Team contract, managed by Westbank and sub-contracted to DEVA, requires NDVS to provide development support to address the issues and gaps identified by the Voluntary Sector Representatives. The Voluntary Sector Reps attend the meetings of the community health and social care teams and identify ways in which voluntary sector organisations can assist clients. Our development work aims to enhance the wellbeing of people who are often dealing with multiple health problems and other difficulties.

Live Well in Braunton

Further to successful National Lottery Funding bid, NDVS now employs and hosts the Community Connector, Marketing, Admin and Volunteer Co-ordinator role as well as 2 Social Prescribers for Live Well in Braunton (LWiB). NDVS is an active member of the Braunton Forum and provides advice information and guidance to the community. Social Prescribers works with the local GP surgery to support individuals overcome barriers and issues affecting their wellbeing. During the last year the Community Connector has played a central role in coordinating voluntary action to support those isolated within the community and ensuring that the project is meeting the outcomes set out for the National Lottery, supported by the Marketing, Admin and Volunteer Coordinator and with full support of the LWiB committee.

One Northern Devon (OND)

NDVS works closely with OND and employs and manages the Community Developer for Barnstaple. OND also supports one of Barnstaple Alliance PCN's Community Connectors with small but impactful number of community development hours. The aim is to form a strong partnership between service providers and the voluntary and community sector focusing on key health and wellbeing issues affecting the local community. Funding for this role is provided on an annual basis.

This ceased in August 2023

Barnstaple Alliance Primary Care Network

NDVS continues to work in partnership with the Barnstaple Alliance Primary Care network to support the NHS wellbeing agenda. NDVS employs 2 Community Connectors on behalf of the network with the aim of linking the local voluntary and community activities to the needs of patients. In addition, these workers identify gaps in service provision and with NDVS's support develop new voluntary and community services.

North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB)

The North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers 171 square kilometres (66 square miles) of mainly coastal landscape including special places such as Combe Martin, Lee Bay, Woolacombe, Croyde, Saunton, Northam Burrows Country Park, Westward Ho!'s Pebble Ridge, the Hartland Peninsula and Braunton Burrows, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

Finding Nature's Footprints is a three-year National Lottery Heritage Funded project which aims to learn more about the nature in our villages, gardens, fields and shores through surveys, monitoring and mapping of wildlife including plants, mammals, insects and birds. This was its first year.

This information will be used to support action by communities, volunteers, landowners and local agencies to develop community-led nature recovery plans and take action for nature improvement.

North Devon Coast AONB have teamed up with partners across North Devon to provide opportunities for new audiences in the area to connect with nature and benefit from the nationally designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty As part of this project NDVS host the Project Co-ordinator.



















Governing Document

NDVS Ltd is a company limited by guarantee (number 06934618) and a registered charity (number 1133707) with an area of benefit which covers North Devon. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which sets out the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are liable for any debts, the total not to exceed £10.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed by approval of the members at the Annual General Meeting, by approval of the members during the year or by co-option of the Board of Trustees. New trustees are provided with an induction pack and additional training offered as need indicates. The Board of Trustees meets on average every other month and a Chief Officer is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified the risks facing the Charity. They review them regularly and put systems in place to mitigate these risks. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Public Benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have taken it into account when making decisions to which the guidance is relevant. How we have done this is demonstrated in the Chief Officer's report.

Related Parties

We are a member of DeVA working in partnership with TTVS, Involve, South Hams CVS, Teignbridge CVS and West Devon CVS, all locally based organisations providing comprehensive support to Devon's voluntary and community sector. DeVA is an associate member of NAVCA and NCVO.

Legal and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number

Company Registration Number

Registered Office

1133707

06934618

Suite 206, Queens House, Queens Street, Barnstaple, EX32 8HJ

Trustees:

Jonathan Wilkes

Chair - Resigned 26 July 2024

(remaining as Trustee)

Bill Allen Marc Johnson

Chair - From 26 July 2024 Vice Chair - From 26 July 2024

David Mason

Treasurer

Patrick May

Diane Pedley

Resigned April 2024

Ian Gibson

Clare Humphreys Marc Johnson Don Pratt

Resigned Aug 2023 Appointed April 2023 Appointed May 2024 Appointed July 2024

Rebecca Sharples

Appointed July 2023 Resigned Mar 2024

Company Secretary

Claire Callister

From Apr 2023 - Mar 2024

David Mason

From Mar 2024

Chief Officer

Marie Gould

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank, Customer Services Centre

Nine Brindley Place

Birmingham **B1 2HB**

Accountants

Westcotts (SW) LLP

47 Boutport Street

Barnstaple Devon **EX31 1SQ**

Solicitors

Wollen Michelmore

Avery House, Liberty Road Roundswell Business Park

BARNSTAPLE Devon, EX31 3TL

Constitution

Adopted July 1997

Revised 20th April 2006

Memorandum and articles of association 15 June 2009

Financial Review

Year 23/24 saw a slight increase in funding from £444,744 (22/23) to £451,125 (23/24) reflecting not only the increasing development work undertaken but funding specifically relating to projects to aid in the recovery period post the COVID-19 pandemic, including the volunteer shortage and funding challenges. Our reserves have increased from £163,201 to £204,668, however projects that are WIP at the beginning of the year and WIP at the end of the year should be noted.

In particular projects that had brought forward funds on 1st April 2023 were

- DASP £39.581
- Care Direct £323
- Live Well in Braunton £1
- Community Development £8,469
- · Grow, Share, Cook £500
- 361 Energy £ (11,512)
- Barnstaple PCN £5,664
- Active Devon £1,344
- AONB £126
- DCC Teacher's Hub £1,809
- Warmer Spaces £115
- Revitalising Volunteers £10,000

and projects that had carried forward funds as at 31st March 2024 are

- DASP £40,218
- Barnstaple PCN £1,100
- AONB £468
- LWIB Lottery £60
- DCC Teacher's Hub £1,194
- Revitalising Volunteers £1,239
- Visual Impairment (Siggery Fund) £7,610
- NDDC Volunteer Connector £8,437
- The Woodyard £19,387

The expenditure on these will be in the 24/25 year.

361 Warmer Homes Phase 2 fund carries forward $\pounds(5,531)$ owing to a time lag between expenditure and the receipt of the quarterly funds.

Analysis of Incoming Funds is as follows:

	£ 23/24	£ 22/23
Grants & Donations	432,188	424,531
Training Workshops	12,457	9,913
Costs Recovered	2,285	9,273
Interest Received	4,195	1,027
Other Income		
Total Incoming Funds	451,125	444,744

Resources Expended

Total Expenditure for the YE 23/24 is £409,658; a decrease of £18,810 on the previous year. However, included in this figure is £6,612 which represents grants that were sent out to groups that applied for funding as part of the Siggery Fund and Homes for Ukraine projects.

Key Costs 23/24 compared to 22/23

Resources Expended:

	£ 23/24	£ 22/23
Staffing Costs	315,865	282,959
Grants Transferred	6,612	19,207
Premises Costs	9,990	12,290
Office Costs	4,220	3,363

The increase in staffing costs reflects the increased project activity and COL rises.

Reserves Policy

As at 31st March 2024 the total NDVS reserves stood at £204,668 of which £1,283 is designated funds set aside for potential redundancy costs. The total reserves are an increase of £41,467 on the previous year. Analysis of reserves show that £74,186 is Restricted Funding and £130,482 is Unrestricted Funding.

The NDVS Reserves Policy has several objectives:

- To ensure that we have sufficient funds to cover potential redundancies currently held in a Designated Fund.
- To enable us to ensure the organisation can survive for at least 12 months should other funding cease.
- To provide sufficient resilience and flexibility to cope with changing times and the fact that some of our
 projects arrive with grants whereas with others the costs have to be reclaimed afterwards,
- From time to time there are opportunities that require "matched funding" without some flexibility we would be unable to respond to those opportunities.

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission and we should be able to continue our operations for a minimum of 12 months.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provision applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

On Behalf of The Board:	JT Will	ح2
Jonathan Wilkes (Chair)		
Date: 30 (October	2024

1 11

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the North Devon Voluntary Services Limited.

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 as set out in this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiners 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; -

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) which is one of the listed bodies.

Signed Command Signed S

Date 31SE October 2027

Catherine Williams FCA DChA

Westcotts (SW) LLP Independent Examiner 47 Boutport Street Barnstaple, EX31 1SQ

Statement of Financial Position as of 31st March 2024

	Total Funds 23/24 £	Prior Year Funds £
Tangible assets	388	517
Current Assets:		
Debtors	5,190	21,482
cash at Bank and in hand	212,469	159,454
	217,659	180,936
Current Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	13,379	18,252
Net Current Assets	204,280	162,684
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	204,668	163,201
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		
Provision for Liabilities		
Total Net Assets	204,668	163,201
Funds of the Charity:		
Restricted Funds	74,186	56,419
Unrestricted Funds	130,482	106,782
	204,668	163,201

For the financial year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption to audit under ss. 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

e.S...... Jonathan Wilkes (Chair)

..........Bill Allen (Vice Chair)

...... David Mason (Company Secretary)

Charity Number: 1133707 Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered in England Number: 06934618

Statement of Financial Activities YE March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	31st March 2024			31st March 2023		
_	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals Funds £	Totals Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Income:						
Grants & Donations	25,064	407,124	432,188	424,531	20,515	404,016
Earned from Other Activities	9,695	9,242	18,937	20,213	6,637	13,576
Total Income	34,759	416,366	451,125	444,744	27,152	417,592
Expenditure:						
Expenditure on charitable activities	11,053	398,605	409,658	428,469	28,731	399,738
Net Incoming Resource	23,706	17,761	41,467	16,275	(1,579)	17,854
Transfer between funds	(6)	6				
Net Movement of Funds	23,700		41,467	16,275	(1,579)	17,854
Reconciliation of Funds:						
Total Funds Brought Forward	106,782	56,419	163,201	146,926	108,361	38,565
Total Funds Carried Forward	130,482	74,186	204,668	163,201	106,782	56,419

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Notes to the Accounts

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Suite 206, Queens House, Queen Street, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 8HJ

1. Basis of Accounting

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102, the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the requirements of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). The financial reports are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There have been no changes in the Accounting Policies for 2023 or 2024.

1.3 Fund Accounting

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Management Committee for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor through the terms of an appeal.

1.4 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

Grants and donations are received by way of grants, donations and gifts and are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in the accounts.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

1.5 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes, including the running of community transport.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SoFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

1.6 Fixed Assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500. They are valued at Cost or, if Gifted, at the value to the Charity on receipt. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off costs of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the basis of 25%, reducing balance.

1.7 Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

2. Grants & Donations

		Unrestricted		Total 23/24	Unrestricted		Total 22/23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Funder	Project			,		_	4=
Give As You Live	Core	0.00	٠,		15	0	15
361 Energy CIC	Core		-,		1,500	0	1,500
North Devon Council	Core	17,000	- ,	17,000	17,000	0	17,000
Norman Family Charitable Trust	CVS	2,000		2,000	2,000	0	2,000
Norman Family Charitable Trust	cvs	2,500	- ,	2,500	-	0	
Devon Voluntary Action	cvs	200		200	-	0	
DMCC	cvs	25		, 25	-	0	
Barnstaple Town Council	Core	1,000		1,000	-	0	-
Devon Voluntary Action (REM)	Core	400	-	400	-	0	
Devon Voluntary Action (COMF)	Core	595	-	595	-	0	
Centurion Management	Core	141	-	141	-	0	
Barnstaple Town Council	Events	1,000	-	1,000	-	0	
Active Devon Partnerships	Events	203	-	203	-	0	
Devon County Council	DASP (5)		48,759	48,759	-	47,803	47,803
Siggery Fund	DASP (5)		760	760	-	0	
Devon Voluntary Action	CH&SCT (22)		5,632	5,632	-	5,632	5,632
Devon County Council	Care Direct (24)		8,957	8,957	-	18,120	18, 120
Live Well in Braunton	LWIB (42)		-	-	-	3,476	3,476
Early Nourishment CIC	Early Nourishment (44)		- '		-	33,619	33,619
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	Comm Dev (46)		-		-	24,413	24,413
Barnstaple Town Council	Comm Dev (46)			, -	-	8,000	8,000
Royal Devon University Healthcare Trus	Comm Dev (46)		15,434	15,434	-	1,000	1,000
The Energy Savings Trust	361 Energy (48)		42,432	42,432	-	73,179	73, 179
North Devon Council	Kickstart (49)		-		-	3,215	3,215
Barnstaple PCN Alliance	Barnstaple PCN (50)		35,579	35,579	-	46,153	46, 153
Barntaple Town Council (Goop)	Active Devon (51)				-	240	240
Devon Voluntary Action	COMF (52)		1,990	1,990	-	55,000	55,000
Devon County Council	AONB (53)		30,161	30,161	-	22,369	22,369
Live Well in Braunton	LWIB (54)		68,405	68,405	- '	20,129	20, 129
Velocity Devon	Velocity (55)		- '	-	-	1,800	1,800
Cosmic	Velocity (55)		- '	-	1.00	6,670	6,670
Devon County Council	DCC Teachers Hub (56)		300	300	9.0	2,868	2,868
North Devon District Council	Warmer Spaces (57)		. '	-	(4)	330	330
Devon Voluntary Action	COL Community (58)		-	-	340	20,000	20,000
Barnstaple Town Council	Volunteer Awards (59)		1,000	1,000	120	0	
The National Lottery Community Fund	Revitalising Volunteers (60)		1,000	1,000	20	10,000	10,000
Living Options (Siggery Fund)	Visual Impairment (61)		10,416	10,416		0	
Devon County Council	DCC Growing Communities (62)		1,000	1,000	-	0	
Devon Voluntary Action	Homes for Ukraine (63)		2,577	2,577	-	0	
TIVS	Homes for Ukraine (63)		2,000	2,000	-	0	
University College London	Kailo Co-Pilot (64)		20,000	20,000	-	0	
North Devon Council	NDDC Volunteer Connector (65)		40,000	40,000	-	0	
Devon County Council	DCC Grow Comms - Yoga (66)		2,927	2,927	_	0	
Devon County Council	DCC Grow Comms - Mini Gardeners	(67)	3,000	3,000	_	0	
The Energy Savings Trust	361 Warmer Homes P2 (68)	,	43,786	43,786	_	0	
Ann Cleeves	The Woodyard (69)		20,000	20,000	-	0	
Graham Devine	The Woodyard (69)		2,000	2,000	_	0	
Devon County Council	End of Year Events - GCF (71)		2,989	2,989	_	0	
2010 Journy Journal	End of roal Evolus - COT (/1)		2,000	2,000			
	TOTAL	25,064	407,124	432,188	20,515	404,016	424,531

3. Net Incoming Resources for Year Ending 2023	2024	2023	
	£	£	
This is stated after charging depreciation	129	145	
4. Examination & Accounting Fees			
Independent Examiners Fees	2,180	1,600	
Examination & Accounting Fees	2,180	1,600	

5. Employees 'Costs (including pension and employers

national insurance)		
Gross Salaries	293,358	264,568
Employers National Insurance	19,080	16,779
Pension Costs	8,427	6,612
Employers Allowance	(5,000)	(5,000)
Total Employee Cost	315,865	282,959

No Employees received emoluments over £60,000

Average number of full time equivalent employees in the year: 10.4 10.2

6. Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

No loans were made to Trustees by the charity or by Trustees to the Charity (YE 2024 nil).

7. Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

			£ YE 2024	£ YE 2023
8	Tangible Assets			
		Cost or Valuation		
		As at 1st April 2023	20,653	20,653
		Disposals		
		Additions As at 31st March 2024	20,653	20,653
	<i>P</i>	45 at 315t March 2024	20,033	20,033
		Accumulated Depreciaton		
		As at 1st April 2023	20,136	19,991
		Depreciation on Disposals		
		Charge for the Year	129	145
	A	As at 31st March 2024	20,265	20,136
	8.3 N	Net Book Value		
	Д	As at 1st April 2023	517	662
	A	As at 31st March 2024	388	517
9	Debtors & Prepayments			
	0	Grant Funding	2,058	19,891
	C	Other Debtors	-	- 336
	F	Prepayments	3,132	1,927
			5,190	21,482
	A	All of which are due within one y	/ear	
10	Current Liabilities - Due w	vithin one year		
	C	Other Creditors	8,312	14,180
	Т	Taxation, PAYE & INS	5,067	4,072
			13,379	18,252

11. Movement in Funds 23/24

	Balance	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance
	Bfwd £	Resources £	Resources £	£	Cfwd £
DASP	39,581	58,768	(58,131)	0	40,218
Care Direct	323	8,957	(9,280)	0	0
NCH &SCT	0	5,632	(5,632)	0	0
Live Well in Braunton	1	-	0	-1	0
Community Builder (Comm Dev)	8,469	15,434	(23,903)	0	0
Grow, Share, Cook	500	-	(500)	0	0
361 Energy Redress	(11,512)	42,431	(30,919)	0	0
Barnstaple PCN	5,664	35,579	(40,143)	0	1,100
Kickstart	0	-	0	0	0
COMF	0	- 1,990	1,990	0	0
Active Devon	1,344	-	(1,344)	0	0
Early Nourishment	(1)	-	0	1	0
Velocity	0	-	0	0	0
Live Well in Braunton (Lottery)	0	68,405	(68,346)	1	60
DCC Teachers Hub	1,809	300	(916)	0	1,193
Revitalising Volunteers	10,000	1,000	(9,761)	0	1,239
AONB Finding Nature's Footsteps	126	30,154	(29,812)	0	468
COL Community	_ 0	-	0	0	0
Warmer Spaces	115	-	(115)	0	0
Volunteer Awards	0	1,000	(1,000)	0	0
Visual Impairment	0	10,416	(2,806)	0	7,610
DCC Growing Communities	0	1,000	(996)	0	4
Homes for Ukraine	0	4,577	(4,577)	0	0
Kailo Co-Pilot	0	20,000	(20,000)	0	0
NDDC Volunteer Connnector	0	40,000	(31,563)	0	8,437
DCC Growing Communities - Yoga	0	2,927	(2,927)	0	0
DCC Growing Communities - Mini Gardeners	0	3,000	(3,005)	5	0
361 Warmer Homes Phase 2	0	43,787	(49,317)	0	(5,530)
The Woodyard	0	22,000	(2,613)	0	19,387
End of Year Events - GCF	0	2,989	(2,989)	0	0
Total Restricted Funds	56,419	416,366	(398,605)	6	74,186
Designated Fund	3,475			- 2,192	1,283
General Funds	103,307	34,759	(11,053)	2186	129,199
Total Unrestricted Fund	106,782	34,759	(11,053)	- 6	130,482
Total Funds	163,201	451,125	(409,658)	0	204,668
			, , , , , , ,		

Prior Year Comparison

	Balance Bfwd £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance Cfwd £
DASP	33,902	59,458	(53,779)		39,581
Care Direct	637	18,120	(18,434)		323
NCH &SCT	-	5,632	(5,632)		0
Live Well in Braunton	456	3,476	(3,931)		1
Community Builder	5,360	33,413	(30,304)		8,469
Grow, Share, Cook	500	-	0		500
361 Energy Redress	- 10,108	73,179	(74,583)		(11,512)
Barnstaple PCN	5,837	46,154	(46,327)		5,664
Kickstart	324	3,215	(3,538)		0
COMF .	-	55,000	(55,000)		0
Active Devon	1,991	240	(887)		1,344
Early Nourishment	- 334	35,540	(35,207)		(1)
	-	8,470	(8,470)		0
Live Well in Braunton (Lottery)	-	20,128	(20,128)		0
DCC Teachers Hub	-	2,868	(1,059)		1,809
Revitalising Volunteers	-	10,000	0		10,000
AONB Finding Nature's Footsteps	-	22,369	(22,243)		126
COL Community	-	20,000	(20,000)		0
Warmer Spaces	-	330	(215)		115
Total Restricted Funds	38,565	417,592	(399,737)	_	56,419
Designated Fund	2,474	1,001	-	-	3,475
General Funds	105,887	26,151	(28,731)		103,307
Total Unrestricted Fund	108,361	27,152	(28,731)	-	106,782
	-				
Total Funds	146,926	444,744	(428,468)	-	163,201

Funders 2023/24:

Project	Funded by:
DASP Purpose: Dedicated to improving access to information, services and representation focussing on volunteer lead community transport schemes.	Devon County Council
Community Health & Social Care Teams Purpose: To provide a framework in each Health Service in Devon to enable the Community Health & Social Care Teams to develop community response to the needs of patients.	DeVA
Care Direct Plus Purpose: To support vulnerable adults in their community and promote independence through enabling access to voluntary and community activities.	Devon County Council
One Northern Devon – Community Development Purpose: To explore new ways of working to improve wellbeing outcomes for defined groups. To build capacity and support the formation of One Barnstaple	Royal Devon University Healthcare Trust (One Northern Devon)
Grow, Share, Cook Purpose: Grant redistributed to Barnstaple Town Council to allow them to develop an exciting community project in the centre of town where food will be grown and shared, with the hope that people will send in pictures of what they cook with the produce to help inspire others.	Live West
Live Well in Braunton Purpose: Provide Community Connector services and support community building, including volunteer hub, across the Live Well Braunton area.	Live Well in Braunton National Lottery Bid
DCC Teachers Hub Purpose: Provision of admin and financial services to support the delivery of ESOL projects within the community.	Devon County Council
Revitalising Volunteers Purpose: To organise and facilitate a series of events and celebrations to expand volunteer numbers, as they have rapidly declined since the COVID-19 pandemic.	The National Lottery Awards 4 All Fund

Warmer Homes (361 Energy) Purpose: To provide advice, guidance and practical support to improve energy efficiency and affordability.	Energy Redress Fund
Barnstaple Alliance Primary Care Purpose: To support provide advice and information and connect people to their local community to improve wellbeing.	Barnstaple Alliance Primary Care
Active Devon Purpose: To offer an activity programme to members of the community that will help to bring people together and maintain their physical and mental wellbeing.	Barnstaple Town Council (Goop) & Devon County Council
AONB Finding Nature's Footprint Purpose: To learn more about the nature in our villages, gardens, fields and shores through surveys, monitoring and mapping of wildlife including plants, mammals, insects and birds.	Devon County Council through National Lottery Heritage Fund
Volunteer Awards Purpose: To support the celebration of VCSE sector alongside exposing the positive impact they make, within the community, gaining support and purposeful connections.	Barnstaple Town Council
Visual Impairment Purpose: To strengthen peer support opportunities for people living with visual impairments in Barnstaple and locality. To support Barnstaple Visual Impairment Consortium to operate and provide activities, equipment or services enabling social connection for people with visual impairment	Living Options (Siggery Fund)
Purpose: To offer continued support for a Welcome Café run out of Barnstaple Library to support social connection, cohesion and to support the cost-of-living crisis. It will enable us to offer a safe, warm space where the public can meet, have tea/coffee and get access to free advice and signposting to other services.	Devon County Council
Homes for Ukraine Purpose: To produce a paper that details the experience of hosts, guests and communities written and circulated – to influence future programmes for refugee support in Devon.	DeVA

Kailo Co-Pilot Purpose: Support the Kailo project team with the coordination and delivery of their deeper discovery and co-design stage. Kailo being an initiative committed to helping local communities, young people and public service partnerships better understand and address the root causes (and wider determinants) of young people's mental health.	University College London (UCL)
Purpose: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places. Specifically, to employ a volunteer connector, enabling the expansion of the number of organisations registering for volunteering placements, alongside an increase in actual volunteers. Maintaining Devon Connect platform, and support VCSE Groups to use this as well as any other relevant training and support. As well as to work with other organisations to host events highlighting/celebrating volunteering.	This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and in partnership with North Devon Council
Purpose: To offer a Chair Yoga activity programme to members of the community that will help to bring people together and maintain their physical and mental wellbeing.	Devon County Council
Purpose: To collaborate with reputable local businesses to bring together communities within the Barnstaple area to instil and encourage local pride in the spaces around us. To introduce locals to environmental growing methods and inspire confidence with DIY/Gardening skills as well as creating accessible opportunities for social connection for people of all ages. Create an aesthetically pleasing, functional and sustainable outdoor space.	Devon County Council
The Woodyard Purpose: To hold, administer and allocate funds to Third Parties as instructed to support the development of a central community hub, known as "The Woodyard" which would bring charity workers and members of the community together, improve communication and understanding, cut costs and provide opportunities for different and creative ways of working.	Ann Cleeves Graham Devine
DCC Growing communities – End of Year Events Purpose: Funding remaining quarter of the wellbeing cafe, for One Barnstaple. As well as final Revitalising Volunteering event.	Devon County Council

12. Analysis of Assets

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Tangible Fixed Assets	388	-	-	388	517	517	-	-
Curent Assets	137,117	1,283	79,259	217,659	180,936	114,785	3,475	62,676
Current Liabilities	(8,306)		(5,073)	(13,379)	(18,252)	(11,995)		(6,257)
-	129,199	1,283	74,186	204,668	163,201	103,307	3,475	56,419

Purpose of Designated Funds

NDVS has felt that it is prudent to provide for redundancy costs. The total estimated as at 31st March 2024 is £12,108 from which £10,825 is calculated as being the cost for those staff working for DASP (Restricted Funding) and is built into their ongoing budget. The remaining £1,283 represents those staff who are currently being funded from Unrestricted Funds.

Non-regular Costs

None have been recorded during 2023/24.

13. Company Status

NDVS is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

Each director of the company is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 towards the assets of the charitable company in the event of liquidation.

14. Grants Redistributed

NDVS were awarded, via the Siggery Fund (£10,416) and DeVA/TTVS (£4,577), during FY24/24 which required funds to be distributed to smaller charitable entities. The purpose of these funds were to provide activities, equipment or services to enable social connection for people living with visual impairment and to provide help and support with the refugee crisis via the Homes for Ukraine project. These fund payments amounted to £14,993 and are shown as an expenditure item in Restricted Funding.

END OF REPORT