

---

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

---

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

---

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

---

**CONTENTS**

---

	Page
<b>Trustees Report</b>	1 - 58
<b>Independent Auditors' Report on the Financial Statements</b>	59 - 62
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	63
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	64
<b>Statement of Cash Flows</b>	65
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	66 - 88



# Annual report 2023/2024

Highlights of our impact in  
Oldham, Rochdale and  
Tameside



## Contents

1. Introduction from our Chair
2. Who we are and what we do
3. Our year in numbers
4. Volunteering
5. Capacity Building
6. Partnerships and Collaboration
7. Leadership and Advocacy
8. Investment
9. Our Strategic Objectives
10. Our projects
11. Our future plans
12. Action Together in Greater Manchester
13. Our purpose and values
14. Structure, Governance and Management
15. Financial review
16. Reference and administrative details

### 1. Introduction from our Chair

Welcome to Action Together's annual report for the financial year ending 31 March 2023.

This has been another year where I'm proud to look back on all the achievements our charity has made. In this report you'll see a selection of our work: how we've increased the number of people involved in volunteering, developed new ways to support our member organisations to build their capacity, brought partners together from across sectors and areas to collaborate, advocated for our membership and what's important to them, and invested in fantastic initiatives and projects to strengthen our communities. If you're interested in finding out more about anything in this report, please get in touch with us.

As ever, this is just a selection of our work. We couldn't possibly include everything our teams have done to provide vital support to the local voluntary and community sector, but each member of staff contributes to our achievements every day. I'd like to thank all the team at Action Together, who led and delivered the work you'll read about. It's fantastic to see all the praise and positive feedback for our staff in this report and it's testament to their skills, care, knowledge, and ability to form strong, lasting relationships.

This was a particularly difficult time for us following the news that funding for our Community Wellbeing Programme in Tameside was to cease at the end of the year. Despite our six-year track record of exceptional delivery we were told financial pressures within the NHS would mean the contract would not be renewed.

As well as closing the entirety of the Tameside Social Prescribing Service and the NHS funded Community Wellbeing grants that went alongside it, it had a knock on to the infrastructure development work we offer in Tameside, reducing our Volunteering and Capacity Building services in the borough. We had to say goodbye to a number of committed team members and although the Board have invested to maintain some capacity this year in Tameside we now need to work alongside local partners to secure investment to build back grant investment for the voluntary and community sector and resource our work in Tameside over the longer term.

We know that funding cuts are affecting so many voluntary, community, faith and social enterprises. I'd like to reiterate our commitment to supporting the local sector in each locality we work, and thank all of those who are committed to working alongside us to protect the vital work of the sector, over what is no doubt going to be some turbulent years.

With that, I'd like to thank all the volunteers and voluntary organisations in our boroughs, including the volunteers who make up the Board of Action Together. It's an inspiration to work alongside you all.

**Camilla Guereca, Chair, Action Together**

### 2. Who we are and what we do

Action Together is the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector in Oldham, Rochdale, and Tameside.

We connect people with what's happening in their community, develop community ideas into action, strengthen local organisations, and provide strategic influence for the charity and voluntary sector.

Membership of Action Together is free and open to any voluntary organisation, charity or social enterprise in Oldham, Rochdale, or Tameside.

Action Together supports people to volunteer in their area, and assists local organisations in developing volunteer programmes, policies, and roles.

We provide support for voluntary, community and charity organisations to establish, develop, and build their capacity including specialist information, advice, and training for staff, volunteers and trustees.

Action Together works in partnership with other charities, infrastructure organisations and public bodies and collaborates on key thematic work. We also lead and advocate for the work of organisations locally, and across Greater Manchester and the wider area.

We invest in the sector, and members can apply for funding from our grants programmes. We also provide support for groups seeking and applying for investment, and direct members to appropriate sources of funding.

### 3. Our Year in Numbers

- 1,590 people registered to volunteer through Action Together
- We provided 1,307 organisations with one-to-one capacity building support, advice and mentoring
- We hosted 143 training sessions and events
- 1,507 people attended our training and events
- 1,824 people took part in our partnership and thematic networks
- We directed over £2,000,000 into the sector
- 549 local organisations benefitted from funding we provided
- 4,169 people were referred through our Social Prescribing services

### 4. Volunteering

- 1,590 people in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside registered to volunteer through Action Together

#### **We did it! Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation**

Following months of hard work from our Volunteering Team, and colleague support from the wider Action Together team we were delighted to achieve [Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation \(VCQA\)](#).

This is a re-accreditation of the award for us in Oldham and Tameside, but this is the first time we have been recognised for our work in Rochdale, too. We are now the recognised Volunteer Centre for Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside.

### About VCQA

VCQA is the quality mark for organisations who are proven in delivering the five local Volunteer Centre functions:

- [Strategic development of volunteering](#)
- [Good practice and development](#)
- [Brokerage](#)
- [Developing volunteering opportunities](#)
- Voice of volunteering

It provides assurance to members of the public seeking volunteering opportunities, volunteer involving organisations, partners, commissioners and funding organisations, that the holder provides a high quality and effective local service. This recognition signifies our commitment to excellence, providing high-quality volunteering services and best practice through transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

### Our journey to accreditation

We know that volunteering is a vital aspect of building strong and compassionate communities in our three localities. Volunteer Centres play a crucial role in connecting volunteers with groups, organisations and initiatives that need their support. Our [Volunteering Strategy](#) outlines our plans and promises for the next five years and further strengthens our charitable purpose:

- To strengthen the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector
- To enable positive social change and promote social justice

We are proud of our Volunteering offer and the positive impact it has on our communities. This recognition signifies our commitment to excellence, providing high-quality volunteering services and best practice through transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement. It will help us to assure our volunteers, communities, and stakeholders of our commitment to high standards of excellence.

Following a period of stringent and independent assessment from [NAVCA](#), we have been able to demonstrate that [our Volunteer Centre strategically delivers best practice](#) processes through our extensive programme of activities and engagement with our members, groups and volunteers.

---

*“We are delighted with the outcome of this award, especially for our teams who are passionate about volunteering and the difference it makes to the individual and our communities. With this award, we will continue to champion and develop volunteering with our members and partners across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside, to ensure volunteering is recognised, celebrated and available to all.”*

*Sian Goodwin, Action Together Tameside Operations Manager*

---

A few highlights of our feedback and what we've learnt:

- We are flexible and responsive to the needs of our volunteers, but we can do more to further embed the lived experience of those who volunteer and create a strong evidence base to advocate for and represent volunteers
- Our members view our Volunteer Centre as a 'reliable and trusted partner' describing how we 'focus on their strategic needs' and we have robust policies and practices in place to support them
- We are responsive to opportunities that may arise to develop volunteering roles and we will grow further in this area by being proactive across all three sites and understanding different underrepresented groups in volunteering
- Our Volunteering Strategy developed as part of our submission to the VCQA lays out our aspirations clearly and is the key to our progress, which includes making volunteering accessible to everyone regardless of the time, location and other barriers

---

*"The strengths of the Volunteer Centre lie in its good reputation with Volunteer Involving Organisations and other external partners and its ability to leverage it at the strategic level. The organisation prides itself on being flexible and responsive to the needs of individual volunteers. Vision for Volunteering 2028 is an example of good practice that would be enviable by many counterparts in the country."*

*"The volunteer centre is very strong in promoting volunteering and volunteering roles, including as a way into employment."*

*The Volunteer Centre demonstrated that it listens. One of the interviewees commented: "They have always our interest at heart, and they are meeting our priorities"."*

---

We are delighted with the outcome of this award, especially for our teams who are passionate about volunteering and the difference it makes. With this award, we will continue to champion and develop volunteering with our members and partners, to ensure volunteering is recognised, celebrated and available to all.

### **Vision for Volunteering 2028 – Our Volunteering Strategy**

We were proud to launch [our new Volunteering Strategy](#) this year.

We believe that volunteering is at the heart of creating, supporting and maintaining social infrastructure. Our Vision for Volunteering will ensure that we develop and champion volunteering to empower more local people to share their skills, capacity and social capital.



By 2028 the Boroughs of Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside will be great places to volunteer – places where volunteering is understood and appreciated, appropriately resourced, and volunteers are supported and recognised for their valuable contribution to the social infrastructure of our communities.

Our new Volunteering strategy, which relates closely to [our organisational strategy](#), features the following three priorities:

### **1. Awareness and Appreciation**

We want volunteering to be integral to the way our communities support each other. We want institutions to recognise volunteering in all its forms, and for there to be much more flexibility for people to move between volunteering opportunities within a place.

### **2. Power, Leadership, Collaboration and Experimentation**

Our priority to advance our approach to social change, relies on us developing and supporting leaders within our communities and to support the devolution of decisions closer to communities.

### **3. Equality and Inclusion**

We know that volunteering is not equally accessible, that people from sections of our communities are less likely to volunteer and have varying experiences when they do. We want to change this. We also firmly believe that volunteering is a choice for the individual and understand that volunteering is not for everyone, but that access to it should be.

See our full strategy at <https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/volunteering-strategy-2023-2028>

## **Developing Volunteer Leaders**

### **Volunteer Manager Zone**

As well as making sure that volunteering is an inclusive, high quality and rewarding experience, we want those working with volunteers to have the resources and support they need to make this possible.

We provide extensive support to volunteer-involving organisations to develop their policies and processes, and this year developed a new online [Volunteer Manager Zone](#) to offer additional support so our member can find the resources and support they need on our website as well as by contacting us in person, over the phone, or by email. The Volunteer Manager Zone hosts information on

- **Good Practice Volunteer Management**

Our Volunteer and Community Development team [created this video](#) to accompany our [Good Practice in Volunteer Management factsheet](#).

The Good Practice video gives a brief summary of the key points of good volunteer management. From developing your volunteer roles, recruiting and inducting new volunteers, to ensuring your volunteers feel valued and appreciated.

- **Support to Recruit Volunteers**

Support from developing appealing and engaging volunteer roles, to sharing on [our online directory](#), to actively promoting roles through our community outreach work, to managing roles in our volunteer manager accounts.

- **Volunteer Manager Forum**

We host a quarterly online forum bringing together volunteer managers from across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside. This is a supportive space and opportunity for Volunteer Managers to connect with others doing the same role, share any organisational updates, as well as current successes and challenges relating to volunteering.

- **Resources**

[Downloadable factsheets and templates](#) our members can use to create their policy documents, handbooks, checklists, volunteer agreements, application forms, and other resources essential to voluntary organisations. Throughout the year we've developed and created new resources in response to feedback from our Volunteer Manager Forums, such as guidance on involving refugees and asylum seekers in volunteering.

- **Volunteer Training Videos**

Our [Volunteer Training playlist](#) features core topics that are important for all volunteers to be aware of. These bitesize videos can be used by our member organisations to provide new volunteers with a basic understanding of some key areas, and also as an annual refresher for long-standing volunteers.

### **Volunteer Manager Training**

We offer Volunteer Managers Database Training, to help support our member organisations to write effective volunteer advertisements and upload them onto our website.

As well as practical support, this training also took a much more holistic approach to what a volunteer opportunity could look like, and asked participants to think about what processes they already have in place to support volunteers, as well as what else they can implement to help create more supportive and meaningful opportunities for volunteers. This included practical considerations around expenses, equipment and accessibility, as well as more nuanced discussions around environment and creating a sense of support and belonging.

This led to our development of a new Volunteer Manager Training offer, focused around all aspects of the volunteering journey and to be launched at the start of the next year as part of our refreshed training offer.

## **Engaging Volunteers**

### **Volunteer eBulletin**

Our regular eBulletins are key to communicating with our member organisations and partners, with our Funding, Training and locality eBulletins going to thousands of people across our communities.

Our Volunteering team wanted to develop a volunteer-focused monthly eBulletin, with the aim of promoting local volunteer roles. We'd had success during the Covid pandemic in setting up Volunteering Facebook groups to engage volunteers with roles local to them, so the eBulletin built on this.

Each month the team highlight volunteer opportunities, events, training, news, resources and job listings to support people in their volunteer journey. Each month we theme some recommended

roles, for example highlighting outdoor roles in summer, or spotlighting roles supporting children and families.

Since launching in April, the Volunteer eBulletin has become a brilliant addition to our engagement activity. By the end of the year, it was our third most popular mailing behind our Funding and Training eBulletins, growing from 4,009 recipients in April 2023 to 4,896 in March 2024, a fantastic increase of 887 people (+22%). The open and click through rates are also high, pointing to an engaged volunteer audience, and every open and click through is someone getting involved in volunteering that may not have done so otherwise.

---

*"Action Together have supported Hattersley Projects to recruit new volunteers by advertising volunteer opportunities on their website and social media. The advertisements quickly found us six new volunteers. Some volunteers have expressed an interest in gardening, some like woodwork and general maintenance such as painting, and others come to socialise and learn new skills particularly about sustainability, growing flowers, fruit and vegetables."*

*Sharmain, Volunteer Lead at Hattersley Projects*

---

### **Volunteers' Week**

Every year we celebrate Volunteers' Week, joining in the celebrations and following this year's theme, taking time to 'Celebrate and Inspire'. We celebrated all the volunteers in our communities who go above and beyond just to 'give something back', and shared some inspiring stories in the hope we could encourage others to get involved.

We relaunched our popular **Volunteer Celebration Fund**, where local groups can apply for grants up to £500 for activities that help them recruit, retain and recognise their volunteers.

---

*"We all had a wonderful afternoon celebrating and may thanks go to Action Together and their team for the support we receive, especially from Adele who is a gem."*

*Our volunteer members, many whom live alone, state that having a lunch together is the highlight of their week. Friendships are formed over the weeks, and even more so over the intimacy of a meal. Thank you so much for your support."*

*Royton & Crompton Over 60's, who hosted a celebration lunch for 44 of their volunteers.*

---

---

*"All the volunteers really appreciated getting together to enjoy the barbecue, cake and the good weather.*

*The application was very simple and straightforward - thank you Action Together for all your support. We know we can ring any one of your staff for advice and guidance and this is very much appreciated."*

*SAWN, who held a barbeque at GROWE, their community Orchard*

---

---

*"Had a wonderful few hours at the Hunt Lane Tavern being treated to lunch and drinks with fellow volunteers. Thank you Action Together for making it possible. So nice for volunteers to be appreciated in this way."*

*Chadderton Together, who hosted a celebratory lunch at Lydia's Tearoom, their community hub and café*

---

[Find out about some of the activities and groups we supported with the Volunteer Celebration Fund.](#)

We heard some **Volunteer Voices** by interviewing our volunteers and asking them about their motivation to volunteer and how they personally benefit from their efforts and contributions.

---

*"My experience of being a volunteer with Action Together has been a positive one. It has provided me with some structure, kept my administration skills up to date and allowed me to maintain connections with people. The thought that I am hopefully giving back and being useful in a small way. I am truly impressed with how inclusive the team is through engaging with volunteers, supporting them and promoting volunteer opportunities.*

*This works perfect around my current sixth form priorities and I can be flexible with the event volunteering.*

*Thank you for giving me the opportunity to volunteer."*

[Sarinah Khaliq, Action Together Administration and Event Volunteer](#)

---

---

## ACTION TOGETHER CIO

---

---

*"It gave me the chance to increase my confidence when talking to people and helped me to improve on my communication skills. It also allowed me to experience a different cultural side to Oldham as I had never been to a mosque previously. The free food was a bonus!"*

[Connor Ross, Community Response and Dr Kershaw's Hospice Volunteer](#)

---

We also asked our volunteers to put into words the impact volunteering has made on them personally, and their responses produced this word cloud.



The Oldham team hosted our annual **Volunteer Fair** in August. This event gave local organisations the chance to shout about their fantastic volunteering opportunities and members of the public a chance to find out more about what is available to them.

Stalls from organisations with varied volunteer opportunities filled the streets of Oldham Town Centre, ranging from volunteering with the police, fire service, hospices, gardening, arts and crafts and even with us at Action Together. [Watch this video for a recap of the day and to hear what residents thought of the event and volunteering.](#)

---

*"I attended the Volunteer Fair because as well as looking for a part time job, I am looking to volunteer. It was amazing! I learned a lot of new things about what you can do. I enjoyed meeting new people. I didn't want to go home!"*

*"Thank you for all the hard work you all put into the Volunteer Fair. We met so many lovely people, swapped details with other companies, and dare we say it, despite the downpour, we had a thoroughly good time! Thank you again for welcoming us."*

*"It was a really nice event and there were definitely a lot of people speaking to us who had come along purely to attend the event which was positive. We had some really lovely conversations and Gary (the hopeful gardener) you introduced to us has already been in touch."*

*"I just want to thank you for the amazing Volunteer Fair. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and received a lot of information that I'm working through. I never realised there was so much going on. I'm spoilt for choice."*

---

---

## ACTION TOGETHER CIO

---

The 2023 **Tameside Toy Appeal** was another fantastic success thanks to the work of our amazing volunteers who worked tirelessly to collect and drop off toys to our Tameside communities, Children's Centres, local businesses, and of course the generous donations of toys and gifts from Tameside residents.

Thank you to our partners Tameside Radio and Reporter and Tameside Council's Children Centres, who work hard to make the Tameside Toy Appeal so successful each year.

This year, despite such difficult and challenging times, the Toy Appeal received 488 referrals and over 1,000 children and young people received a gift on Christmas Day. In addition, our Just Giving page raised a further £2,768!

---

*"Thanks to the Tameside Toy Appeal 2023, no child will go without presents this Christmas. I would like to thank all of the businesses that have contributed, the community organisations, the community itself, the Family Hubs and Children's Centres, and Action Together, for making this happen. Thank you."*

*Councillor Tafheen Sharif, Civic Mayor of Tameside*

*"I decided to do Stoptober and give up chocolate. I started raising money through sponsorships and then went out and bought lots of toys. It makes me happy knowing that there will be children with smiles on their faces on Christmas Day because of what I've done to help."*

*Harrison Tucker - Age 11*

*"Incredibly proud of our team! We've been working with Action Together for over five years, to help provide a gift for children in the local community, through the Tameside Toy Appeal. Even as a global organisation, we'll always strive to make a positive impact to those on our doorstep in Greater Manchester."*

*Brother UK*

---

### **Volunteering in Place**

We continued to deliver our Volunteer Hubs. Our Volunteering teams in Oldham and Tameside are based in the heart of communities, with extensive knowledge of local roles that might suit volunteers. By working closely with our Development and Social Prescribing teams, we connected potential volunteers with roles that suit them in their local area.

As Action Together works across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside, if a volunteer is looking for a specific role we can also connect them with a relevant opportunity that might not be in their area. We've seen great success with this model in Oldham and Tameside,

In Rochdale, many people interested in volunteering prefer to meet our Volunteer Support Officers in person to explore how to register as a volunteer and find suitable opportunities. As a result we continue to coordinate regular outreach events across the borough that allow us to connect more meaningfully with individuals and better understand their needs, interests and strengths.

With these regular events, we have been able to grow our profile across the borough and connect with people who may have otherwise been unaware of Action Together. Additionally, these events create a space that other organisations can signpost individuals to.

When these stands are unstaffed, we have created signposting to our website or staff emails so that potential volunteers can connect with a member of our team and explore all our regularly changing opportunities.

Our member organisations and local services can also meet with our teams in place to discuss their volunteering needs. We were approached by Rochdale Advocacy Together Hub who were looking for volunteers. We met with Alex from Rochdale Advocacy Together Hub to go through our offer of support and what they specifically needed. Their roles were added to our website the same day, and roles were shared with our registered volunteers and added to our volunteer eBulletin.

---

*“As a service we have valued the support from Action Together. We have really struggled to obtain volunteers in the past, however with the support we have seen an influx in interested volunteers. The induction process begins again this month and we have at least four volunteers. The Action Together team have kept in regular contact with myself and supported the process and we have really benefited from this.”*

*Alex, Rochdale Advocacy Together Hub*

---

### Volunteering and Employability

We continued to develop our support and overall offer around employability.

In **Oldham**, we partnered with employability programme providers Ingeus and Get Oldham Working. Their employees were provided with information about our service offer and referrals, and our team delivered a series of volunteer information sessions to clients (engaging with 41 individuals in total). All were offered 1:1 support to register with our service and follow-up appointments in collaboration with their case workers. Having proven to be a successful model we have agreed with both providers to continue to deliver this work on a quarterly basis.

With funding from LocalMotion and Oldham’s Poverty Action Network we developed and recruited into a partnership Volunteering Officer role with Oldham Job Centre, with collaboration on a national level through the Poverty Truth Network. Oldham is the first locality to embark on this 12-month pilot focusing on evidencing the importance of volunteering on individuals’ employment journey. With other locality’s exploring funding opportunities to trial similar pilots this project has the potential to influence on a national level.

In **Rochdale**, we saw an increase in referrals from Work and Skills and the Jobcentres. We met Job Coaches at Middleton Jobcentre to give them an understanding of the support we can offer their job

seekers interested in volunteering. This partnership led to us attending the Jobcentre one day a month, where work coaches arrange appointments for job seekers to meet with us to discuss volunteering and find potential roles. This led to successfully matching people with roles to develop their employability skills, including one person who was matched and placed in a role within one day.

Similarly, in **Tameside** we have held monthly drop-ins at JobCentre Plus in Ashton on the last Friday of every month, to provide support to people looking to increase their employment prospects.

---

*“We were so pleased we could form a co-operative relationship with Action Together’s Volunteering Service. We’ve long recognised the absolute importance of volunteering within the local community and especially for DWP claimants looking to get back into work. Volunteering is viewed as a safe place to test the waters when someone has been out of work for a sustained period as there is no negative impact on their benefits if it does not work out. It is only ever seen in a positive way for DWP as it gives claimants the confidence to take the next step from volunteering to paid employment.”*

*JobCentre Plus Ashton*

---

Our teams also created new marketing materials around volunteering and employability, to directly target those looking to develop their skills. Student Volunteering Week in February also gave us an opportunity to speak to students about volunteering as a way to develop new skills and enhance their employability. We visited Oldham College, delivered a drop in Student Volunteering Hub, and targeted priority student groups including ESOL students and those retaking Maths and English GCSEs.

### **Case Study: Meet Abdulrahman**

Abdulrahman Mamman volunteers for Oldham-based charity [Making Space](#), which provides health and social care services for adults with mental health conditions, learning disabilities, dementia and their carers.

Abdulrahman, 17, decided to volunteer because he is hoping to go to university to study medicine. He wanted to volunteer to experience, learn and analyse if the career of his choice was what he wanted as a lifetime career. He attended an open day at college where he made an appointment with one of our [Volunteering Team Project Support Officers](#).

Abdulrahman was referred to Making Space, where he now volunteers three sessions a week, getting involved in quizzes, music and dance. He volunteers to gain experience in a number of life and transferable skills. The activities delivered are for those individuals suffering from mental illness, dementia, multiple sclerosis and Parkinsons disease, where the activities stimulate their mind and body. He volunteers to make a positive impact within the community, especially with older people as they are very isolated and in Abdulrahman’s own words he said: “I really enjoy bringing joy to their lives.”

Volunteering has helped him to feel healthier, physically and mentally. He has learnt lots of new skills, gained confidence, improved understanding of different medical issues and barriers which has



opened up other doors for him. He is starting volunteering at Oldham Hospital in the Acute Medical Unit. He added:

---

*“It’s about gaining many skills for myself and making other people happy. Volunteering gave me the ability to try new activities, get active and be more informed. The biggest impact was applying for experience in a hospital, getting an interview and taking up the volunteer role at Oldham Hospital. Once again, through Action Together’s Volunteering Team, I am applying for a third volunteer opportunity working with children and young people so that I have experience in working with a wide spectrum of individuals. I love helping and supporting people from all walks of life and have realised a career in medicine could definitely be for me.”*

---

### **Employer Supported Volunteering**

Employer Supported Volunteering, or corporate volunteering, is where the employees of an organisation take time to volunteer during work hours or organise volunteer activities.

Employees might choose to support a charity or community group, or take up an opportunity provided by their workplace.

Our previous work developing and promoting our Employer Supported Volunteering offer led to more workplaces contacting us to arrange volunteering activities for their staff.

We targeted local businesses to get involved in local volunteering, which led to us working with National Gas in November. We spoke to a few of our member groups to find a suitable match for the organisation, and found The Bond Board could provide what National Gas were looking for. The Bond Board run coffee mornings from a church in the Rochdale Borough on a Friday morning, and needed volunteers to support in the kitchen as well as front of house.

National Gas were more than happy to support, and since volunteering in November they have developed a partnership and have returned to volunteer again for The Bond Board.

---

*“I just want to say a big thank you for allowing myself and team to come and volunteer on Wednesday, we had a great time.*

*I really enjoyed having an opportunity to understand The Bond Board, the super hard-working team you have there and also meet the people who depend on your services. Also thank you Laura at Action Together for helping set this up for us.”*

*Emma Bellis, National Gas*

*“It was so good to have four Employer Supported Volunteers from National*

---

## ACTION TOGETHER CIO

---

*Gas with us at our Coffee Morning today. They got stuck in with supporting our existing volunteers in the kitchen and helping to manage our donations table. They enjoyed it so much they want to come back!!!*

*A big thank you to Action Together for facilitating what will hopefully be a brilliant ongoing partnership."*

*The Bond Board*

---

We were approached by Hyde-based [Findel Education](#) with a request to help them find an opportunity for their staff to get involved in volunteering.

We were already supporting our member organisation [Hattersley Projects](#) to recruit new volunteers by advertising their volunteer opportunities through the [volunteering directory](#) on our website, social media and volunteering emails. This quickly found six new volunteers to support their projects, helping them get involved in gardening, woodwork, painting, and learning new skills around sustainability and growing flowers, fruit and vegetables.

As part of our Employer Supported Volunteering offer in Tameside, we then linked Hattersley Projects with Findel Education, and a team of four employees attended for a volunteer day.

---

*" Action Together made the link with Findel Education Ltd and a team of four employees joined us for a volunteer day. They cleared the space beside our entrance and planted flowers to make the area more welcoming. The difference it has made is huge and we have had nothing but compliments about the first impressions walking into our site.*

*A massive thank you to Katie, Maria and Paul who worked tirelessly in the heat to make a huge difference to an area of the centre and a big difference for their community. It's employers and people that volunteer here who make the biggest difference and can help us in many different ways. Thanks also to Action Together who supported us, and who continue to do so."*

*Sharmain, Volunteer Lead at Hattersley Projects*

---

Following their volunteer day at Hattersley Projects, Findel Education continued their drive to support local charities, and Action Together connected them with [Community Matters](#).

Community Matters is run through the Hattersley Community Hub and helps support families across Tameside. The aim of the campaign was to help families in need by providing pencil cases filled with stationery to children to use as part of their learning. For many families the cost of stationery is one that very few can afford. This appeal goes a long way in ensuring children have the equipment they need to learn and that they don't feel that they are missing out because they don't have some of the things that other children do.

---

*“We were more than happy to donate 100 filled pencil cases to their cause as it’s important to us here at Findel that we support children’s education however we can. Part of our ethos ‘growing education for generations’ is to ensure that everyone gets a fair chance, and that’s why campaigns like these ones really matter. Thanks to Jacqueline and Janet for visiting and we can’t wait to hear how this campaign makes a difference.*

*Action Together helps bring people and communities together and we simply wouldn’t get to hear about all these amazing charities and groups if it wasn’t for you, so thank you!”*

*Claire Greave, Findel Education*

---

Findel were thrilled to support and, following their initial involvement with Community Matters, they have gone on to support them on more occasions - with donations of toys and games at Christmas to distribute across the community, and with another employee volunteer day supporting [The Bread and Butter Thing](#) in Hattersley.

## 5. Capacity Building

- We provided 1,307 organisations with one-to-one capacity building support, advice and mentoring
- We hosted 143 training sessions and events
- 1,507 people attended our training sessions and events

### Organisation Health Checks

Following development and trial in the previous year, we publicly launched our new Organisation Health Checks this year.

Our online Organisation Health Checks are designed to support groups and organisations to reflect, and review how their organisation is performing.

They are a practical, development tool which allows you, along with help from one of our experienced Community Development Workers, to identify strengths, as well as areas for development, and will support you to:

- Prioritise areas of development and identify clear steps to reaching these goals
- Reflect on your future sustainability and create discussion points for your management committee to focus and prioritise plans

- Review your impact and the difference you are making in communities, and support to consider progress towards your overall mission
- Support to think about what is needed before you embark on a new stage of development e.g. applying for a larger grant, leasing a building or recruiting staff members

There are nine areas of the Organisation Health Check:

- Vision and Mission
- Financial Management
- Governance
- Policies and Procedures
- Staff and Volunteers
- Facilities and IT
- Quality and Impact
- Communications and Marketing
- Partnerships

The Health Check can be completed in stages, and can also be revisited over a period, to track progress and development.

As the support that you may require changes, Health Checks can be completed regularly for us to better understand your changing needs to ensure that we are providing the most appropriate support for your group.

The information gathered through the Health Checks will also support us to have a greater understanding of our membership and communities across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside. The next steps are for us to dig deeper into the data from the Health Checks and use this to provide greater insight into the sector and its needs for system partners and the wider sector.

We'd encourage all of our member organisations to arrange a Health Check with their local Community Development Worker. Visit

<https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/organisation-health-checks>

We have recently developed a new capacity building tool to use alongside groups to support our work to develop groups and organisations. The Organisation Health Check toolkit, enables group leaders, committee members and trustees to work alongside their development worker to reflect on the 'health' of their organisation and enables them to prioritise and plan the work that they need to undertake to have a thriving, sustainable, organisation that delivers maximum impact against their organisations purpose.

### **Case Study: Royton and Crompton Over 60's Club**

Uzma, the Community Development Worker for North Oldham, used the Health Check tool with Royton and Crompton Over 60's club to reflect and review how their organisation was performing.

Uzma moved from working in East Oldham to North Oldham and found that using the Health Check with Royton and Crompton Over 60s Club enabled her to gain great insight into the group and how we can work alongside them to support their development.

It enabled us to:

- Prioritise areas of development and identify clear steps to reaching these goals
- Reflect on their future sustainability and create discussion points for their management committee to focus and prioritise plans
- Review their impact and the difference they are making in communities, and support to consider progress towards their overall mission
- Support to think about what is needed before they embark on a new stage of development e.g. applying for a larger grant, recruiting staff members, recruiting more volunteers, renting out their space

---

*“Without the help of Action Together, we wouldn’t be here today. The Capacity Building team have given the best support we could expect. It has been a lifeline for us.*

*As for the Organisation Health Check, it’s good to reflect how far you have come and how many lives you have touched along the way.” Janet, Royton and Crompton Over 60’s Club*

---

### **Case Study: Tameside Deaf Association**

Mandy from Tameside Deaf Association requested support from our Ashton Community Development Worker to help review their organisation policies. To understand more about the organisation and the type of support they may need, we completed an organisation Health Check with the group to establish which areas of development they wanted to focus on.

The result of the Health Check identified areas around governance, in particular their legal structure, and support around trustees roles and responsibilities.

Due to the extra support members of the committee would need to attend an online training session, our team of development workers developed a bespoke training session for the group.

With help from an interpreter and some specifically designed resources, we were able to provide a session which met the needs of the group and help them to think about future sustainability of the group.

Our team will continue to work with Tameside Deaf Association, and next steps include incorporating the organisation and achieving Quality in Action Award.

---

*"Thanks for delivering face-to-face Introduction to Trustee Role & Responsibilities training with our trustees, really enjoyed it!" Mandy,*

*Tameside Deaf Association*

---

### Quality in Action

The Quality in Action Award is our recognised framework for voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations working across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside to prove their impact. The award is an independent, local seal of approval which publicly demonstrates commitment to safeguarding, quality assurance and continuous improvement.

Our dedicated Community Development Workers work alongside our member organisations to help them meet criteria that makes sure they have the right things in place, with practical advice, resources and support to help develop the policies and procedures that are right for each organisation. The QiAA is free and open to groups of any size. The award demonstrates to local commissioners, funders, beneficiaries and other stakeholders that organisations are delivering quality activities and services.

---

*"Achieving the award has been great! It has ensured we have the correct policies and processes in place to help safeguard our service users, volunteers, staff and the charity."*

*Rehana Begum, Diversity Matters North West*

*"It gives me a great sense of joy to have achieved the Quality in Action Award. It will show that Positive Steps not only provides an excellent service to clients, it shows we have quality systems in place."*

*I would really recommend getting this accreditation, I was able to fit the work needed alongside my day-to-day work duties. The support from Action Together was excellent."*

*Martin Sutton, Service Lead at Positive Steps*

*"We decided to undertake the Quality in Action Award as we had started the process to become a charity. We wanted to grow and ensure we have good governance in place and the QiAA was the perfect approach for us."*

---

## ACTION TOGETHER CIO

---

*We believe we are now in a position to apply for funding, stating we have the Quality in Action Award, which will give us an advantage."*

*Become United*

*"It feels great to have achieved the Quality in Action Award from Action Together!*

*I would tell other organisations that they should definitely complete it. There is a lot of support available to help you through the process and it can help you to identify areas of improvement.*

*I would like to give a special shout out to Jane! She helped us every step of the way and was there to answer any questions we had. She went above and beyond to make sure we achieved the award."*

*Zaheen, Oldham Boxing*

*"Many thanks to Action Together for helping us to achieve our QiAA!*

*It's good to know that our commitment to what we are doing as a Community Group is recognised. I'm sure it will help us when we apply for funding."*

*Sandra Kiy, St Gabriel's Community Group*

*"We are really pleased to have achieved the Quality in Action Award. It was really easy to follow, the guidance that Action Together provide and the support you receive is excellent. We would recommend it. It really helps you look at what you're doing and highlights any changes you need to make." Donna*

*Calverly, Support Manager for KeyRing Living Support Networks*

*"The support from Action Together was amazing! We learnt so much about our business and about our service users, our principles and our strengths and the areas we need to develop to reach our aspirations - as a direct result of the process we have a new board member and lots of volunteers. I cannot thank Action Together enough!"*

---

## ACTION TOGETHER CIO

---

*Erica Matthews, Creative Health and Wellbeing*

*"We've learnt so much during this process and shall display our award with pride!  
What a pleasure it was to work with Adele from Action Together. You've  
been kind, generous with your time and a massive support to us. It really has felt  
like we've been working with a friend."*

*Emma and Alison, Raise Tuition CIC*

*"We would like to extend a huge thank you to the team at Action Together!*

*We would recommend all the organisations out there complete the Quality in  
Action Award. I can assure you it will be worth it, and it will dramatically enhance  
and help your organisation."*

*Nicky Iginla, Caring and Sharing Rochdale*

*"I am really proud of the team working hard to gain this award and thankful of  
Nayan at Action Together who has supported us all the way. It has been a  
great journey in achieving this as we have involved the volunteers and team.*

*This will really help our organisation as we now have everything in one place  
when looking for funding or taking on new volunteers, it has made us stronger as  
an organisation and stronger in our plans to support our community."*

*Kim Rogers, Community Engagement Coordinator at the Salvation Army*

*"We're delighted to have received the Quality in Action Award!*

*This award not only strengthens our credibility but also fortifies our organisation's  
sustainability and lasting impact.*

*Thank you to Jonathan for all of his support with this too."*

*Live Great Adventures*



---

## ACTION TOGETHER CIO

---

*"We are extremely proud of the organisation in achieving the Quality in Action Award.*

*You must definitely go for this award as it makes you evaluate and improve your organisation!*

*Many thanks to the team at Action Together for always being there when we need help with anything! We value and appreciate you all."*

*Audrey Murphy and the SAWN Team*

*"We are so pleased to have been awarded Action Together's Quality in Action Award. We were able to put all the correct policies and procedures in place, meaning we can ensure the activities and services we offer to our local community are run safely and effectively. It will also stand us in good stead for accessing resources for any future developments.*

*Thank you Action Together!"*

*Jo Saunders - Community Development Worker, New Life Church*

---

### **Community Focused, Community Based**

We developed our capacity building model over the last few years to more closely integrate into place – the local neighbourhoods where our member organisations are based.

We invite local organisations and members of the public to drop-in and see us at our placebased hubs to find out about local volunteering, funding for their ideas, making connections in the community, support for their community group, and community wellbeing.

Being rooted in communities means we can connect more effectively with people, groups, and our cross-sector partners. We promote our attendance online and in-place, with regular weekly bases meaning we can build up familiarity with the venues in which we're working and the communities they support. Community bases cover a range of different venues including community libraries, wellbeing hubs, places of worship, and VCFSE owned and led spaces.

This model has led to deepening relationships as well as the development of new local initiatives. This year we rolled the model out in Rochdale, so all three of our localities now have dedicated place-based Community Development leads, supporting groups in capacity building in the community where they are based.

The reduction in capacity of our Tameside team means we will need to change our model in the borough, but we plan on continuing our place-based model while reviewing the areas and frequency with which we can attend.

---

*"It has been amazing working in partnership with Action Together Community Development and Social Prescribing Team over the last few years. They have been able to support the group formalise into a legal structure which has allowed them to open their own bank account giving them the opportunity to successfully gain funding to help them keep delivering their session for the next 12-18 months."*

*Craig Meredith, Irwell Valley Homes*

---

### **Training and Workforce Development**

Training continued to be a popular source of support for our members.

Across the year, we delivered 147 training sessions, with 1,507 attendees at these sessions. This is alongside bespoke training we offer to individual member organisations.

Our regular training eBulletin continued to be popular, reaching 4,822 people every fortnight and leading to high uptake of our training offer, particularly our core training such as bid writing and safeguarding.

This year we received UKSPF funding to refresh and relaunch the training offer for the local sector.

Our new Workforce Development Lead reviewed our training offer alongside our teams and looked at ways to improve the offer for our members.

Training will be offered in a variety of formats, with online, face-to-face and also hybrid sessions, making the training flexible and available to a wide range of people. We've also improved the processes around our training, with more detailed reminders and support available for attendees before and after sessions.

We launched the new training offer with extensive promotions to our members, including [a new interactive Training Calendar](#) so members can see when training is coming up across the year. This will help our members attend future sessions in the event they can't make a date or places are booked up.

Training on offer will include:

- Financial management for small groups
- Getting started with funding applications
- Child protection awareness
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Safeguarding Adults
- Equality and the Law
- Data Protection and Cyber Security
- Emergency First Aid at Work
- Choosing the Right Legal Structure
- How to be an Effective Trustee
- Creating a Fundraising Strategy
- Managing Events

We continued to record and upload selected training sessions to [our YouTube channel](#), with over 10,000 views of our training videos across the year.

---

*["It's really good Action Together put on events like this!"](#)*

---

### Case Study: Fitton Hill ABCD Mapping

During Quarter 3, Commissioned by ForHousing, Action Together worked in partnership with Unlimited Potential to conduct an asset based community development mapping project on Fitton Hill, this was a part of a wider North West Commission focussing also on communities in Salford and in Merseyside.

The use of the Asset Based methodology was agreed to identify assets and support ForHousing and partners. As well as to empower and support communities based on their strengths and potential. It also served to identify any gaps and support the community to identify the resources they require.

The project supports ForHousing to understand who its tenants are, the communities they live in and how best to work alongside communities and tenants, by:

- mapping and understanding similar work that has been undertaken in areas, to ensure we do not duplicate and this work addresses gaps
- mapping the 'resources' available in the community - individuals, groups, institutions, physical
- engaging with local communities to understand the key issues faced by communities, the support available and any identify any gaps in support
- understanding the barriers to engagement with ForHousing and supporting the development of ways to better engage and communicate with tenants and communities

Action Together's Community Development Worker worked in partnership with ForHousing to engage with the community using several methods including one to one conversations, holding focus groups, visiting local groups and working in partnership with ForHousing to develop and deliver a survey to residents to gain their views.

We facilitated a number of steering groups which were very successful and enabled people to collaborate in various activities and projects. Examples include joint carol service between Salvation Army, local primary schools, Local Food First CIC who helped with lantern making sessions, choir from primary schools.

Following discussions with local parents and carers, Action Together arranged discussions between Forhousing and district staff, along with local residents and other stakeholders to renovate the St Martins pocket park which had stalled since June 2023. A focus group has been arranged in February to consult local residents about what they may want in the pocket park and £30,000 has been identified and secured for this work, along with funding from Forhousing for consultation.

The project has successfully achieved its goals of producing an indepth ABCD mapping report which ForHousing can use to build upon their offer to its residents, a physical asset map for Fitton Hill which

clearly details the assets in the area. Along with the enhanced partnership working which has occurred as a result of this project.

### **Case Study: LADS (Lads Against Depression and Suicide)**

Tameside Community Development Worker Dawn was approached by Dez, who works for Tameside South Foodbank. Through his work at the Foodbank, Dez is meeting males who need further support. This, along with Dez's own life experiences has led him to set up a project called LADS (Lads Against Depression & Suicide).

The project will provide peer support and befriending to males over 18 who may be struggling with anxiety, anger management and general mental health issues. They will do this by using fishing, gardening, woodwork, etc as a tool to help men.

Dez had also been talking with the Healthy Hyde Team who had identified a gap in provision for men in the area and have said that they would work with LADS and refer into a service like this.

Dawn supported LADS in a number of ways:

- Providing advice on different legal structures and support to think about the which would suit his group best, and support to write a constitution. Further support to think about what else exists for men in Tameside and type of activities to run.
- Support to write safeguarding policy, and signpost to Action Together Safeguarding Training
- Guidance on creating a monitoring form to use with clients as part of referral process and measuring impact
- Additional support provided to project lead who is neuro diverse and requested additional support
- Support to secure funding from Onward Homes to pilot the project over 6 months

---

*"Working with Dawn has been a pleasure, and she is very easy to work with. She knows her stuff. Dawn has gone above and beyond to help us get the things in place to set up LADS".*

*Dez, LADS*

---

### **Case Study: KaskoSan**

KaskoSan is a local community group who aims to empower Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and other vulnerable U.K. migrant groups living in isolation and/or with mental health issues. They support their community by providing information, helping to cope with discrimination and boosting their social inclusion through one on one, group support, regular and one-off activities.

Juice and Maria from KaskoSan contacted Action Together seeking help with sourcing and writing funding for the organisation and for support with connecting with likeminded organisations across

the borough. They realised after initial conversations that they needed help with working out the best legal structure for the organisation to grow and develop with.

Due to family and work commitments, Juice and the trustees found it difficult to access workshop sessions and other members of KaskoSan faced language barriers whilst attending.

Action Together's Community Development Worker meets with KaskoSan regularly and offers one to one support at a pace suitable for their needs.

This has given the group the confidence to apply for several different grants including Awards for All funding to deliver a pilot project working with Roma families, sharing their culture with host families using the medium of dance. The project has been very successful and KaskoSan are now working with their community development worker to develop a larger Reaching Communities bid to extend the project.

---

*"We're getting help with setting up the right structure, trustee recruitment, constitution, strategic planning, fundraising, networking, partnership building and management, CIO registration, facilitation of trustees meetings, polishing out all of our policies and getting signed up to the training we need.*

*All Kaskosan trustees, staff and volunteers are extremely grateful!" Juice,*

*KaskoSan*

---

### **Case Study: Wonderfully Made Women**

Wonderfully Made Woman support women predominantly from the African diaspora. Some have traumas relating to their home background or their journey to the UK, some have issues caused by trauma within the UK, some feel isolated and do not know others from their culture, and some are afraid of stigma if they disclose they need help.

In early September, Community Development Worker Fi met with the Director of Wonderfully Made Woman. They already work in Manchester and Bolton, but were keen to open a Hub in Middleton in response to hearing from the community that there was no central space for women to meet and get support with their confidence and self-esteem.

Due to her relationships in the neighbourhood, Fi was able to quickly connect them with the perfect location for their hub. They launched at the Lighthouse Project a few weeks later.

Their women-only space provides a safe and comfortable environment where a woman can ask for support if she needs it, or just relax and enjoy some time with friends. There is a trained host who will be available to speak with privately or if the women wish, they can share any of their stories within the group.

After they established, Fi had further discussions about their policies and other necessary documents for an Organisation Health Check to make sure they are operating safely and effectively.

---

*"I am so glad these women have secured a place where they feel comfortable to come in and seek company of other women going through the same or similar issues."*

---

### Case Study: MyColdhurst

MyColdhurst, a community organisation based in Oldham, has been making a significant impact since its inception in 2018. Their mission is multifaceted, encompassing community litter picking, environmental clean-up activities, and support for young people. At the heart of their vision lies a commitment to encourage community empowerment and a genuine love for the place they call home. Action Together's Community Development Worker supported MyColdhurst by:

#### Securing Funding:

- We helped MyColdhurst write grant applications for funders such as The National Lottery's Community Fund and One Oldham Small Grant
- By crafting compelling applications that showcased their potential and impact, Action Together helped MyColdhurst secure crucial funding
- This funding ensured MyColdhurst had the resources needed to run their programmes effectively and deliver their intended positive outcomes for the community

#### **Developing Policies and Procedures (Quality in Action Award):**

- Action Together collaborated with MyColdhurst to develop clear and comprehensive policies and procedures
- Having these guidelines in place promoted transparency, accountability, and responsible conduct within the organisation

#### **Safeguarding Training:**

- Recognising the importance of child safety, Action Together were asked to provide safeguarding training not just to MyColdhurst's Safeguarding leads, but also to their volunteers
- This training equipped everyone with the knowledge and skills to identify potential risks and report concerns
- By ensuring everyone was trained, Action Together helped foster a safe environment for children, young people, and vulnerable adults involved with MyColdhurst

Action Together's efforts ensured MyColdhurst had the financial resources, operational guidelines, and safety measures in place to deliver its programs and achieve its goals within the community.

---

*"The support and guidance we have received from Jane at Action Together has been nothing short of remarkable! Without her specific help and guidance (and all others at Action Together) we just simply would not be*

*where we are today. Our partnership working has been in place for over five years and Jane has been at the forefront of all our success. At every situation we encountered a challenge she has been there at the end of a phone call or WhatsApp message giving sound knowledgeable advice, which we have always acted upon. She is a gem in the community for supporting young community groups such as ours in order to make a huge difference in the community. She has attended many of our events and delivered essential training (most outside of work time) and we cannot truly thank her for doing that.*

*Thanks Jane for all your hard work and patience and understanding!" Sadrul*

*Alam, Treasurer of MyColdhurst*

---

## 6. Partnerships and Collaboration

Across our three localities, we hosted 127 separate network meetings and forums, with 1,824 attendees.

We continued to play an active role in the facilitation and development of thematic networks across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside.

We develop our networks based on the focus and needs of each borough, bringing together voluntary and community organisations, system partners, public sector representatives and local expertise to collaborate and address barriers and challenges in communities of place, identity and experience. [Find out more.](#)

### Developing our networks

In Tameside, capacity and changes to the team led to us reviewing and relaunching our networks. We engaged our members through surveying and a series of workshops, and fed back our findings to Network members through a report summarising their responses.

On average, the overall satisfaction rate for the networks was 4/5 which suggests that the networks are serving a purpose and groups are benefiting. However, there are some suggestions throughout both the consultation and survey which would suggest that more impact could be achieved.

### Beneficial and successful outcomes to the meetings

Overall, the meetings serve as a valuable space for building partnerships and staying informed. The responses highlight various beneficial aspects of network meetings, including engagement, information sharing, networking opportunities, forming relationships, joint workshops, meeting other organizations, linking up, in-person interaction, access to support services, updates on current situations and challenges, knowledge expansion, collaboration, professional development, access to resources, and maintaining awareness of developments and joint actions.

### Issues and shortfalls from the networks

- Attendance issues: some found members of the public sector not attending regularly, potentially impacting the overall effectiveness of the meetings. Some found meetings sometimes have agendas that are perceived as too full, limiting the opportunity for meaningful discussion and organic sharing
- Some sessions feel more like information giving sessions, leaving little room for interactive engagement
- General shortfalls were mentioned including common areas where meetings fall short include lack of clear goals and actions, ineffective communication, insufficient participation or engagement, limited follow-ups and action items, and time management issues
- Some participants found there are limited networking opportunities. There is an overall desire for more opportunities for networking during meetings, potentially enhancing collaboration and engagement

We have suggested these changes in our redeveloped Tameside networks:

- Through network meetings and forums, we can keep track of the work being achieved. Using our communication channels, we can showcase both the short term and longterm impact the networks have achieved
- At the end of each year there will be a report written for each network to showcase the work that has been achieved in line with the network's objectives, at the end of the financial year
- To ensure that impact is being made, those who attend network meetings to submit any work they have undertaken because of attending those meetings and forums
- At the end of each financial year, we hope to celebrate the work done by Tameside Networks, with a showcasing event to bring everyone together

### Rochdale Neighbourhood Networks

In September we relaunched the Prevention Networks in Heywood, Middleton, Rochdale and the Pennines. We asked the question, What have you noticed in your Neighbourhood? which gave a variety of interesting insights.

These spaces will allow us to build relationships between people who care about their neighbourhoods, whether they are in grassroots community groups or frontline workers, so that we can influence local decisions and tackle issues together. Action Together acts as the link between the Networks and emerging neighbourhood governance, with a manager and a Community Development Worker aligned to each of the five newly formed Neighbourhood Meetings.

Following the networks we presented at the Neighbourhood Meetings about the Prevention Networks and how the insight could be used to influence local priorities.

We also published the insight reports to be shared with attendees, stakeholders and to be presented at the Neighbourhood Meetings. We used this opportunity to announce changes to the name of the Networks, rebranding them as Neighbourhood Networks to further forge ties with Neighbourhood Meetings and to broaden the scope of the Networks.



The focus will absolutely still be on prevention, but in its broadest sense including strengthening community power and connection as well as addressing health inequalities.

---

*"It was a great morning, I really felt like there was lots of really good discussion with lots of people I have never met before. So so valuable. Thanks to you and the team for a really good conversation, mapping exercise and chance to network."*

*Children & Families Locality Lead*

---

### Oldham Poverty Truth Commission

The Oldham Poverty Truth Commission brought together the experiences of people who have been in poverty alongside people who work in the council and health services, business, and charities to make deep changes to causes of poverty in Oldham.

Poverty Truth Commissions are a national model pioneered by the Poverty Truth Network. They seek to identify different approaches to addressing poverty through direct experience, relationships, and humanising people as well as systems. Download the full [Oldham Poverty Truth Commission Report](#)

#### Overview of journey

The Poverty Truth Commission was a result of several social justice projects coming together in Oldham. These efforts by community champions, charities like Action Together, as well as Oldham Council and NHS, were starting to look at poverty differently when the COVID pandemic highlighted just how deep and significant inequalities in the borough were.

The resulting project has blossomed into a number of ongoing workstreams, not least the Oldham Poverty Action Network which has been able to draw in more people, more perspectives, and more experiences to maintain the focus on poverty in the borough.

[Watch this video](#) produced in collaboration with the NHS Build Back Fairer initiative for an overview of the PTC journey.

More on the stages of the PTC:

1. [Drivers](#)
2. [Route](#)
3. [Destination](#)

#### Watch our Commissioners' stories

These videos tell the story of the Commission through it's most important component: the people involved. Each one highlights the importance of one of the key themes the Commission identified, why it's relevant to people's experience of poverty, and how it can be applied in different contexts:

- [Yaasmin – Points of Contact](#)

- [Simon – Stigma and Hope](#)
- [Mandy – Places of Belonging](#)
- [Lynda – Co-production](#)

### Oldham Poverty Action Network

The Oldham Poverty Action Network builds on the existing poverty work of initiatives including the Poverty Action Group, Poverty Truth Commission, OCAN, MoVE, and Cost of Living Crisis Summit. Using an innovative and long-term funding opportunity from [Local Motion](#), we are collaborating across sectors and communities in Oldham to learn how to achieve our vision of: Strengthening community spirit, aligning efforts to tackle poverty, and creating good jobs and social enterprise.

[Watch this video to find out more about Local Motion Oldham.](#)

The Network is action driven based on perspectives and insights from key VCFSE, public and private sector organisations and those with lived experience. The actions led by the network will be evidence of best practice, and develop projects which address the root causes of the three themes in the vision. Action Together facilitate and act as a coordinator for the network, however the network is led and owned by the members of the Oldham Poverty Action Network.

Lived experience of poverty and hardship is increasingly recognised as equal to 'learnt' experience of professional and decision makers in addressing it. At the heart of the network will be members with lived experience who will play an active role in everything the Network does.

OPAN consists of Task Groups and a Foundation Group. Tasks Groups focus on Building out from Crisis; and, Hope and Aspirations, creating routes out of poverty.

To support those with lived experience to feel able to play an active part in the network, a separate Peer Support group has been established, creating a space where people can build their confidence, support each other, grow into the space. This is coordinated by a dedicated person who will offer one-to-one support to all the lived experience members, as well as facilitate the peer support group. Learning and development sessions are also provided to those wishing to enhance their skills.

Achievements include:

- Creation of the Oldham Local Motion Longer Term Plan, leading to Local Motion funders investing £2.4million into Oldham over eight years. Action Together is the fiscal host for this money and is recruiting a Programme Manager. The decisions about where and how the money is spent are made through the core group
- Creation of two new roles to build capacity and move the safety net up higher for those in crisis
- Development of Uplift Volunteer Programme: from crisis to hope. The programme is targeted towards those experiencing hardship and focuses on removing barriers which often prevent individuals from taking their first steps into volunteering
- Department for Work and Pensions pilot providing a volunteer pathway targeted at 50+ Universal Credit claimants, focusing on volunteering as a route into employment
- Celebration event to mark one year of OPAN and launch the [Poverty Truth Commission report](#)

### Violence Reduction Unit

We were the recruitment organisation for the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, recruiting staff members to fill the roles of Violence Reduction Unit Facilitators in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority hosts the Violence Reduction Unit, which seeks to address the underlying causes of violence and work together with communities to prevent it. The role included building relationships with partner organisations in the boroughs that are working in communities to reduce violence in the boroughs.

The community-led approach to violence reduction, means the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) works closely with communities to understand the strengths, challenges, and needs of the community and determine how local investments will be made.

In **Oldham**, the Community-Led Approaches project is a violence reduction pilot funded by the GM Violence Reduction Unit which prioritises investment in community led approaches to tackling violence amongst young people aged 10-25 and their families. The model is to work with communities to identify strengths, challenges and ideas for solution in each area. In Oldham Action Together have been working with the 10GM and the Violence Reduction Unit to support members of 'Develop Glodwick' to form an Alliance to deliver this work.

On Thursday 31 August, Andy Burnham (Mayor of Manchester) and Kate Green (Deputy Mayor of Manchester) visited Oldham to see the progress which the Alliance has been making.

The programme in Oldham provides mentoring, youth work and sports programmes for young people at risk of or vulnerable to serious youth violence and exploitation, programmes that empower young females, and projects that engage young people and their parents.

The alliance came together to share projects they have been working on using VRU funding and how they have been making a positive impact on reducing crime in their area.

The Mayor and Deputy were impressed to hear about all the work which has been taking place!

In **Rochdale**, the focus of the VRU work has been on Darnhill estate in Heywood.

Our aims:

- Ensure that families and communities that are affected by serious violence are effectively supported through our placebased offer.
- Support community and voluntary organisations to deliver activities and interventions in areas of highest need.
- Support an improved criminal justice response to all forms of serious violence.

Judith is our VRU lead for Rochdale, and spent the six months engaging with schools, local people, young people, VCFSE groups, councillors and many more in order to build up a picture of local strengths, challenges and priorities. She is now working her findings into a list of priorities which will be checked with the community.

A grant fund of £100,000 is available in both 2024 and 2025 for local VCFSE groups to collaboratively respond to the needs and challenges of the community, with the aim of these responses being led by groups that are already locally embedded and trusted.

Judith has also shared her findings with Rochdale Borough Council to feed into the development of the Serious Violence Strategy.

In **Tameside**, the Violence Reduction Unit successfully bid for £100,000 investment for the St Peters, Holy Trinity Ward as part of the Community-led Approaches Programme. The Ashton St Peters Youth Alliance will work with Active Tameside, Leap, Lindley Youth Project and PAC to deliver the project for children and young people, offering targeted and universal provision, including detached youth work.

The Alliance will work with a wider multi agency partnership of statutory and voluntary sector organisations including Change Grow Live, Positive Steps, Youth Service, Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind, Complex Safeguarding Team, Kooth, Family Hub, Groundwork, Crime and Community Safety and Youth Justice.

### Live Well

[Live Well](#) is a GM programme to address inequalities through strengthening community-led approaches to health and wellbeing. For everyone to Live Well – with a good place to live, caring communities and enough to live on – we need systems and approaches to change.

Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside are three of the four ‘accelerator localities’ to receive funding from the National Lottery, where we will be testing out ways of shifting the relationship between the statutory and VCFSE sector, how we make decisions together and how we measure our success.

In **Rochdale** our ambition is to look at:

- Transformational governance
- Good Help
- Inclusive Messaging
- Shifting our approach to impact

Action Together will be exploring how we can use the Anti-Poverty Strategy to shift power and decision-making, so that communities are working together with those in positions of power. To do this we recruited a Systems Change Facilitator and established an Anti-Poverty Network and Foundation group to sit at the heart of the decision-making process. We were supported by the Innovation Unit in this work, who offer coaching and learning sessions as well as specialist support and helped us develop a Theory of Change for the network.

To start this work we held an event called ‘The Future We Deserve: a summit for economic equity – Rochdale’ to offer the opportunity for interested organisations to connect and discuss the root causes of poverty, but also the intersectionality of poverty in Rochdale. We also looked at the characteristics and qualities needed for the foundation group and talked what that opportunity would look like.

The event was a real success with over 40 attendees and 14 different organisations hosting conversations around the room.

27 people applied to be on the foundation group, so to ensure we got the right people for the group we conducted 1-2-1 catch ups where we asked questions around the themes of:

availability/commitment, understanding the intersectionality of poverty, enthusiasm to tackle this together in partnership, and being solutions focused.

This allowed us to gain deeper insight into each person and their motivations and allow us to understand if they would be a 'good fit.' For example, one person highlighted their wishes 'to build a new system - and put it back together differently.' Another discussed the idea of 'fixing problems at the source.' These comments showed an understanding that this was about getting to the root of problems, not necessarily just working within existing avenues or providing emergency support.

13 people were selected to be on the Foundation Group through this process. They were selected to provide representation across the borough and cover a range of subjects, expertise and experiences. These include mental health services, youth work, community centres, food solutions, debt solutions, violence against women and girls, homelessness, work and skills, community reporting, lived experience, health and wellbeing of the over 60's community, the asylum seeker experience, and private renting among others.

The recruitment process demonstrated that people had been drawn to the group because of its influence and positioning close to power. One person stated, *'this is a higher level than we've had access to before... it sounds very attractive'*. Another pointed out that this was a great opportunity *'to speak into power'*.

In **Oldham**, we are co-leading the Live Well Accelerator Site work, which is focussed on how funds and resources can be aligned at district neighbourhood level to invest in community-led health approaches? The work planned includes:

- Implementing a neighbourhood-based shared budget for investment and delivery of community-led health and prevention activity at a local level
- Drawing together existing funding and resources from within the system, to be held by a local partnership and distributed via joint partnership investment decisions
- Systems change work around power sharing and involving local community organisations and residents in developing the priorities for funding and the decisions on where funding and resources are invested

We are testing this in the East Oldham District.

The Outcomes and Impact were hoping to achieve includes:

- Increased investment in community-led health and prevention approaches
- Accessible, local activities and support available to residents that have involved residents in the decision making around what is important and what is invested in
- Improved population health and wellbeing
- Reduced demand on the public sector system

In **Tameside**, there are numerous organisations focused around supporting people's health and wellbeing, and making a huge contribution to keeping residents healthy and well. Live Well and the National Lottery Community Fund grant will help systems partners make this the basis of a borough-wide approach to doing more together to maintain good health and prevent ill health for all our residents and find ways to resource this for the longer term.

We plan to bring together system partners, including adult social care, Population Health, housing providers and representatives from the voluntary sector, to understand what prevention looks like. We will identify a pilot site in Tameside, combining the data we hold with externally available data and the insight from these partners and key Community Anchor organisations. Our aims will be to:

- Showcase what is available to support prevention
- Facilitate conversations through the system on where we can work together
- Support the development of a Prevention Framework for this activity and encourage more investment in Tameside

### Big Local

In the first quarter of the year, the Big Local Partnership continued to focus on planning for the final year of their plan and the legacy that Big Local will leave behind. Feedback, case studies and the monitoring information were collected from funded groups and activities and work began to prepare an end of plan report highlighting the variety of activities, projects and groups that were supported by Big Local and the impact this had.

We continued to work with Big Local funded organisations to support them with planning to be able to continue to be sustainable once the funding comes to an end, and ensuring the legacy that Big Local will leave behind.

A multi-use games area is due to be built at Arundel Street Park in partnership with Oldham Council, who will provide match funding. The detailed proposal was approved in March 2024 and it is expected that work will be completed over the coming months.

A three-month extension to the current plan had been granted with a monthly review after that – this will enable existing activities to be wound up and the multi-use games area to be completed.

### Case Study: Community Explorers

On a regular basis, our Community Development Workers facilitate the Community Explorers Forums in each district.

At one Community Explorers event, Action Together had 29 people attend the early evening Community Explorers gathering, held at Saddleworth Spiritualist Church, Uppermill. Individuals representing themselves, groups, organisations from the VCFSE and public sector attended.

In attendance was a new group, YOU. The aim of YOU is to provide a community group where people can come together to get involved in activities and tasks.

However, by taking part in these tasks, they would like the outcome for people to be focussed on wellbeing and positive mental health, rather than the emphasis being on learning a skill. Instead, they hope the activities are a vehicle for communication with others, building connections and gaining a sense of achievement in collaboration with others while feeling a sense of belonging as part of a group.

Ultimately, they want to help people in the community who may be struggling with aspects of their life by using the skills and life experience they have, practically and therapeutically, to provide a place for people to connect, share, laugh, learn and heal.

Action Together's Community Development Worker and YOU worked together to determine the best legal structure for the group, a Community interest Company (CIC). They were invited to the Community Explorers to make connections. They were able to make some links and were introduced to a couple of other organisations, who had very recently become a CIC or were a CIC. Contacts were exchanged, as they felt they could support and take guidance from each other.

## 7. Leadership and Advocacy

### Stronger Together

In November we hosted our first Stronger Together event, aimed at supporting our member organisations with information, advice, workshops and the chance to speak directly to funders.

Our members also had the opportunity to speak to Action Together's team about the support we can offer their organisation, and hear about the impact we've made in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside.

We hosted some fantastic speakers and workshops at the event. Thank you to all the speakers and stall holders who joined us on the day:

- The National Lottery shared information about their Community Fund
- Children in Need shared information about their funding
- Alan Lawrie hosted a workshop on Funding your organisations in tough times workshop
- Debra Alcock Tyler was our keynote speaker
- Rene Barrett delivered a masterclass on Keeping Going

---

*"Fabulous event you organised yesterday. The comments I have seen on Twitter suggest the attendees loved it."*

*"I enjoyed the session. I thought that the organisation of the event was incredibly slick!"*

*"It was a great event, I really enjoyed it and had some great conversations with groups around applying to the fund."*

*"Thank you for the invitation to the funders forum this morning, we both really enjoyed it and thought it was great to be able to meet some new groups."*

*"Excellent event, very much enjoyed the day."*

*"Meet The Funders was very relevant, with the right number and type of funders. Four of the funders present we were already or were looking to engage with as*

*part of our fundraising strategy. They were all there in one room which was a pleasant surprise."*

---

[See highlights of the event in this video.](#)

### Oldham Coliseum

Action Together was asked to [complete an independent evaluation](#) of the governance risks that were factors in the closure of the Oldham Coliseum Theatre. This involved interviewing key stakeholders: Oldham Council, Arts Council England, a senior staff member of Oldham Coliseum, the new theatre Project Director, and the Independent Partnership Chair.

### Responding to international crises

We recognise that members of the communities Action Together supports have been affected by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and conflict in Israel and Palestine, as we too have been affected.

[We compiled national and international appeals on our website to support people in Gaza.](#)

### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

This year we recruited a Workforce and Inclusion Coordinator to lead on our internal and external Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) work.

This dedicated role has helped us focus on EDI and internal workforce development across Action Together, including creating an EDI strategy and reviewing our current recruitment and EDI policies to recommend changes and improvements.

We've also increased our focus on celebration and awareness days, weeks and months relevant to our members and communities. We've used these celebrations as an opportunity to hear from our members, sharing our platform and the experiences of those who make up the organisations we support across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside.

We celebrated Black History Month and its 2023 theme 'Saluting Our Sisters' by sharing the personal stories of some women from our membership who are championing their organisations and achieving brilliant things in their communities every day. These women make outstanding contributions, challenging systems and paving the way for change. We wanted to acknowledge and celebrate their leadership and amplify their voices.

Hear from some of our members:

- [Patrice Johnson from Tameside-based Finding My Way CIC](#)
- [Hayley Harewood from Oldham-based Keeping Our Girls Safe \(KOGS\)](#)
- [Nicky Iginla from Caring and Sharing Rochdale](#)
- [Arike Olwatosin Sotubo from Tameside-based Ark of Hope](#)

In February, we celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month by celebrating the amazing achievements and stories of just a few LGBTQ+ members and partners of Action Together:



- [David Austin](#)
- [Kris Zemlik](#)
- [Cllr. Louie Hamblett](#)

We linked into other recognition dates by sharing advice and guidance for our members, such as sharing [resources and guidance on making your organisation more inclusive for UK Disability History Month](#), promoting [groups and activities to support International Men's Day](#), sharing local [services, activities and resources for International Women's Day](#), and actions on [developing a trans-inclusive workplace and how we are embedding them at Action Together for International Transgender Day of Visibility](#).

In March, [we hosted our first Iftar](#) , with around 30 staff and community members joining together to share food and learn more about one another's experiences. Nasim Ashraf from the European Islamic Centre gave a presentation on the significance of Ramadan, and attendees discussed their experiences of fasting and the commonalities between our many varied belief systems.

## 8. Investment

This year we directed over £2,000,000 into the sector, supporting 549 local organisations to get started, develop their ideas, try new projects, and respond to the needs of their communities.

Funding remains the number one focus for our membership. We continued to deliver our fortnightly funding ebulletin, leading to increased engagement and applications both for our own and for external funding, while our Find Funding page remained the most popular on our website with 48,344 visits, a 152% increase on the previous year.

Our Capacity Building teams continued to support groups with bid writing, advice on funds to apply for, and help in demonstrating the impact that funding had made, as well as arranging for funders to speak directly to our members through Meet The Funder.

---

*"It's really good Action Together put on events like this, it gives an opportunity to speak to funders and get to know people!"*

[Lynn, Infinity Initiatives, about our Meet The Funder event hosting The National Lottery Community Fund](#)

---

### **Case Study: Prime Active Communities (PAC) secure £68,000 to continue activities for young people in Tameside**

Prime Active Communities CIC is a community interest company that specialises in youth and community engagement. They are based in Hattersley but also work in other areas of Tameside (Hyde, Ashton, Stalybridge).

---

## ACTION TOGETHER CIO

---

PAC had lost local authority funding and were looking to widen their funding opportunities in order to continue providing their services which include: detached youth work, Jam Pot Music project (Hattersley and Hurst Cross Ashton), Creative youth group, Podcasting, and general youth work.

Our Community Development Officer met with Mark to establish costs and what would be needed moving forward to enable PAC to continue delivering their services. We provided a grants search, and identified Awards for All and the Million Hours fund.

PAC received £19,000 from Awards for All to continue the Creative Club which is a weekly club for young people living in Hattersley. They also received £49,000 from the Million Hours Fund to deliver detached youth work and youth activity in the area of Ashton. They recently submitted an application to Children in Need to increase their future sustainability.

---

*"Action Together's vital support has been indispensable for Prime Active Communities in accessing crucial funding opportunities, without which our projects benefiting vulnerable young people would be unfeasible. Their assistance in navigating funding sources, introducing us to partner agencies, and providing guidance on writing funding bids has resulted in better outcomes for the youth we serve.*

*Additionally, their efforts have empowered our staff to enhance their skills and knowledge, ensuring we identify and apply for the most suitable funding opportunities.*

*Through consistent support, Action Together has enabled us to access opportunities that positively impact our young people and future generations."*

*Mark Turton, PAC*

---

### **Case Study: Spoons Neonatal Family Support raise £190 through the Oldham Community Lottery**

The Oldham Community Lottery is fantastic fundraising channel, which voluntary and community organisations based in Oldham have been taking advantage of through registering as a 'Good Cause', allowing supporters to give regularly and with ease!

Supporters who sign up to play the Oldham Community Lottery will be given the opportunity to select which registered Good Causes they would like to support, and these organisations will receive proceeds from the ticket sales. One Good Cause is Spoons Neonatal Family Support.

Spoons Neonatal Family Support are an incredible asset to the community, as they aim to alleviate stress and reduce the isolation of families who experience neonatal care.

Since joining the Oldham Community Lottery in August 2023, Spoons Neonatal Family Support have raised £190! (Figure dated December 2023)

We caught up with Amy Town, Fundraising and Communications at Spoons, to share their experience of the Oldham Community Lottery and how the funds have been used to support them.

---

*"We saw the Oldham Community Lottery as an opportunity to offer our community of supporters another way to help Spoons, and something we'd not tried before. After speaking to a couple of other organisations involved we thought we would trial it as simple way of generating some regular income.*

*The funds raised have gone towards our services supporting families in Greater Manchester who are experiencing neonatal care. Spoons' team of skilled staff and volunteers help to reduce the stress, isolation and worry felt by families going through neonatal care. Through our advice and information, peer support, resource packs, trauma therapy, support groups, advocacy, community activity groups and much more, Spoons offers the practical and emotional support needed by families experiencing neonatal care.*

*The registration process is very simple and straightforward.*

*To organisations thinking about joining, definitely give it a try! It's simple and relatively low resource. It does require promotion via social media and newsletters, but can be successful with an engaged pool of supporters."*

---

Oldham Community Lottery is one example of ways in which we're acting on our Strategic Objective to Grow and Transform as a Local Funder. We continue to work with partners Gatherwell to promote and co-ordinate the Community Lottery and for organisations to register as Good Causes.

### **Case Study: Seed Funding for Blossom North West CIC**

With an interest in combatting food waste and working with communities, Paula wanted to develop an organisation that brought together her lifelong ambition of providing cooking demonstrations and teaching local communities to cook both nutritious and environmentally friendly meals using surplus food.

It can be really challenging to get funding for the initial stages of a new organisation, but through the new Seed Fund Julie from Action Together was able to offer a more hands on process tailored to what they needed.

The £500 funding will help her formally register as a CIC, purchase some start-up equipment and pay for Public Liability insurance, which the group will need to ensure they are operating within Health & Safety guidelines.

Julie will continue to work with Paula throughout this project – and has already suggested some potential links to both the Food Solutions Network, as well as other member organisations who use food and cooking as a method to connect communities and empower individuals.

---

*"The support that I have received from Julie has been amazing from the beginning. Julie's warmth, patience and passion has helped me throughout and I cannot thank her enough for making my dream of Blossom NW be a reality."*

*Paula, Director of Blossom North West CIC*

---

### **Case Study: One Oldham Fund Cost of Living Crisis Support Grant funds Christmas Day Celebration for Oldham Chapel**

In December, Oldham Chapel held a hugely successful Christmas Day Celebration for more than forty people in their community which was made possible, in part, with funding from our One Oldham Fund Cost of Living Crisis Support Grant.

Rev. Bob Pounder contacted Action Together with a funding application as Oldham Chapel wanted to support the members of their community who they knew were facing isolation, loneliness, or struggling to afford a festive meal. Their project idea aimed to alleviate these issues by providing a Christmas Day Celebration where everyone was welcome, which would counter the issues around social isolation, increase confidence and self-esteem, and provide friendship to the attendees.

The funding application was successful, and Oldham Chapel received £1,000 to ensure that, not only could they provide a Christmas lunch, but Christmas gifts as well. The event was a great success with more than forty local people attending and benefitting from the community-focused celebration.

### **Case Study: Crafty Spooners Make an Impact**

Crafty Spooners are a social craft group. The group meets every Monday at 10am – 12pm at The Society Rooms in Stalybridge, and group members bring their own craft activities to complete and share with others.

Sue, the organiser of Crafty Spooners, thought that they should carry out a group activity to support local fundraising. The group came up with the idea of making jewellery pieces which could be put together in different creative ways, and make costume jewellery to sell at an open event at [Willow Wood Hospice](#). Crafty Spooners have always worked closely with Willow Wood Hospice, supporting their many fundraising ideas and working with the team to help generate donations. The idea was taken to the fundraising lead at Willow Wood Hospice who said it would be fantastic to have a Crafty Spooners stand at the event.

The group planned to raise funds to purchase the jewellery items that would be made into finished, decorative pieces to sell. Jonathan from Action Together attended a meeting to discuss ideas and advised the activity could be funded by our Seed Fund, where up to £150 was available for groups to test ideas and activities.

All 30 of the Crafty Spooners came together to work on their design ideas, and over six weeks the group turned the £150 investment into 1,000 items to sell at and raise funds for Willow Wood Hospice. [Find out more here on our website.](#)

### Case Study: Food Solutions Grant “as a way of caring and sharing with one another”

Our Rochdale Communities Fund Food Solutions Grants have been fuelling innovative community projects across the borough to address food insecurity.

One recipient of the funding was Caring and Sharing Rochdale. Their mission is to empower disadvantaged groups and make a positive difference to the lives of the less privileged in their community.

The grant they received has been used to continue their provision setting up a pantry to offer culturally appropriate food to refugees, asylum seekers, and other disadvantaged groups and is a vital lifeline for many in the area.

---

*“The Food Solution Grant has been an active means of lowering hardship in our community, which automatically enhances social cohesion. As an inclusive community, we have been able to maximise our potential of bettering the wellbeing of the people in our community, by provision of healthy cultural appropriate foods, as a way of caring and sharing with one another. Feedback from the people in the various communities we serve has shown that the radiance of your generous support goes beyond the smile, happiness and self-worth of the people, to building a community support system.*

*Our Food Solution Program supports both low-income earners and unemployed individuals. Thank you greatly Action Together for your continuous support in making a positive impact in our community.”*

*Nicky Iginla, Founder and CEO, Caring and Sharing Rochdale*

---

## 9. Our strategic objectives

We launched our new five-year strategy in December 2022, to take us from 2023 to 2028.

The strategy will cover all of our core work in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside, with these shared strategic priorities:

1. Strengthen social infrastructure for connected communities
2. Advance our approach to social change
3. Grow and transform as a local funder

### 1. Strengthen social infrastructure for connected communities

**We will do this by:**

- Working in neighbourhoods to build deep relationships with groups and strengthen what they do
- Addressing barriers and making Action Together's offer accessible to all parts of our communities of place, identity and experience
- Strengthening community ownership and control of local land, buildings and assets
- Developing and championing volunteering to empower more local people to share their skills, capacity and social capital **How have we done this in 2023/24?**
- Continued to embed Community Team model across neighbourhoods
- Delivered regular pop-up Volunteering Hubs
- Increased the number of people receiving information about volunteering (eg via Volunteer eBulletin, Volunteering Hubs, ERV, promotion and engagement) and registering to volunteer (+29% on previous year)
- Produced Volunteer Training Videos and delivered pre-volunteering training to improve skills and understanding for those beginning their volunteer journey
- Publicly rolled out Health Checks to all members to support local groups and identify their strengths and areas for improvement

## 2. Advance our approach to social change

### We will do this by:

- Developing our social change networks so they are owned by members with shared learning, power and decision-making
- Investing in networks to identify opportunities for social change, take shared action and make a demonstrable impact in communities
- Developing our skills so that every team across Action Together understands their role in enabling social change
- Strengthening community leadership and the role of community anchors in shaping neighbourhoods

### How have we done this in 2023/24?

- See Partnerships and Collaboration section for in depth detail on how we've advanced our approach to social change
- Some highlights:
  - In Oldham, developed and delivered Oldham Poverty Action Network, with investment from LocalMotion
  - In Rochdale, introduced Neighbourhood Networks
  - In Tameside, reviewing and relaunching our networks
  - Connected specific funds with networks and their participants

### 3. Grow and transform as a local funder

#### We will do this by:

- Establishing a strategic investment fund in each borough for public and private partners
- Committing to being an open and trusting grantmaker, making longer-term, strategic investments into the core of what our members do
- Connecting and enhancing our development support so we invest time and skills as well as money
- Supporting our members to have a stronger collective voice influencing local funding priorities and bringing investment into their communities **How have we done this in 2023/24?**
- Continued to develop One Oldham Fund and Rochdale Communities Fund
- Introduced new strands to these funds in response to local priorities
- Set up, launched and promoted Oldham Community Lottery
- Hosted in-person Meet The Funders so applicants could meet and speak to national funders directly
- Developed capacity building support offer around intense organisational development support to include business planning, income generation and sustainability

Find our full strategy at this link: [Action Together Strategy 2023 - 28](#)

## 10. Our projects

### Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing is a free way to access support for a range of physical, mental and social health needs.

Action Together works in partnership with voluntary organisations, community services, healthcare providers, GPs, local authorities and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership to deliver Social Prescribing in Oldham, and until 31 March 2024 in Tameside.

Through Social Prescribing, we connect people with local services and activities that can help them become healthier, happier and better-connected to their community.

This could involve a Social Prescriber helping people join a social group to meet new people, linking someone with free activities in their area, or connecting someone to a support service for a particular life challenge or health condition.

4,169 people were referred through our Social Prescribing services in Oldham and Tameside last year.

**Oldham Social Prescribing** is delivered by a consortium of Oldham charities including Age UK Oldham, Positive Steps and Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind, led by Action Together.

We saw another increase in year-on-year take up of the service in Oldham, with a 22% rise in referrals from the previous year and a 37% increase in contacts. Half of all referrals were due to loneliness and social isolation, with 48% also mentioning mental health and emotional wellbeing as a factor. Welfare and money management (29%) and Housing (21%) were also significant reasons for referral.

Once again ONS4 wellbeing scores reflected that the Social Prescribing service has a positive impact for the majority of people who engage with the service. 76% of people reported an improvement in their overall wellbeing following referral to Social Prescribing, with 67% reporting they felt more satisfaction with their life and 65% feeling more worthwhile after working with our Oldham team.

Service users have a variety of ways to engage with Social Prescribing, with 51% of referrals coming from Primary Care or Adult Social Care services. 15% of service users took the opportunity to self-refer into Social Prescribing.

At the start of the year we based a Link Worker in Oldham's Adult Referral Contact Centre (ARCC), to build on the connection with Adult Social Care and more quickly respond to referrals coming through that route. This joint working led to the direct referral of 208 people into Social Prescribing, as well as improving the user journey and better connecting the ARCC team with sources of wider community support.

---

*"Oldham Social Prescribing are a key support service that work alongside ourselves to promote the wellbeing of our residents.*

*The Social Prescribers that we work with get the most important basics right: compassion, empathy and a person-centred approach to walking hand-in-hand alongside residents with the challenges of daily living that can arise in these difficult times. They are our community experts that support the residents to re-connect with the great resources we have in our community.*

*As the front door of Adult Social Care, we respond to a range of situations for those residents whose wellbeing may be being impacted. This can range from just a chat and advice, to supporting with urgent care plans. Social Prescribing supports ourselves to promote the holistic wellbeing of residents that we encounter.*

*Since Oldham Social Prescribing have been as involved as they are with the ARCC, I have seen the difference that is has made in terms of preventative work.*

*SP service always try their best to get positive outcomes for their service users and they look at other alternatives that may be required. Having them on the team has improved my own skills and awareness.*

*Keep up the great work"*



*Oldham Adult Referral Contact Centre*

---

**Case Study: Anne-Marie's Social Prescribing Story**

Anne-Marie was referred to our Oldham Social Prescribing team after losing her mum and becoming quite isolated and low in mood. She has learning difficulties and needed support to improve her socialisation and mood.

She met with her Social Prescriber as she needed support with benefits, independent living/housing information, social groups, employment support and education.

Anne-Marie shared a bit about her journey with Oldham Social Prescribing:

---

*"My name's Anne-Marie Jones, I'm 28 years old and I live in Oldham.*

*I started having problems with my mental health and it got to the point where I couldn't cope anymore. So, I went to the GP and got referred over to Oldham Social Prescribing.*

*Once I got referred, Debra from Oldham Social Prescribing phoned me up and invited me to have a chat. We've had lots of regular catch ups since then.*

*I'd been applying for PIP and with the help of the Social Prescribing, I've been able to get it! They've also helped me look into more social groups get and out of the house more.*

*I get a lot of support though Social Prescribing, and it's nice to have someone to talk to.*

*Debra has been a great, and such a big help to me.*

*My hopes for the future are to get myself into a job in retail, or maybe even youth work.*

*I feel a lot better than I was a few months ago, now I'm getting the right support and help.*

*For anyone who's been in a similar position to me, I'd say get in touch with your GP. I'm not sure where I'd be without the help of Oldham Social Prescribing."*

---

Social Prescribing has helped Anne-Marie access local groups and activities and education classes. She also regularly visits Oldham Leisure Centre and she now attends multiple sessions at MENCAP in Drama, Dancercise, Music Therapy. She is also participating in English, Maths, Dyslexia classes at Lifelong Learning.

After accessing a referral from her GP, Anne-Marie is in the process of being fully assessed as this is something that she was never able to do. She is now receiving the appropriate benefits.

Anne-Marie has made lots of progress thanks to her commitment and the services she was able to engage with.

In **Tameside**, we were informed in January by NHS Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust (ICFT) that funding for our Tameside Community Wellbeing Programme would end on 31 March 2024. The programme included Tameside Social Prescribing, meaning we stopped taking referrals from 26 January in order to support those we were already working with and manage the closure of the service for our staff, partners and the people we supported.

The Tameside Social Prescribing service successfully delivered support to over 9,000 people over the six years it was delivered by Action Together, with 94% of our clients reporting improvements in their health and wellbeing after working with the service.

We would like to thank our dedicated team of Social Prescribers and Link Workers, our Community Development Team, our partners and the 796 Tameside groups and services we have worked alongside and connected people to over the years.

[We produced this video with a selection of quotes from some of the people we've worked with over the years.](#)

### **Miles of Smiles**

Miles of Smiles is a community transport scheme where volunteer drivers take people to and from health appointments in Tameside. Action Together administers the scheme and recruits volunteer drivers.

69% of our passengers are aged over 76, and our volunteer drivers act as both transport and a support for people who may be suffering from poor health and isolation.

In total this year, Miles of Smiles completed 4,171 journeys, across a total of 38,069 miles.

### **Healthwatch Oldham**

Publication of Healthwatch Oldham's annual report has been delayed by the UK General Election, following the below guidance from Healthwatch England:

*The statutory requirement for your annual report is "provision requiring each such report to be prepared by 30th June after the end of the financial year concerned." We therefore recommend that:*

- *You prepare and finish your annual report by the 30 June*

- *You do not publish, promote, or send out your annual report until after the general election*
- *We recommend you get in touch with your local authority commissioners ahead of the deadline to inform them of your approach and let them know the annual report publication will be delayed due to the pre-election guidance and when they can expect to receive it from you*

Healthwatch Oldham annual report will be included in this report when available.

### Healthwatch Tameside

Healthwatch Tameside's annual report highlights their accomplishments over the past year, which includes the impact they have achieved working with communities, the projects they have undertaken and a look forward to their future priorities.

Highlights from the year include:

- 1,206 people shared their experiences of health and social care services with Healthwatch Tameside, helping to raise awareness of issues and improve care
- 234 people came for clear advice and information about topics such as mental health and the cost-of-living crisis
- Publishing three reports about the improvements people would like to see in health and social care services. This included a Mental Health Survey Report which followed up on the 2017 Mental Health Report by assessing the impact of new services
- The support of 11 outstanding volunteers who gave up 90 hours to make care better for our community

[Read Healthwatch Tameside's annual report.](#)

---

*"Healthwatch Tameside remains committed to listening to the local community and does so in a variety of ways, including face-to-face engagement events, telephone calls and surveys. All contacts with the Healthwatch Tameside team are recorded and the details of what you tell us are shared (anonymously) with the leaders of our health and social care services to inform their decision making.*

*Over the course of the past 12 months, Healthwatch Tameside has worked together with the wider Healthwatch in Greater Manchester network to bring the details of your positive comments and concerns together to analyse themes and trends. We have shared this information with the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care System and told them that our community is unhappy with the changes to services for people with Autism and ADHD. We have also made local leaders aware of your concerns about access to GP appointments and your difficulties in accessing an NHS dentist. It is important that we also feedback on positive experience and whilst you have*

*told us that you have concern about access to a GP, you have also very often praised the individual GPs and other primary care staff after your contacts with them.*

*This has been a difficult year for the Healthwatch Tameside team due to uncertainty around the service contract, which was only resolved at the end of March 2024. We are delighted to have been awarded a 6-year contract by the Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, and with the support of the Advisory Board and Action Together we have promptly started to develop our plans for the next 3 years.*

*It has also been a very sad year following the illness of our Deputy Chair, Miss Jyoti Rao, and her passing in February 2024.*

*I would like to ask each person that reads this report to tell someone else about the work of Healthwatch. If you have completed one of our surveys or spoken to a member of our team, please tell others about us in your community.”*

*Tracey McErlain-Burns. Chair, Healthwatch Tameside*

---

## **11. Our future plans**

Our focus next year will be to:

- Identify ways to deepen the work of our strategic priorities – strengthen social infrastructure, advance our approach to social change and grow and transform as a local funder
- Increase the awareness of the role of the VCSE in economic development and the importance of people and communities being the stewards of local assets and building community wealth
- Increase our offer of support to local social enterprises and local people who want to start a social business but face barriers to access the support they need
- Continue to be a voice alongside people who face inequalities and social injustices, and work to bring people together to create and scale up solutions
- Mitigate the depth of cuts to critical resources that are invested with communities in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside and help groups plan for the effects that reduced public finances will have for them

### 12. Action Together in Greater Manchester

Action Together is one of the founding partners of 10GM, and Action Together's CEO is one of the four Directors. 10GM is a joint venture to support the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in Greater Manchester (GM). We're a collection of local infrastructure organisations (LIOs) operating strategically and collaboratively as an integral part of the wider GM strategy.

The partner organisations that make up 10GM are Action Together <https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/>, Bolton CVS <https://www.boltoncvs.org.uk/>, Macc <https://www.macc.org.uk/> and Salford CVS <https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/>.

10GM is supported by a central team and works closely with Local VCSE Infrastructure Organisations (LIOs) in all the boroughs of Greater Manchester. We deliver a wide range of collaborative projects and activities rooted in place through LIOs and connect them at a GM level. As well as our vast collective network of VCSE connections across GM, we have strong relationships with colleagues in the GM Integrated Care Partnership, the GM Combined Authority, and the Mayor's office. We have a longstanding record of collaborative work with GM Moving, including developing local pilots and engagement activities to reach the diverse communities of Greater Manchester.

The Action Together team has been involved directly in the following projects, find out more about all of 10GM's work [here](#)

- Action Together employs a Violence Reduction Facilitator in each of the areas we work, who works with local VCFSE partners to develop an alliance and work together to tackle violence that affects young people. The alliance accesses a budget of £100,000 to develop new activities and ways of working in Heywood, Glodwick and Ashton.
- We have been improving our workforce offer to the local sector through resources from the UK Shared Prosperity Funding for infrastructure development, you can find out more about this in our section on Development.
- We provide strategic leadership and representation on a number of GM Boards such as the GM Reform Executive, GM Moving and the GM Population Health Committee. We work together with other GM colleagues on a range of initiatives that strengthens the VCFSE sector and improves working relationships with the GM and locality public sector partners

### 13. Our purpose and values

#### Our purpose and charitable objects

'To strengthen the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector, maximising opportunities to create positive social change, promote social justice and harness social benefit.'

Our charitable objects are to:

- promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the public, principally but not exclusively in the local government areas of Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside and the surrounding area and, in particular, to build the capacity of third sector organisations and provide them with the necessary support, information and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose.

- promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

Our mission is to strengthen the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector, increase individual social action, and work across organisational and sector boundaries to maximise every opportunity to harness social good and create social change. There are an estimated 3,788 voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise groups in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside according to our State of the Sector research.

### Public Benefit - how we decide who to help

We make decisions in line with the Public Benefit guidance (2014) and ensure:

- Decisions are taken in line with our charitable objects
- That we adhere to our values in the decision we take
- We prioritise our services to help those that would be unable to pay for the support and / or who are tackling a significant social injustice
- We identify and minimise risks
- There is no personal benefit (or advantage) given to trustees or staff

### Our values

Action Together's values underpin all our activities including our strategy, operational plan, workforce development and recruitment. We want to be held to account on our values, as ways of working that we will always strive for.

**Believe it's possible** - vision and ideas matter. We have confidence in the power of people and communities and strive to release their potential to create the widest possible benefits whilst promoting social justice.

**Strengthen others** - we work in ways that strengthen people, places, and partnerships. We achieve this by working collaboratively, sharing skills, and developing relationships between people, groups and agencies.

**Be true** - we are brave enough to share constructive insight to make progress. Our unique insight comes from our connections with, and amplification of, the diverse range of voices of people and groups that we work with.

## 14. Structure, Governance and Management

### Governance

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of Action Together and is ultimately responsible for everything the incorporated charity does. Action Together's board can have a maximum of 14 Board

members, 12 of which are elected from its membership, with the ability to co-opt a further two people.

Action Together's Honorary Officers for 2023/34 are:

- Chair - Camilla Guereca
- Vice Chair - Adrian Ball
- Treasurer - Anne Parkes

A full list of the trustees can be found at <http://www.actiontogether.org.uk/our-trustees>

Board members are supported in their role by receiving an induction and support from the CEO and other trustees. Trustees are encouraged to take up our training and development opportunities, as well as external training that is of interest.

Action Together has two standing committees that steer the work of Healthwatch Oldham and Healthwatch Tameside. These have their own terms of reference but ultimate accountability of the contracts and employment is with Action Together.

### Structure and management

The day to day running of the charity is handled through a scheme of delegation to the Chief Executive, Liz Windsor-Welsh. The Chief Executive leads the Senior Leadership Team, which consists of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Operations, and the three Directors responsible for the management of our locality teams in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside.

### Our systems

We constantly strive to refine and improve our internal processes wherever possible to ensure that we employ best practice and have robust controls in place. It is paramount that we remain compliant with legislation and Charity Commission rules and we have internal processes and sub-groups that monitor our activity to ensure that this is the case.

This year we founded an operations network where we meet with operations directors and senior managers from other organisations within our sector. The aim of the network is to share knowledge and learning in relation to internal processes/systems and we work together to refine approaches to challenges that we face. This has proved to be an extremely useful resource and membership of the network is growing.

Our CiviCRM database is currently going through a major update process to further enhance our internal systems and to support the new website platform which will be rolling out later this year.

### Our website

We have continued to develop <https://www.actiontogether.org.uk> to meet the needs of our members.

Our website saw another year-on-year increase in visits, with a total of 783,238 hits. This continues the trend of our website attracting more visitors each year, with an increase of 34,426 (+5%) on the previous year.

Volunteering overtook Find Funding to become our most popular page, with a high proportion of repeat visitors pointing to an engaged local audience and the impact of our new Volunteering outreach and engagement such as monthly Volunteer eBulletin and local Hubs. Our Community Activities Directory also grew in popularity to become the third most visited page, following focused promotion through our communications.

The upcoming move to a new website platform in 2024/25 has given us the opportunity to review our site, its content, navigation, and design. The refresh of our website will make it easier to use and bring additional features/support for our members, such as increased self-service opportunities to manage their accounts in a more accessible way. We sought insights from staff and guidance on accessibility from our Inclusion and Workforce Coordinator, and acquired a free non-profit licence to Hotjar, a website behaviour tool which gives us detailed insights into how users interact with our site, and which will help us in designing the new site. We plan on holding focus groups with our members on the website to gather additional feedback, ahead of the final design and build of the site for launch in 2024.

### Our internal development

Our integrated Operational Planning and staff Work Planning system introduced last year was the first step in development of this internal process. This year will see this data collated and used in management information dashboards further improving our knowledge across the organisation and improving governance further.

Following a trial the previous year, we introduced adding bank holidays to staff annual leave allowance, so staff can choose to work bank holidays or book those days off.

We had a team which averaged a headcount of 88.75, and FTE was 77.24

We delivered Chats That Matter coaching training for line managers in October. This training was designed to give line managers the tools to have supportive coaching conversations during supervision and one-to-ones, to ensure they are able to understand their staff's strengths and what motivates them to improve their performance, development and wellbeing.

Our HR team led a strengths mapping project to gain insight into the current skills within the organisation and to inform the learning and development plan for the coming year. The first phase of the surveys was held over March and April, with the second phase due to commence in summer 2024.

The Action Together staff team also had the opportunity to attend anti-racism training from Theatre in Flow, and neurodiversity awareness training from Starling CIO, with additional neurodiversity training also being offered to line managers.

Data protection is an area of great importance and growing complexity and we ensure that our approach in this area is equally prioritized. We remain vigilant at all times and we have successfully renewed our Cyber Essentials accreditation and NHS Data Security and Protection Toolkit. Our in-house data protection training is mandatory for all staff and is informed by our knowledge of incidents and near misses in VCFSE organisations over the previous year. Our Data Protection Officer



represents the VCFSE Sector on the Greater Manchester Information Board and is an active participant in a number of relevant Information Governance initiatives in the City Region.

Ensuring the Health and Safety of our employees, volunteers and members of the community with whom we interact is of paramount importance to us. We have recently undergone a complete review of our Health and Safety policies and practices aided by a specialist consultant in this area who also acts as our registered “competent person” in Health and Safety matters. This saw the updating and introduction of some new Risk Assessment templates as well as a new Health and Safety manual and updated policy. Health and Safety training is mandatory for our employees and is maintained on a regular basis. It also forms part of our onboarding process shortly after recruitment of any new employee.

### **Risk management**

We hold a detailed risk management document which is submitted to the Board of trustees of an annual basis. This risk register identifies potential risks to the organisation over a broad base of elements covering, governance, strategic, reputational, operational, safeguarding, financial and information governance. In addition it sets out mitigations and controls that are in place to reduce the risk of such incidents as far possible. Where incidents do occur, each is logged and any subsequent learning reflected in a change to process and practice where appropriate. In addition to the risk register and incident log, a compliance report details controls in place over our internal systems and this is submitted to the Board of trustees on an annual basis.

## **15. Financial review**

Funds at 31 March 2024 amounted to £5,015,867 of which £3,638,604 were restricted. Expenditure in the year met the objectives that were required by the principal funding sources, as described in their funding agreements.

Restricted funds held at the end of the year have been carried forward for the future support of specific projects. Action Together recognises that it is responsible and accountable for public funds. It further recognises that it needs clarity and transparency in demonstrating how these funds are managed and, in particular, the level of funds that it judges appropriate to hold in reserve.

The Trustees have established a reserves policy which requires:

- Reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that Action Together has the ability to meet its ongoing commitments with sufficient reserves to cover a minimum of six month's running costs, redundancy costs and core committed costs
- A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form
- The calculation of the reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle and will take into account:
- Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
- Planned activity level

- Organisation's commitments
- The reserves fund is managed and monitored at each Finance Sub-Group meeting and reported back to the full Board of Trustees within the financial reporting procedures.

The calculated reserves fund will be reviewed quarterly to ensure it takes account of changing circumstances.

The reserves position as at 31 March 2024 is as follows:

Total requirement of six months running costs, redundancy and committed core costs: £692,250

Total unrestricted reserves, cash and investments (net of tangible fixed assets): £1,359,025

The trustees have assessed the current financial standing of the organisation with reference to current activity, projections, cash flows and reserves and have concluded that the charity is a going concern.

## **16. Reference and administrative details**

Registered charity name: Action Together CIO

Charity registration number: 1165512

### Principal office:

80 Union Street

Oldham

OL1 1DJ

### Trustees:

- N. Akhter
- A. Ball
- A. Begum
- C. Guereca
- J. Mellor
- A. Parkes
- J. Rehman
- A. Wiggans
- J. Yates
- M. Patel

### Auditor:

Feltons Chartered Accountants

1 The Green

Richmond

Surrey

TW9 1PL

Bankers:

Unity Trust Bank PLC

9 Brindley Place

Birmingham

B1 2HP

CCLA Investment Management

Senator House

85 Queen Victoria Street

London

EC4V 4ET

Blackrock Investment Management (UK) Ltd

12 Throgmorton Avenue

London

EC2N 2DL

Castlefield

9th Floor

111 Piccadilly

Manchester

M1 2HY

**Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. 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' annual report was approved by Camilla Guereca on behalf of the board of trustees on: 5th September 2024.



Chair Action Together CIO

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

---

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Action Together CIO (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION TOGETHER CIO (CONTINUED)**

---

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION TOGETHER CIO (CONTINUED)**

---

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
  
- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements through discussion with management and those charged with governance, including financial reporting and taxation legislation. We considered that extent of compliance with those laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.
  
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. We remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit
  
- We addressed the risk of fraud through management override by reviewing the appropriateness of a sample of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making key accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business that we come across throughout the audit.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

---

ACTION TOGETHER CIO

---

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION TOGETHER CIO (CONTINUED)

---

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Feltons Chartered Accountants**

Chartered Accountants  
& Statutory Auditors

1 The Green

London

TW9 1PL

Date: 19/09/2024

Feltons Chartered Accountants are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.



**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
<b>Income from:</b>					
Charitable activities	4	-	6,190,669	6,190,669	6,410,244
Other trading activities	5	45,006	-	45,006	69,522
Investments	6	96,949	28,583	125,532	41,374
<b>Total income</b>		<b>141,955</b>	<b>6,219,252</b>	<b>6,361,207</b>	<b>6,521,140</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	7,8	19,788	910	20,698	26,669
Charitable activities	10	62,712	6,160,937	6,223,649	6,379,212
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>82,500</b>	<b>6,161,847</b>	<b>6,244,347</b>	<b>6,405,881</b>
<b>Net income before net gains on investments</b>		<b>59,455</b>	<b>57,405</b>	<b>116,860</b>	<b>115,259</b>
Net gains on investments		1,039	6,992	8,031	31,679
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>60,494</b>	<b>64,397</b>	<b>124,891</b>	<b>146,938</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		1,316,769	3,574,207	4,890,976	4,744,038
Net movement in funds		60,494	64,397	124,891	146,938
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,377,263</b>	<b>3,638,604</b>	<b>5,015,867</b>	<b>4,890,976</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 66 to 88 form part of these financial statements.

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	15	18,238	22,130
Investments	16	1,056,300	1,206,253
		<u>1,074,538</u>	<u>1,228,383</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	17	158,870	200,481
Investments	18	907,595	865,519
Cash at bank and in hand		3,093,096	2,782,808
		<u>4,159,561</u>	<u>3,848,808</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(218,232)	(186,215)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>3,941,329</u>	<u>3,662,593</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>5,015,867</u>	<u>4,890,976</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset</b>		<u>5,015,867</u>	<u>4,890,976</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>5,015,867</u></u>	<u><u>4,890,976</u></u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	20	3,638,604	3,574,207
Unrestricted funds	20	1,377,263	1,316,769
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>5,015,867</u></u>	<u><u>4,890,976</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 9th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by: Anne Parkes (Treasurer)



The notes on pages 66 to 88 form part of these financial statements.

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>58,313</b>	194,629
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>104,308</b>	41,374
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	265,000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(10,317)</b>	(14,297)
Proceeds from sale of investments	<b>164,885</b>	84,402
Purchase of investments	<b>(6,901)</b>	(5,222)
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>251,975</b>	<b>371,257</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	-	-
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>310,288</b>	<b>565,886</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>2,782,808</b>	2,216,922
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>3,093,096</b>	2,782,808

The notes on pages 66 to 88 form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

---

**1. General information**

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is 80 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DJ.

**2. Accounting policies**

**2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Action Together CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

**2.2 Going concern**

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

**2.3 Income**

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it will be regarded as restricted.

Receipts received during the year which are not to be expended until after the balance sheet date are not recognised as income for the year and are included in income deferred.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

---

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**2.5 Government grants**

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

**2.6 Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

---

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the revaluation model, tangible fixed assets whose fair value can be measured reliably shall be carried at a revalued amount, being their fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Revaluations are made with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the reporting date.

Fair values are determined from market-based evidence by appraisal that is normally undertaken by professionally qualified valuers. If there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialised nature of the tangible fixed asset and it is rarely sold, except as part of a contributing business, a Charity may need to estimate fair value using an income or depreciated replacement cost approach.

Gains and losses on revaluation are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities, with a separate revaluation reserve being shown in the Statement of funds note.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Motor vehicles	-	25% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	25% straight line
Office equipment	-	25% straight line

**2.8 Investments**

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**2.9 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

---

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.10 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**2.11 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

**2.12 Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Where investments in shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

---

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.13 Pensions**

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

**2.14 Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

**3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

**(i) Recoverability of receivables**

If necessary, the Charity establishes a provision for receivables that are estimated not to be recoverable. When assessing the recoverability the trustees consider factors such as aging of receivables, past experience of recoverability, and the credit profile of an individual or groups of customers.

Critical areas of judgment:

**(i) Assessing indicators of impairment**

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment of assets, the trustees have considered both external and internal sources of information such as market conditions, counterparty credit ratings and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairment identified during the current financial year.



**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**4. Income from charitable activities**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Core Infrastructure	814,232	<b>814,232</b>	1,141,251
Healthwatch	285,550	<b>285,550</b>	295,276
Grants & investments in the VCFSE	2,045,889	<b>2,045,889</b>	2,890,912
Social Prescribing/Community wellbeing	1,689,308	<b>1,689,308</b>	1,412,084
LTO	114,561	<b>114,561</b>	253,457
Other projects & consultancy	1,241,129	<b>1,241,129</b>	417,264
	<u>6,190,669</u>	<u><b>6,190,669</b></u>	<u>6,410,244</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>6,410,244</u>	<u>6,410,244</u>	

**5. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from fundraising events**

	<b>Unrestrict ed funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Activities for generating funds	45,006	<b>45,006</b>	69,522
	<u>45,006</u>	<u><b>45,006</b></u>	<u>69,522</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>69,522</u>	<u>69,522</u>	

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**6. Investment income and bank interest**

	<b>Unrestrict ed funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Income from listed investments	6,218	28,583	<b>34,801</b>	11,320
Investment income - bank interest	90,731	-	<b>90,731</b>	30,054
	<u>96,949</u>	<u>28,583</u>	<u><b>125,532</b></u>	<u>41,374</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>34,473</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>41,374</u>	

**7. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Support costs - fundraising expenses**

	<b>Unrestrict ed funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Centrally incurred support costs less those recovered from restricted funds	19,788	<b>19,788</b>	25,594
	<u>19,788</u>	<u><b>19,788</b></u>	<u>25,594</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>25,594</u>	<u>25,594</u>	

The centrally incurred support costs amounted to £752,238 (2023: £637,247) of which £732,450 (2023: £611,653) were recovered from the administration and management of restricted costs.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**8. Investment management costs**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Investment management fees	910	<b>910</b>	1,075
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>1,075</u>	<u>1,075</u>	

**9. Analysis of grants**

	<b>Grants to Institutions 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Grants, Grants & investments in the VCFSE	1,515,286	<b>1,515,286</b>	1,798,710
Grants, Social Prescribing/Community wellbeing	-	-	242,422
Grants, Other projects & consultancy	72,069	<b>72,069</b>	-
	<u>1,587,355</u>	<u><b>1,587,355</b></u>	<u>2,041,132</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>2,041,132</u>	<u>2,041,132</u>	

Information relating to grants made to institutions by the Charity can be accessed at <https://www.actiontogether.org.uk>.

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Unrestrict ed funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Core Infrastructure	-	752,419	<b>752,419</b>	800,490
Healthwatch	-	294,284	<b>294,284</b>	299,406
Grants & investments in the VCFSE	-	1,625,144	<b>1,625,144</b>	3,242,051
Social Prescribing/Community wellbeing	-	1,866,772	<b>1,866,772</b>	1,520,975
LTO	-	129,799	<b>129,799</b>	226,063
Other projects & consultancy	47,933	1,492,519	<b>1,540,452</b>	282,560
Governance costs	14,779	-	<b>14,779</b>	7,667
	<u>62,712</u>	<u>6,160,937</u>	<u><b>6,223,649</b></u>	<u>6,379,212</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>23,676</u>	<u>6,355,536</u>	<u>6,379,212</u>	

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**11. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2024 £</b>	<b>Grant funding of activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Core Infrastructure	610,099	-	142,320	<b>752,419</b>	800,490
Healthwatch	232,284	-	62,000	<b>294,284</b>	299,406
Grants & investments in the VCFSE	49,911	1,515,286	59,947	<b>1,625,144</b>	3,242,051
Social Prescribing/Community wellbeing	1,665,356	-	201,416	<b>1,866,772</b>	1,520,975
LTO	125,399	-	4,400	<b>129,799</b>	226,063
Other projects & consultancy	1,209,429	72,069	258,954	<b>1,540,452</b>	282,560
Governance costs	-	-	14,779	<b>14,779</b>	7,667
	<u>3,892,478</u>	<u>1,587,355</u>	<u>743,816</u>	<u><b>6,223,649</b></u>	<u>6,379,212</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u><u>3,718,760</u></u>	<u><u>2,041,132</u></u>	<u><u>619,320</u></u>	<u><u>6,379,212</u></u>	

**12. Auditors' remuneration**

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £8,667 (2023 - £6,279), and accountancy fees of £4,000 (2023 - £3,500).

**13. Staff costs**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<i>2023 £</i>
Wages and salaries	<b>2,665,904</b>	2,281,490
Social security costs	<b>254,492</b>	218,084
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	<b>154,975</b>	128,030
	<u><b>3,075,371</b></u>	<u>2,627,604</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**13. Staff costs (continued)**

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	<b>No.</b>	<i>No.</i>
Total employees	<b>89</b>	<i>81</i>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	<b>No.</b>	<i>No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	<b>1</b>	<i>-</i>
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	<b>1</b>	<i>1</i>

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity including employer's national insurance was £157,638 (2023:£152,530).

**14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, expenses totalling £NIL were reimbursed or paid directly to Trustee (2023 - £6 to 1 Trustee) for meeting expenses.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**15. Tangible fixed assets**

	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	24,299	9,000	51,936	85,235
Additions	-	872	9,445	10,317
At 31 March 2024	<u>24,299</u>	<u>9,872</u>	<u>61,381</u>	<u>95,552</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	24,299	7,497	31,309	63,105
Charge for the year	-	1,604	12,605	14,209
At 31 March 2024	<u>24,299</u>	<u>9,101</u>	<u>43,914</u>	<u>77,314</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>17,467</u>	<u>18,238</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,503</u>	<u>20,627</u>	<u>22,130</u>

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**16. Fixed asset investments**

	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	1,187,467	18,786	1,206,253
Additions	6,901	-	6,901
Disposals	(163,034)	(1,315)	(164,349)
Revaluations	7,495	-	7,495
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,038,829</u>	<u>17,471</u>	<u>1,056,300</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,038,829</u>	<u>17,471</u>	<u>1,056,300</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,187,467</u>	<u>18,786</u>	<u>1,206,253</u>

**17. Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	135,840	175,606
Other debtors	3,336	3,267
Prepayments and accrued income	19,694	21,608
	<u>158,870</u>	<u>200,481</u>

**18. Current asset investments**

	2024 £	2023 £
Unlisted investments	<u>907,595</u>	<u>865,519</u>

Unlisted investments represents investment in a charity short term common deposit fund. It is considered that the amounts should be shown as current asset investments rather than cash and the amount for the prior year of £865,519 has been reanalysed accordingly.



---

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

---

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

---

**19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	<b>15,778</b>	19,631
Other taxation and social security	<b>123,092</b>	89,036
Other creditors	<b>1,240</b>	1,114
Accruals and deferred income	<b>78,122</b>	62,562
Grants accrued - institutional	-	13,872
	<hr/> <b>218,232</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <b>186,215</b> <hr/>

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**20. Statement of funds**

The separate analysis of restricted funds overleaf shows the movements on the material restricted funds, with the balance of the funds shown as other restricted funds.

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Development of the database	68,018	-	(21,013)	-	-	47,005
Research and capacity fund	-	-	-	47,000	-	47,000
	<u>68,018</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,013)</u>	<u>47,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,005</u>
<b>General funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	<u>1,248,751</u>	<u>141,955</u>	<u>(61,487)</u>	<u>(47,000)</u>	<u>1,039</u>	<u>1,283,258</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>1,316,769</u>	<u>141,955</u>	<u>(82,500)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,039</u>	<u>1,377,263</u>

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Action Oldham Fund	535,229	19,420	(120,224)	-	10,524	444,949
Tameside 4 Good	289,339	10,389	(13,200)	-	(3,532)	282,996
Tameside Robin Estill Fund	152,280	-	-	-	-	152,280
Thriving Communities Social Prescribing	141,873	619,790	(449,060)	-	-	312,603
One Oldham Fund	19,609	301,100	(121,277)	-	-	199,432
Restricted Funds - other	2,435,877	5,268,553	(5,458,086)	-	-	2,246,344
	<u>3,574,207</u>	<u>6,219,252</u>	<u>(6,161,847)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,992</u>	<u>3,638,604</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>4,890,976</u></u>	<u><u>6,361,207</u></u>	<u><u>(6,244,347)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>8,031</u></u>	<u><u>5,015,867</u></u>

ACTION TOGETHER CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i> £	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i> £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Designated Funds -Development of the database	90,487	-	(22,469)	-	68,018
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds - all funds	1,081,274	103,995	(26,801)	90,283	1,248,751
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	1,171,761	103,995	(49,270)	90,283	1,316,769

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Action Oldham Fund	605,716	20,616	(54,797)	(36,306)	535,229
Community Wellbeing	313,507	875,697	(791,618)	-	397,586
Tameside 4 Good	305,201	10,235	(3,799)	(22,298)	289,339
Oldham Local Motion	350,000	1,199	(74,525)	-	276,674
Tameside Robin Estill Fund	157,113	-	(4,833)	-	152,280
Thriving Communities Social Prescribing	137,174	413,423	(408,724)	-	141,873
Rochdale RRR Fund	274,986	-	(256,758)	-	18,228
Restricted Funds - other	1,428,580	5,095,975	(4,761,557)	-	1,762,998
	<u>3,572,277</u>	<u>6,417,145</u>	<u>(6,356,611)</u>	<u>(58,604)</u>	<u>3,574,207</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>4,744,038</u></u>	<u><u>6,521,140</u></u>	<u><u>(6,405,881)</u></u>	<u><u>31,679</u></u>	<u><u>4,890,976</u></u>

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**21. Summary of funds**

**Summary of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Designated funds	68,018	-	(21,013)	47,000	-	94,005
General funds	1,248,751	141,955	(61,487)	(47,000)	1,039	1,283,258
Restricted funds	3,574,207	6,219,252	(6,161,847)	-	6,992	3,638,604
	<u>4,890,976</u>	<u>6,361,207</u>	<u>(6,244,347)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,031</u>	<u>5,015,867</u>

Restricted funds held at the end of the year have been carried forward for the future support of specific projects. Action Together recognises that it is responsible and accountable for public funds. It further recognises that it needs clarity and transparency in demonstrating how these funds are managed and, in particular, the level of funds that it judges appropriate to hold in reserve.

A balance in designated funds exists for the development of our database system and cost of the relaunch of our website later in 2024. In addition a further £47,000 has been designated from reserves to be spent on state of the sector research and report along with costs associated with Local Infrastructure Quality Accreditation.

ACTION TOGETHER CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21. Summary of funds (continued)

Summary of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	90,487	-	(22,469)	-	68,018
General funds	1,081,274	103,995	(26,801)	90,283	1,248,751
Restricted funds	3,572,277	6,417,145	(6,356,611)	(58,604)	3,574,207
	<u>4,744,038</u>	<u>6,521,140</u>	<u>(6,405,881)</u>	<u>31,679</u>	<u>4,890,976</u>

**ACTION TOGETHER CIO**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**22. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	18,238	-	<b>18,238</b>
Fixed asset investments	329,923	726,377	<b>1,056,300</b>
Current assets	1,247,334	2,912,227	<b>4,159,561</b>
Creditors due within one year	(218,232)	-	<b>(218,232)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,377,263</b>	<b>3,638,604</b>	<b>5,015,867</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	22,130	-	22,130
Fixed asset investments	329,537	876,716	1,206,253
Current assets	1,151,317	2,697,491	3,848,808
Creditors due within one year	(186,215)	-	(186,215)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,316,769</b>	<b>3,574,207</b>	<b>4,890,976</b>



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**23. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>124,891</b>	146,938
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>14,209</b>	13,343
Gains/(losses) on investments	<b>(8,031)</b>	83,321
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	(115,000)
Decrease in debtors	<b>41,611</b>	89,463
Increase in creditors	<b>32,017</b>	33,016
Other interest receivable	<b>(104,308)</b>	(41,374)
Increase in current asset investments	<b>(42,076)</b>	(15,078)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>58,313</b>	194,629

**24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	<b>3,093,096</b>	2,782,808
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>3,093,096</b>	2,782,808

**25. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	2,782,808	310,288	3,093,096
Liquid investments	865,519	42,076	907,595
	<b>3,648,327</b>	<b>352,364</b>	<b>4,000,691</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

---

**26. Pension commitments**

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £154,975 (2023 - £128,030). contributions totalling £Nil (2023: £Nil) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

**27. Related party transactions**

There are no related party transactions.