Company No. 01913555
Charity No. 291890

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report & Financial Statements

31 March 2025

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name	Voluntary Action Islington Limited
Charity registration number	291890
Company registration number	01913555
Registered Office	200a Pentonville Road London N1 9JP

Board of Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Ali Jabeen
Craig Burgess
Emma Victoria Hutchins (Chair)
Hussain Ahmed – (resigned 21 May 2024)
Irene Victoria Winter – (resigned 24 September 2024)
Jorge Llorens (Treasurer)
Ken Hettiarachi (Vice Chair)
Kevin Turner
Madeleine Gascoigne
Santa Gascoigne

Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary	Navinder Kaur
Independent Examiners	Goldwins Chartered Accountants 75 Maygrove Road West Hampstead London NW6 2EG
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank plc 9 Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice-Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

PURPOSE AND AIMS

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the Memorandum of Association is:

a) To promote any charitable purpose primarily but not exclusively for the benefit of the community in the London Borough of Islington, hereinafter called "the area of benefit" and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness

b) To promote and organise cooperation in achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of not-for-profit organisations and statutory authorities engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the area of benefit

In the past year the staff and trustees reviewed VAI's mission, vision, values and aims and this annual report reflects these strategic changes.

OUR VISION

A thriving Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Islington; enriching people's lives and building stronger communities.

OUR MISSION

To strengthen Islington's VCFSE sector to deliver services effectively and sustainably to promote social justice.

OUR VALUES

- ***Collaborative:*** *building partnerships and co-designing solutions*
- ***Effective:*** *creative, energetic and responsive*
- ***Inclusive:*** *promoting the importance of equity, equality, diversity and inclusion*
- ***Positive:*** *tackling challenges by building on strengths*
- ***With Integrity:*** *honest, professional and respectful*

OUR NEW STRATEGIC AIMS

1. To support the development, effectiveness and sustainability of Islington's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector
2. To enable and strengthen volunteering, social action and community resilience
3. To facilitate stronger partnership working across Islington's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to influence policy, decision-making and system growth
4. To run VAI responsibly, effectively and efficiently as a model of good practice

We are an accredited Living Wage Employer and aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

During the year the trustees have considered section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. We have sought to ensure that the charity is fulfilling its charitable purpose to benefit the public by focussing on some of the most pressing social issues in the borough, including Inequality, Poverty, Community Safety and Health.

VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON

Voluntary Action Islington (VAI) has been at the heart of Islington's sector for over 50 years. We support local charities, community groups, faith organisations & social enterprises, while also working closely with residents and statutory partners. Over this time, we've built strong relationships, extensive local knowledge & a clear understanding of the challenges many people in our borough face. Today, we have over 500 registered members and regularly share information with more than 900 through our newsgroup. The VCFSE sector continues to demonstrate resilience, creativity and determination in the face of unprecedented challenges, and this is what drives us to remain so committed to our local VCFSE sector and residents.

OUR NEW 3 YEAR STRATEGY 2024-2027

In September '24, we launched our new strategy, capturing what Islington's VCFSE sector have been telling us about what they need from us during these unpredictable and challenging times.

As NCVO have articulated very well in their recent 'The Road Ahead' report, the sector is facing ongoing economic uncertainty, difficult funding landscapes and evolving political priorities requiring us to rethink how we operate, collaborate and advocate for change. The sector is operating in a perfect storm, with funding harder to secure, at a time when the sector is trying to keep up with the unprecedented rise in the demand for services.

We have been working more closely with the VCFSE sector and partners putting in place ways to collaborate and advocate for change - strengthening our relationships and partnerships to strengthen VAI and the wider VCFSE sector in Islington. We bring our strategic aims to life through services that are practical and people-focused:

- Capacity building and organisational development support: we provide advice, training and mentoring to small community groups, charities and social enterprises. We help them build skills and sustainability so they can serve local people who need their support.
- Volunteering: we run Islington's NAVCA accredited Volunteer Centre, helping residents find meaningful roles and supporting organisations to create inclusive opportunities. Volunteering builds confidence & belonging while giving local charities the vital support they need.
- Collaboration: We connect and advocate for the VCFSE sector, representing the sector on Islington council-led boards and partnerships and sub boards of the North Central London Integrated Care Board. We convene annual conferences and networks that strengthen partnership working and collaboration.
- Community space: through our Resource Centre, we provide affordable co-working and meeting space, creating a supportive environment where groups can collaborate and deliver their services.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

Our priorities have been to strengthen our internal infrastructure; capturing and demonstrating VAI's value and the value of the local VCFSE sector; and reaching more local organisations and residents through our Local Wellbeing Networks and delivering a wider range of holistic, early intervention and prevention services to better meet the needs of residents and organisations by forming new collaborations with local partners to achieve this and extend our reach.

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES: Capacity building and organisational development support

- We continued to provide capacity building and organisational development support to local residents and organisations. We provided practical 1:1 and group support to residents establishing or running local VCFSE sector organisations and community groups.

- We continued to provide an email news group service through which we bring to the attention of members relevant policy and funding initiatives. Members use this service to promote their local activities. Islington council colleagues also disseminate information through this news group.
- Our website continues to be an important source of information for news relevant to the sector including good practice resources for organisations. During the year we started work on developing a new website, having consulted with the sector around accessibility, navigation and resources needed.
- We continue to have an arrangement with NCVO, providing our members with access to NCVO membership and services at a discounted rate.
- We continue to have an arrangement with Russell Cooke who offer free 20-minute legal advice to the sector.

VOLUTEERING, SOCIAL ACTION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- We delivered the core elements of an NAVCA accredited Volunteer Centre - matching local residents interested in volunteering with local opportunities in the VCFSE sector. We have a small team of volunteers who provide a drop-in service twice a week and through outreach we promote volunteering at local community events
- We provided a volunteering platform that enables organisations to post their volunteer opportunities, whilst at the same time allowing potential volunteers to create their profiles and search for suitable placements. This year we improved accessibility by upgrading our volunteering platform.
- We promoted community organisations and volunteering to the wider public and we achieve local press coverage for the Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is held together with our Annual General Meeting in the first week of November.
- We facilitated the Local Wellbeing Networks – North, Central, South Islington – bringing together residents, VCFSE sector organisations, community groups and statutory partners, focusing on priorities determined by frontline organisations and residents.

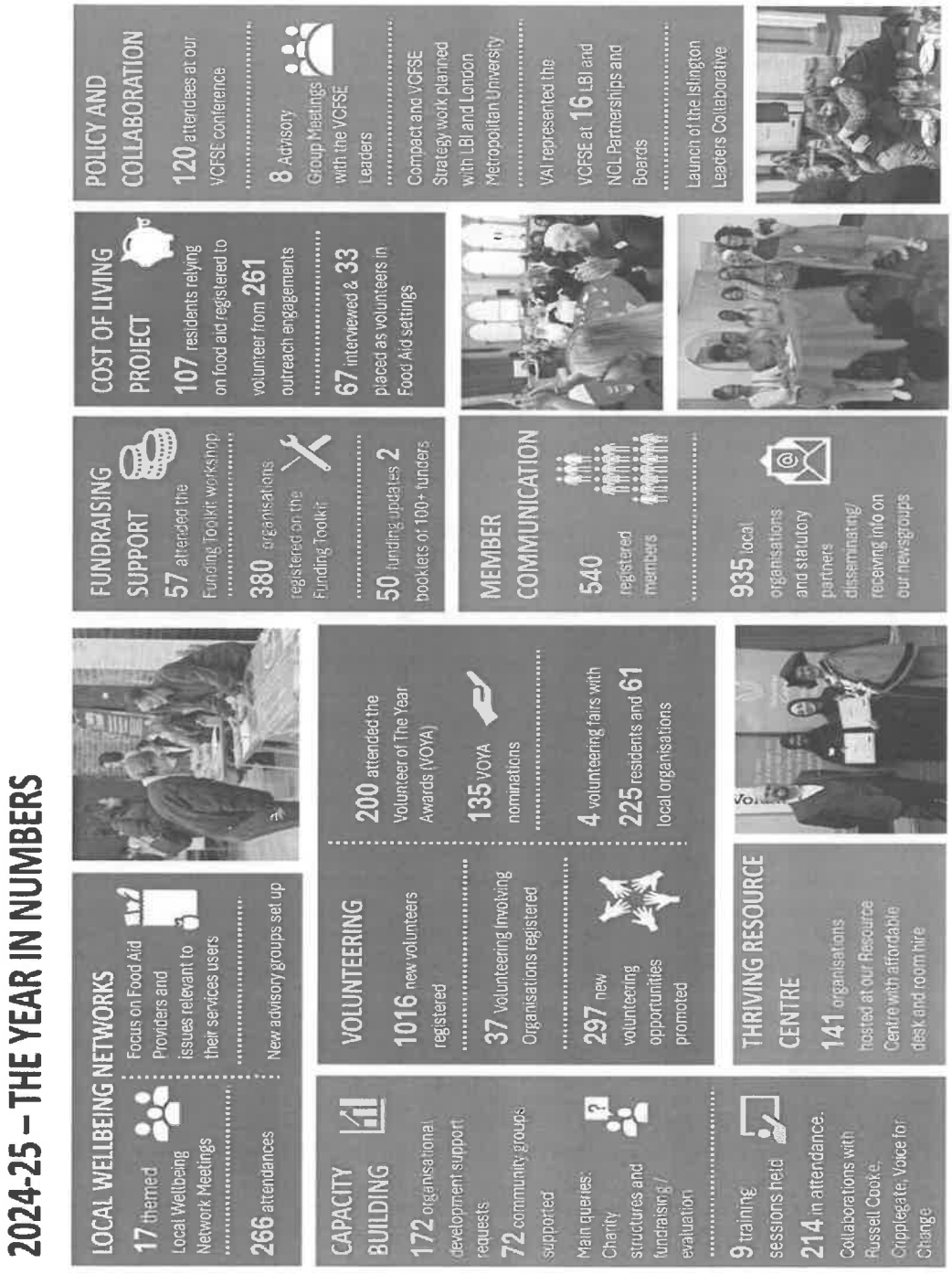
PARNERSHIP WORKING ACROSS THE VCFSE TO INFLUENCE POLICY, DECISION MAKING AND SYSTEM GROWTH

- We organised an annual conference in March '25 and smaller events throughout the year for the local VCFSE sector on themes of relevance. Our half day conference in March focused on defining the impact and social value of the VCFSE sector, supported by Sheffield Hallam and Nottingham Trent Universities, and how the sector can benefit from Evidence Islington, funded by the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC).
- We facilitated VAI's Advisory Group (made up of 20 local organisations and local funders) and the Islington VCFSE Leaders Collaborative – to support the VCFSE sector to collaborate more effectively.
- We represented the VCFSE sector on a range of Islington council led partnerships and boards and supported wider VCFSE representation. We represented the VCFSE on the North Central London VCSE Alliance and NCL Integrated Care Board partnerships and boards.

OUR RESOURCE CENTRE

- We are delighted to announce that with the support of Islington Council, we secured a new 15-year lease providing us with the stability that we need going forward.
- Having secured a new lease, we have started to make more improvements to the Resource Centre to ensure that the space is welcoming and a nice environment to work in.

2024-25 – THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



STRATEGIC AIM 1: TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF ISLINGTON'S VCFSE

One to one sessions – tailored advice and guidance to build confidence and skills
We received requests for support from 172 organisations and residents who were supported mainly through 1:1 in person and online sessions (119) and via email and telephone (53). We worked with some groups on a short-term basis, whilst others benefited from longer term targeted support to help them build robust foundations.

In this reporting period we supported 20 of the 51 organisations receiving core grant **funding** from Islington Council; and we reached 28 organisations/residents that had not received support from VAI previously. The main areas of support provided via one-to-one sessions:

1. Funding, fundraising including reviews of funding applications
2. Legal structures: charity structures and registering as a charity or company limited by guarantee or changing their existing structures. 21% of all requests came from residents (some of whom already delivering community services) who wanted advice about how to set up as a charity, community group, CIO and Community Interest Company (Social Enterprise)
3. Financial management: accounts & budgeting
4. Governance and planning
5. Monitoring, evaluation and measuring impact including using data / case studies to demonstrate outcomes and impact.
6. Safeguarding policies and procedures
7. Requests for volunteers

HOW RESIDENTS AND ORGANISATIONS ACCESS OUR SERVICES

- Our partners: the Big Alliance, Cripplegate Foundation, Local Initiatives Funding (LIF) team, local councillors, Islington Council's Partnership Team, and other Council departments
- Through events, and networks: our newsgroup, conferences, training and workshops
- Community signposting: referrals from other VCS organisations, VAI Volunteer Centre, work of mouth and local forums

PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING

Alongside one-to-one support, we delivered practical, skills focused training in partnership with other organisations, enabling the sector to learn together, share ideas and strengthen connections. We delivered the training in partnership with others, joining up the offer to meet the demand from organisations, and to maximise our reach and impact. Across the year, a total of 214 people participated in our training sessions, and 90% reported increased knowledge or confidence in their ability to apply what they learned.

Theme	Delivery partner	Number of organisations
Finance, budgeting and fundraising	Cripplegate (May '24)	27 attended, 45 received follow up templates
Charitable Incorporated Organisations: Is this the perfect structure for your organisation?	Russell Cooke (Oct '24)	30 attended
Introduction to Project Management	VAI's Volunteer Associate (Oct '24) x 2 sessions	20 attended both sessions
Introduction to Social Enterprise	Better Space (Nov '24)	15 attended

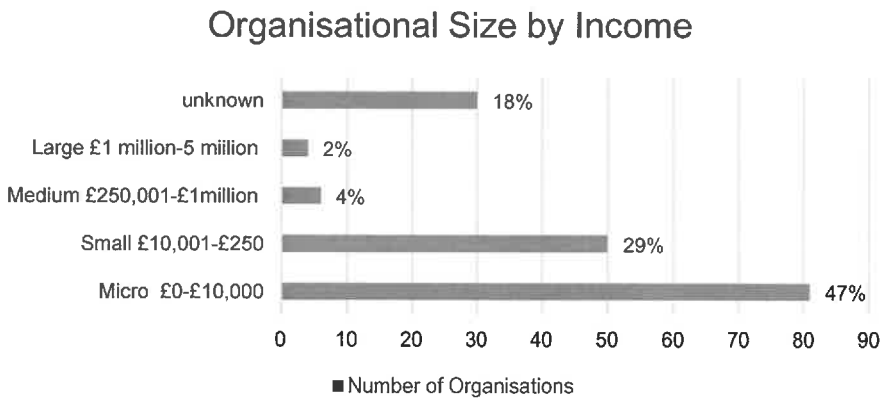
Theme	Delivery partner	Number of organisations
Partnership and Networking	Voice 4 Change (Feb '25)	33 small, black led organisations attended
Project Planning and Development	London Met University (March 25) x 3 sessions	15 micro sized organisations attended
Funding Toolkit Workshop (funded by Islington Council)	The toolkit provider IDOX provided a workshop on how to navigate the toolkit (March 25)	57 attended

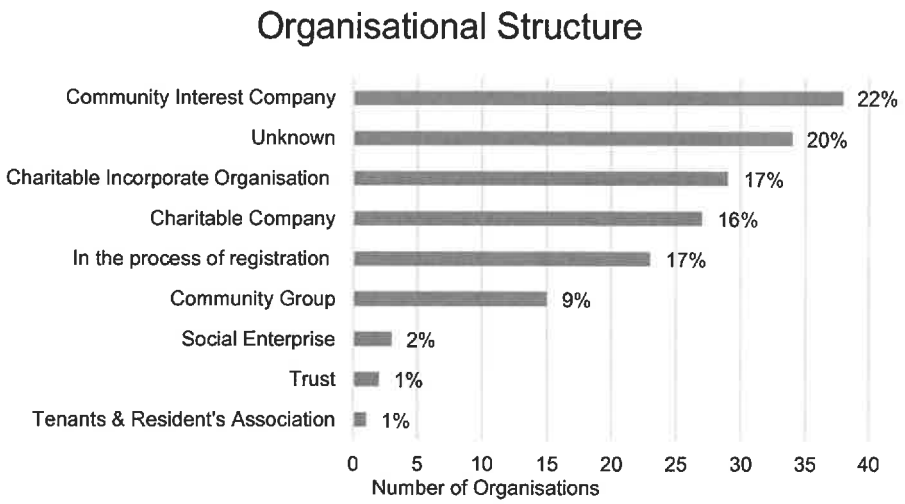
MAKING ACCESS TO FUNDRAISING EASIER

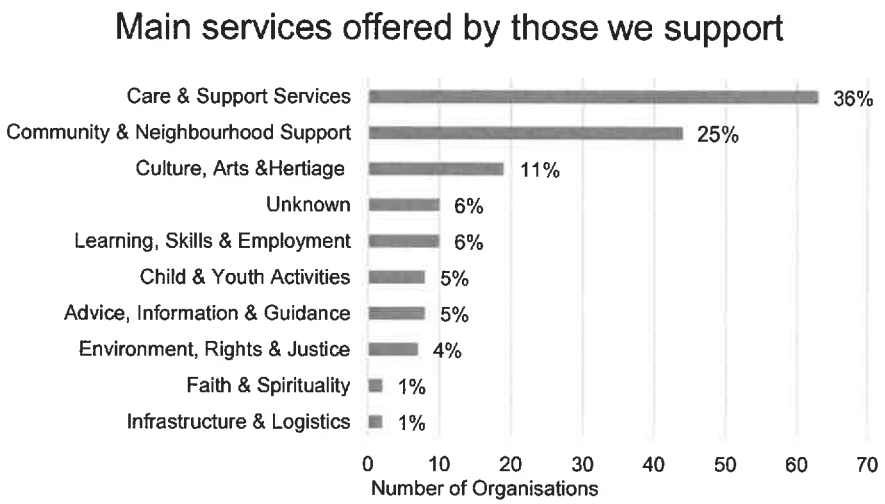
We know that funding is a lifeline for the sector, and we worked to make it easier for organisations to identify opportunities and success in applications. During the year we:

- produced 2 updated funding booklets disseminated in October '24 & March '25 - bringing together a range of funding opportunities in one place. The booklet makes it easier for local organisations to access relevant opportunities quickly, saving them time and helping them focus on strengthening their funding applications.
- collated and disseminated over 35 funding updates throughout the year, with at least 2 per month. We received positive feedback on how helpful these regular updates are to groups who are sourcing funding opportunities.
- promoted the Islington Funding Toolkit 15 times through VAI's Newsgroup and Local Wellbeing Networks, increasing registrations to 380 organisations. The Toolkit is a searchable database of local, regional, national, and international funding opportunities, helping groups find funders by type, area of work, or beneficiaries.
- reviewed funding applications, providing constructive feedback, and advised groups on how to strengthen their applications or prepare for future funding opportunities.

OUR REACH: WHO WE ARE SUPPORTING







The feedback from the advice sessions has been very positive. Groups reported they received practical advice and information and gained knowledge and skills that would help them to start, develop and run their organisations. Evaluation feedback from sessions shows a high level of satisfaction with the advice provided.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

OUR MEMBERSHIP

- 550 formal members
- 380 organisations now using the Islington Funding Toolkit, the free-to-access funding database, funded by Islington Council.
- 953 users of VAI news, our email news group
- 34,086 visits to our website

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 3567 Twitter followers (VAI account)
- 2612 Twitter followers (Volunteer Centre account)
- 1,081 Instagram followers (Volunteer Centre)

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Our membership consists of 550 local VCFSE sector organisations. Going forward we will be reviewing our membership offer and will work on improving our offer to our members.

GOOGLE NEWSGROUP

VAI's Google Newsgroup membership increased from the previous year to over 953 local groups/organisations. This platform is used by organisations to share local news about their services. Upon request, we also disseminated news and information from our council and public health colleagues. In 2024-25, 980 news emails were shared using this platform.

We circulated funding updates, job alerts and local community events and services as well as news from Islington Council via all our messaging platforms:

WEBSITE

Our website had over 33k visits from VCFSE sector groups/organisations accessing a range of capacity building and organisational development information/resources and events to support the VCFSE in the delivery of their services.

We have started to plan the development of a new revamped website (funded by the National Lottery) to improve access, navigation and resources and toolkits available to the local VCFSE sector. The website will be completed in Feb/March 2026.

STRATEGIC AIM 2: TO ENABLE AND STRENGTHEN VOLUNTEERING, SOCIAL ACTION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

COST OF LIVING PILOT PROGRAMME – LOCAL WELLBEING NETWORKS

The LWNs continued to be a major focus of our work delivered in partnership with Octopus Community Network, Help on Your Doorstep and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust and other LWN partners. We focused on delivering an early intervention approach by providing a holistic and joined up response to residents accessing food aid. We built upon the work with existing members of the LWNs and started working more closely with the Islington food aid providers network. Our aim was to raise awareness of statutory and VCFSE services in the borough, to support collaboration, sharing of resources, co-delivering events and providing workforce development training to staff and volunteers working within food aid hubs.

Over the year, the Food Aid providers network told us about the complexity of issues residents accessing food aid provision face, and what additional support services residents need and these include: debt / benefit advice, education / training, employment support, housing advice

/ support, language support, legal advice, social wellbeing activities / support to reduce social isolation, support with mental and physical health, support to address substance use / gambling harms.

LOCAL WELLBEING NETWORK MEETINGS AND EVENTS

We engaged 185 residents, VCFSE organisations including 28 food aid providers, raising awareness of mental health, employment, debt, income maximisation, drug/alcohol/gambling support and the support offered by the Access Hubs. This was in response to what food aid providers told us that their residents needed.

We delivered 17 Local Wellbeing Networks meetings across the 3 localities in settings accessible to residents and practitioners, with approx. 25-35 members attending each LWN meeting:

- 5 North Locality meetings with 94 attendees
- 6 Central Locality meetings with 79 attendees
- 6 South Locality meetings with 93 attendees

YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMPLOYABILITY WITH A FOCUS ON NETWORKING IN THE CREATIVE AND TEC SECTOR

38 young people attended a co-designed employability event in July 2024. The North LWN members prioritised work with young people and as a result of the conversation, Copenhagen Youth Project, Fish Tank, Mary's Youth Club, Whittington Park Community Centre co-produced an event with young people around employability with a focus on networking in the creative and tech sector. A hugely successful event which took place at Havas, Kings Square.

ONLINE WEBINARS AND IN PERSON TRAINING FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITHIN THE FOOD AID NETWORK

Theme	Delivery partner and Dates	Number of organisations
Making Every Contact Count (MECC)	September '24 and January '25	32 Food Aid Providers (21 volunteers)
Motivational Interviewing	January '25	21 Food Aid Providers (10 volunteers)
iMax and Islington Access Hubs (online)	In partnership with Help on Your Doorstep (HOYD) Dec '24	32

LOCAL WELLBEING NETWORKS WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH ISLINGTON COUNCIL

During the year, we worked in partnership with council colleagues in the following areas:

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES TEAM

In March 25, we delivered a tabletop exercise with Islington Council's Civil Contingencies Team with 24 participants included Food Aid Providers, emergency services, healthcare, charities and the council. We tested the response to an event that threatened food security and supply. The aim of the exercise was to promote joint working, and planning between all partners, exploring the likely responses of each organisation, develop knowledge of other services and identify vulnerabilities and inter dependencies.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND REHABIT
A mental health subgroup of the LWN worked on developing a mental health and wellbeing guide – a practical toolkit to help staff and volunteers in Islington feel confident having conversations about mental health and signposting residents to further support. This will be launched in the Autumn of '25.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
In March '25, we ran a focus group on early intervention and prevention mental health support in Islington. Food aid providers were invited to contribute to:

- What the early intervention and prevention offer for mental health in Islington looks like
- What works well and what could be improved
- What we want it to look like in the future

SUBGROUP 1: MENTAL HEALTH
Members include VAI (LWN), Islington Council, Public Health, REHABIT
A mental health subgroup of the LWN worked on developing a mental health and wellbeing guide – a practical toolkit to help staff and volunteers in Islington feel confident having conversations about mental health and signposting residents to further support.

SUBGROUP 2: FINANCIAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING
Members include VAI (LWN), Residents Without Borders, Go Africa, Maya Centre, Betknowmore, Islington Council, Evidence Islington, Hanley Crouch Community Centre, Eritrean Family Support Group, Islington Chinese Association and Age UK Islington.

Key challenges identified was the link between poverty and poor health, particularly affecting disabled people, housing affordability issues, high utility costs and lack of financial literacy and limited awareness of available resources. Members started working on a community event planned for the Autumn on Community Voices: Managing Your Money Workshop" "managing your money" – led by Residents Without Borders, with Islington Law Centre, Citizens Advice, SHINE (fuel poverty and energy support) and Betknowmore – providers of gambling support.

SUBGROUP 3: ENVIRONMENT
Members include VAI (LWN), Kings Head Theatre, Residents Without Borders, Let's Link, St Mary's Youth Group, Islington Council, London Metropolitan University, Islington Clean Air Parents, Hanley Crouch, and residents.

Key themes and discussions centred around: air quality and green infrastructure; community owned air quality monitoring, with support from London Met, street greening, pocket parks and the use of planters in high traffic areas; waste and recycling; community gardens and green spaces.

One of the projects that is in development is with King's Head Theatre Community Garden, creating an inclusive space co-designed with young people and community groups. The aim is to revitalise an outdoor space at the Kings Head Theatre to encourage creativity, connection with nature and reduce loneliness. A collaboration with St Mary's Girls' Group (and later, an LGBTQ+ group). A local artist facilitated workshops, and the garden was designed with sustainable features: upcycled theatre equipment, trellises and repurposes materials.

SUBGROUP 4: EMPLOYMENT
Members include VAI (LWN) Brickworks Community Centre, Islington Council Adult Community Learning, NHS, Go Africa, Help on Your Doorstep, Evidence Islington, Islington Somali Community, Roj Women's Association, and engaged residents.

Areas of concern for members include mismatch between resident's skills and available job roles, lack of work experience and volunteering opportunities, barriers such as mental health, low confidence, poor social skills, stigma and discrimination based on age, disability or language ability, inflexible job conditions, especially around childcare and care giving, and limited access to relevant apprenticeships and training.

To start with, as a result of this work Brickworks Community Centre and Islington Council Adult Community Learning have partnered to deliver a pilot 5-week Employability Programme (pilot) course covering CVs, interview skills, job applications and confidence building, with an Autumn start.

LOCAL WELLBEING NETWORKS ADVISORY GROUP

In addition to the LWN subgroups, we set up in Dec '24 an Advisory Group comprised of 11 members representing food aid providers, LWN core members, local residents and community organisers and they meet every 6-8 weeks to help provide strategic leadership.

VOLUNTEER CENTRE SERVICES

Through our nationally accredited Volunteer Centre, we ensure that Islington residents have access to a wide range of opportunities to make a difference in the area where they live, study or work through volunteering and/or social action.

REACCREDITATION OF OUR VOLUNTEER CENTRE

We are pleased to announce that we achieved reaccreditation in April '24 after a 10-month process through NAVCA's Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA) focusing on 5 functions of Volunteer Centres: strategic development of volunteering; good practice development; brokerage – connecting people, developing volunteering opportunities and voice of volunteering.

EXPANDING OUR VOLUNTEERING SERVICES

VOLUNTEER PLUS NETWORK AND VOLUNTEERING FOR HEALTH

Funded by the City Bridge Foundation (Volunteer Plus Network, until August 25) and the NHS (from July '24 for 3 years), bringing together Volunteer Centres in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington and supported by London Plus.

Our collective priorities:

- Equality of access: building diversity of our volunteering population, focusing on current gaps: young people, young carers and working with inclusion health communities including asylum seekers. Support volunteering through our Core20PLUS population groups that are part of NHS England's strategy to reduce health inequalities across the UK. Core20 Plus communities refers to the most deprived 20% of the national population based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and additional population groups who experience worse-than-average health access, outcomes or experiences and may not captured by deprivation alone. They include ethnic minority communities, inclusion health groups such as vulnerable migrants, people with learning disabilities and autistic people, young carers, looked after children and care leavers.
- Improving volunteer experience: increasing access to volunteering and helping people find the right volunteering opportunity through a single place to search for NHS roles; creating flexible volunteering roles; creating/supporting best practice volunteer recruitment and management.

- Volunteering into work - developing pathways from volunteering into work- supporting current work in this space, including the WorkWell Partnership and Volunteer to Careers.

Our collective outcomes include developing a system-wide integration of volunteer services across North Central London including providers of primary, secondary and tertiary health services to:

- Increase volunteering level and diversity
- Improve the volunteer experience through volunteer management good practice
- Embed volunteering in priority health and social care workstreams (e.g. how volunteering can support prevention)
- Meet need of NHS Charities / Trusts Volunteer Programmes
- Sharing of innovative volunteering approaches via our established Network
- Increasing involvement of volunteers in decision-making
- Developing pathways from volunteering into work

COST OF LIVING PILOT PROGRAMME – VOLUNTEERING

We developed a very successful partnership with Help on Your Doorstep (HOYD), Octopus Community Network and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, with funding from Islington Council's Cost of Living Crisis Fund. Funding was secured to address the social, economic and wellbeing issues amongst residents accessing food aid, supporting them to transition from reliance on food aid by receiving holistic / wrap around support.

Our role was to support residents experiencing financial crisis and social isolation to engage with local activities through volunteering to increase their skills, knowledge, and work experience to increase their confidence and self-esteem and improve their wellbeing and reduce their social isolation by creating connections with their community.

We delivered outreach to 12 food aid providers: Andover Community Centre, Cook for Good, Copenhagen Street Food Hub, Elizabeth House, Families in Harmony, Holloway Neighbourhood Group, Islington Black Advice Alliance Jean Stokes Café, Laamiga, Light International Project, St Lukes, The Peel.

What we found was that residents accessing food aid are not only experiencing financial crisis, but also have complex mental health issues including depression, high levels of anxiety, psychosis, and some have complex physical health issues such as long covid, fibromyalgia, cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure. Some experience drug and alcohol issues, and some are neurodiverse with ADHD, and Autism. Some are caring for young and disabled family members, and some have language barriers.

We are very proud of what we achieved over the year.

- 107 residents relying on food aid provision registered to volunteer from a total of 261 residents engaged overall
- 67 residents had volunteer placement interviews, with 33 placed as volunteers within Food Aid settings (29) and the rest within other community organisations
- 59 residents accessed other services including HOYD for benefit and PIP assessment, and other services supported them with their debt and rent arrears, legal advice, and Islington Adult Community Learning to improve their literacy and digital skills, as well as taking up short courses around mental health and wellbeing offered by the Recovery College and Manor Gardens to get help with translation.
- 6 food aid facilitators were recruited (3 students from London Metropolitan University) of which 1 left after finding work
- 7 volunteers were supported into work

COMMUNITY OUTREACH WITH DROP-IN SESSIONS

Our team of Community Volunteering Advisors (volunteers) continued to support residents to apply for volunteering roles across the VCFSE sector. This was achieved through community outreach with drop-in sessions. During the year, we delivered outreach at 21 events at community settings as well as universities, job centres and libraries.

VOLUNTEERING FAIRS

We continued to deliver volunteering fairs in the community in partnership with Volunteer Centre Camden (VCC) and Islington Council colleagues. 4 Volunteer fairs were held across the year with VCC:

- April '24, in person with 21 Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs), 75 people attended
- June '24, in person with 21 VIOs, 60 people attended
- September '24, online with 10 VIOs, 97 people registered, with 40 attending
- January '25, 144 people registered with 50 attending

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICE RESOURCES

we provided access to best practice resources to Volunteer Managers working within Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) via their Volunteer Managers and during the year delivered:

- 42 x 1:1 sessions and through our website
- monthly newsletters to 400 VIOs
- Updated resources in Feb '25 and additional resources uploaded in March 25
- Regular communications to organisations and residents registered at the Volunteer Centre

A NEW VOLUNTEERING PLATFORM AND OUR REACH

Alongside our exciting new programmes, we have also improved our volunteering platform, with a move from Simply Connect to Team Kinetic, which we achieved by the end of March '25. VAI staff and volunteers have been trained, and a guide created for Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs). During the year we had:

- 5317 volunteers registered on Simply Connect, including 1016 new volunteers
- 297 volunteering opportunities available
- Monthly newsletter sent to over 2000 residents registered on our platform
- 59 new Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) registered
- 164 new volunteering roles promoted, and 571 new volunteers registered

OUR ANNUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS AND AGM – 6 NOVEMBER 2024

We hosted our annual Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards celebration at the Great Hall, London Metropolitan University. It was a wonderful event celebrating Islington volunteers. We had 135 nominations put forward, with 200 attendees on the day.

Our guest speakers:

- Julie Hall, Vice Chancellor, London Metropolitan University,
- Jeremy Corbyn MP, Victoria Lawson, CEO, Islington Council, and
- Mayor of Islington, Cllr Anjna Khurana

Our Volunteer of the Year Awards were again sponsored by Doubletree by Hilton Islington, who provided the prizes, and we had local media coverage, raising the profile of volunteering locally. The awards were announced by the Mayor of Islington, Cllr Anjna Khurana. The winners were:

Older Volunteer of the Year 60+	Carolyn Baker	Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants
Young Volunteer of the Year 16-25	Yusuf Uddin	Museum of the Order of St John

Volunteer of the Year 26-60	Tony Quinn	HC Cycles Workshop
Volunteering Team of the Year	Latin American Women's Aid's Volunteering Team	
Pat Haynes Memorial Trustee of the Year	Stephen Mullin	Culpepper Community Garden

VOLUNTEER CENTRE WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

Over the year we:

- Contributed to the Islington volunteering partnership meetings – with representatives from LBI, Big Alliance, and Cripplegate
- Promoted London Met University Charities & Social Enterprise Clinics
- Strengthened links with the local Employability Practitioners Network
- Strengthen links with the Islington Council's iWork Refugee Support Team
- Represented VAI at the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum (GLA) and the London Plus Volunteer Centre Network

OUR VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENT PLACEMENTS

In addition to our trustees, VAI had teams of volunteers assisting us in delivering some of our core activities. In total we had 21 local residents volunteering with us. Volunteers supported the running of our Resource Centre, assisted with our Volunteer Centre resident brokerage / matching service, delivered vital capacity building / organisational development support, Local Wellbeing Network meetings and events and the Cost-of-Living Programme and key elements of our internal governance:

- Volunteer Centre Community Volunteering Advisors: Nisreen Abou Henda, Marlene Lall, Gabisa Abelti, Yosef Mesfin, Richard Manson, Tynan Parker, Larysa Koltsova. These volunteers arranged face-to-face meetings with potential volunteers, supported the Volunteer Fairs and through outreach promoted volunteering opportunities across Islington. By volunteering for VAI, the volunteers gained valuable experience and skills, developed more confidence and self-esteem.
- Resource Centre: Johnston Walker, Maria Georgiou
- Cost of Living Pilot Programme: Volunteering: Essenam Diegah, Nana Nhyira, Mojisola Agarawu (London Met Students)
- Cost of Living Pilot Programme: Local Wellbeing Networks: James Wooldridge, Clara Nolan, Katarzyna Leczycka, Nadia Gordon, Josephine Belle-Ja, Yeabsera Gedion, Larysa Koltsova
- Capacity building and organisational development: Richard Singleton (Volunteer Associate: Project Management)
- Facilitation of VAI's Staff / Trustee Away Day: Volunteer Associate: Tony Rose

Huge thanks to all our volunteers.

STRATEGIC AIM 3: TO FACILITATE STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WORKING ACROSS THE VCFSE TO INFLUCENCE LOCAL POLICY, DECISION-MAKING AND SYSTEM GROWTH

VAI'S ADVISORY GROUP

We continued to work closely with our Advisory Group made up of the following organisations and networks in the borough and facilitated meetings and workshops: Age UK, Brickworks Community Centre, Cripplegate, Healthwatch Islington, Help on Your Doorstep, Islington Citizens Advice Bureau, Islington Faiths Forum, Islington Mind, Islington Refugee and Migrant Forum, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, Octopus Community Network, St Lukes Community Centre, Stuart Low Trust, Disability Action Islington, Cloudesley, The Peel Centre. We extended the invitation to Nafsiyat, and Hillside Clubhouse.

Our CEO facilitated 8 Advisory Group meetings, focusing on:

- Refreshing the Islington Compact, led by Islington Council Partnership Team with planning meetings in Dec '24 & Jan '25, followed by themed workshops
- Developing the case for a borough wide Islington Council / VCFSE strategy and implementation plan – helping to 'reset the relationship' between the sectors and have secured funding from the Council to partner with them and London Metropolitan University, the lead partner, with work starting in April 2025.
- Establishing and setting the direction of travel of Islington VCFSE Leaders Collaborative with working groups
- Widening representation across Islington Council led strategic boards and partnerships
- Demonstrating the VCFSE's impact and social value more effectively.

OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 13 MARCH 2025, LONDON MET UNIVERSITY
Delegates were warmly welcomed by Professor Julie Hall, Vice Chancellor, London Met University and Sophie Cloutterbuck, Director of London Engagement; and the London Met Lab: Empowering London, London Metropolitan University

Our agenda and speakers included:

- Launch of the Islington VCFSE Leaders Collaborative – bringing together the wider VCFSE sector to work together more collaboratively on key priorities as defined by the sector
- Keynote speech from Victoria Lawson, CEO, Islington Council who talked about the contribution that the sector has made over the past year
- Starting the process of defining the impact and social value of the VCFSE – with presentation from Professor Chris Dayson, and roundtable discussions facilitated by Dr Ellen Bennett, Sheffield Hallam University and Dr Beth Patmore, Nottingham Trent University
- An introduction to Evidence Islington and how the VCFSE can benefit and work in partnership with Islington Council to build community research capacity. We were joined by Jonathan O'Sullivan, Director of Public Health Islington Council, Laura Saksena, CEO, Healthwatch Islington and Sabrina Jantuah, Engagement and Participation Officer, Evidence Islington.

We play a key role in many borough-wide and neighbourhood initiatives that are focused on bringing about positive change for local people and communities

VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND VOLUNTEERING RESEARCH CONFERENCE – 11/12 SEPTEMBER 2024

Voice of the people? Democracy, representation, and involvement in and through the voluntary sector and volunteering – hosted by Bayes Business School

We were invited to be a partner at this annual conference which invites participants to explore issues, whilst also hearing about the latest research covering a wide range of topics relating to the voluntary sector and volunteering. The Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference 2024 was organised by the Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN), in partnership with VAI, and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). It was hosted by the Centre for Charity Effectiveness at Bayes Business School, City, University of London. It provided a unique opportunity for academics, policy makers and practitioners from the UK and further afield to come together to share findings and discuss the implications of research for civil society.

FUTURE WORK

- Further work on impact and social value of the Islington VCFSE with our partnership with Sheffield Hallam and Nottingham Trent Universities
- Future work on the Islington Council / VCFSE sector strategy, and implementation plan including the Compact
- LBI Evidence Islington – developing community research skills within the VCFSE and residents and improving collection of data and insight
- Engaging the sector via the Islington VCFSE Leaders Collaborative and working with the sector on working together more collaboratively and effectively in the future.

LOCAL REPRESENTATION

Our CEO represented the VCFSE at the following LBI board and partnerships:

- Bright Lives Alliance Partnership
- Community Partnership Board
- Cost of Living Board (now the Tackling Poverty Steering Group)
- Evidence Islington Strategic Delivery Board
- Islington Borough Partnership – Integration of Health & Social Care and the development of the neighbourhood model of working
- Islington Borough Resilience Forum

NORTH CENTRAL LONDON REPRESENTATION

Our CEO represented Islington's VCFSE at the following North Central London (NCL) boards and partnerships:

- NCL VCSE Alliance – which includes CVSs and service providers from Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Islington
- NCL VCSE Investment Group
- NCL Integrated Care Board People's Board Subgroup
- NCL Research Network

VAI's Business Development Manager has been representing VAI at London Plus's Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) Director's Network monthly meetings.

STRATEGIC AIM 4: TO RUN VAI RESPONSIBLY, EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY AS A MODEL OF GOOD PRACTICE

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TEAM

Our most important assets are our people, and we ensure that we invest in them and their professional development. We have put in place opportunities to access comprehensive training opportunities, with regular reviews of their learning and training needs.

OUR GOVERNANCE

We have a solid governance structure with trustees with diverse experience and skills. During the year we:

- Completed a trustee skills and diversity audit
- Recruited 3 new trustees to bring skills and experiences to the board where we had gaps
- Created and launched our new 3 year strategy and operational plan
- Created a new finance and risk sub committee

IMPROVING OUR INTERNAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE THE WAY WE WORK WITH AND SUPPORT ISLINGTON'S VCFSE SECTOR

With thanks to the National Lottery for funding to develop our infrastructure, we embarked on 3 large projects which will in turn help our VCFSE sector membership:

- First phase Salesforce CRM implementation: streamline processes, centralise information and improve communication
- New Website: audit and user personas completed, and RFP currently being written and a shortlist of suppliers to be approached ready for work to start in the coming months
- New Volunteering Platform: completed

ORGANISATIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- We carried out an audit of all VAI policies carried out including identifying gaps
- We are working on creating a plan to update and address gaps identified

IMPROVING OUR SUSTAINABILITY BY DIVERSIFYING OUR INCOME STREAMS

We are increasing the number of applications to charitable trusts and foundations

OPERATING A THRIVING RESOURCE CENTRE

Our Resource Centre continues to generate funds to support the development of the local VCFSE and provides a model of co-location and efficient use of resources. During the year, we continued to provide desk and room hire facilities to charities and community groups. Activity stabilised after challenging years during Covid and the start of the cost-of-living crisis.

Huge thanks to Islington Council for their support in negotiating an extension of our lease for a period of 15 years, taking us up to 2039. Huge thanks to Russell Cooke for their legal support. Given the stability that the new lease offers, we made improvements to our Resource Centre facilities including office redesign and plans for additional meeting rooms and upgrade to key areas. Huge thanks to Allford, Hall, Monaghan and Morris for their pro bono architectural support.

In total 141 organisations hired meeting rooms and desk space – mostly charities and social enterprises.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The trustees review, on a quarterly basis, progress made in delivering services that we are implementing to achieve outcomes in our strategic plan. This review is undertaken at the same time as our quarterly financial review. In addition, regular reports are produced for each of our funders and evaluations are undertaken as projects come to an end.

The main beneficiaries of our services are VCFSE organisations providing services and activities in the London Borough of Islington and individuals interested in volunteering in the borough.

KEY PROJECTS AND HOW THESE WERE FUNDED

Our main sources of income are grants from statutory bodies and charitable trusts and foundations, together with rental income generated from our Resource Centre. The breakdown of our funding from statutory bodies and charitable trusts and foundations during this year:

Funder / income stream	Type of grant and for what services	How much
Charles S French Charitable Trust	Promoting and enabling volunteering for asylum seekers in Islington	£5,000

Funder / income stream	Type of grant and for what services	How much
Islington Council	Core Grant – capacity building / organisational development	£40,000
Islington Council	Core Grant – Volunteer Centre services	£35,000
Islington Council	Cost of Living Programme: Local Wellbeing Networks & volunteering and support services for residents using food aid	£47,089
North Central London Integrated Care Board	NCL VCS Alliance	£6,450
National Lottery Community Fund	Strengthening Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector	£30,000

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025

The Statement of Financial Activities shows annual net expenditure (an annual net loss) before gains on investments of £56,676 (2024: £2,162 surplus). That comprised losses of £16,814 on restricted funds (2024: £24,502 loss) and £39,862 on unrestricted funds (2024: £26,664 surplus). The loss on unrestricted funds was the effective operating loss for the year. Although a loss, it was a managed loss, had been anticipated and was a marginally better result than had been budgeted.

After incorporating the annual £5,509 gain in investment values (2024: £4,862 loss), total net expenditure (the annual loss) reduced to £51,167 (2024: £2,700).

Annual income increased from £495,263 to £502,780 in 2024-25. Voluntary Action Islington's Resource Centre generated the largest source of income, as it has done in recent years. The London Borough of Islington (LBI) continued to support VAI's core activities under the Strategic Borough-wide Partners and Strategic Volunteering Partners grants. The other significant funder was the National Lottery Community fund.

At the year end all funds totalled £305,209 (2024: £356,376) of which £273,099 (2024: £307,452) were unrestricted. General funds, which are considered to be the free reserves of the charity, totalled £189,473 (2024: £203,145).

Further to the decision made by trustees in September 2015, Voluntary Action Services, the subsidiary trading company established by Voluntary Action Islington in 2013 remains a dormant company.

RESERVES

On 31 March 2025 Voluntary Action Islington held unrestricted funds totalling £273,099 (2024: £307,452).

The free reserves (those unrestricted funds that have not been designated for specific purposes) totalled £189,473 (2024: £203,145). The reserves policy requires a balance of free reserves equivalent to no less than 3 months (25%) of annual expenditure. The current balance of £189,473 is equivalent to 32% (2024: 34%) of annual budgeted expenditure and is therefore compliant with the policy.

Funds have been designated from reserves for specific purposes where costs are not incurred on an annual basis. At year end those funds totalled £83,626 (2024: £104,307), designations

having been made to invest in building improvements and to support future relocation from the Resource Centre, including managing the cost of dilapidations.

In addition to its unrestricted funds the charity held £32,110 of restricted funds (2024: £48,924), the use of which is restricted by funders to specific activities to support VAI's members and develop the voluntary sector in Islington.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

This year, Voluntary Action Islington implemented the investment policy as agreed in October 2022. The objectives of the policy:

- To use free reserves to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk
- When there are opportunities to do so to invest a proportion of our reserves in the development of new products and services where we assess that it is realistic that these will generate funds to sustain themselves or when, by investing in products and services delivered by our subsidiary trading company, we assess that this investment could produce a long-term income stream for Voluntary Action Islington
- When there are opportunities to do so we will seek investment opportunities that further our charitable objectives, whilst at the same time producing a financial return

VAI's listed investments continued to generate valuable income throughout the year in line with the investment policy. Investment values fell from £158,603 to £153,744 during the year resulting in annual unrealised losses of £4,862 (2023: £14,976). The investments continue to be held with the expectation that values will rise in the future, as they have done for the current year to date.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Voluntary Action Islington Limited's ability to continue as a going concern.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees adopt a structured approach to risk appraisal and mitigation as part of the charity's ongoing development and governance responsibilities. The VAI Risk Register is reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure that documented risks are monitored, emerging risks are identified promptly, and appropriate mitigating actions are in place.

The Trustees recognise that effective risk management is essential to safeguard the charity's assets, reputation, and ability to deliver its objectives. Risks are assessed according to their likelihood and potential impact, with priority given to those rated highest. Mitigating actions are regularly monitored and updated to reflect changes in the external environment and the charity's operations.

VAI's major risks at present are:

- Fundraising returns - The fundraising environment remains challenging, which may impact income generation. We are actively pursuing diversified funding streams and increasing the number of funding applications.
- Capacity and use of resources, including tangible fixed assets – Staffing levels, resource allocation, and the effective management of tangible fixed assets are closely monitored to ensure the charity can meet its objectives. Staff and trustees review headcount, resource deployment, and asset utilisation to maximise efficiency and long-term sustainability.

- IT and disaster recovery – Robust systems and procedures are in place to minimise the risk of IT failures or data breaches. We have cyber insurance, and a disaster recovery plan is being developed.

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate systems and processes are in place to manage these risks and to support the long-term sustainability of the charity. The main factors likely to affect the financial performance of the Charity are a reduction in demand for our desk and room hire provision to VCFSE sector organisations, and a loss of funding. We mitigate these risks by improving the facilities at the Resource Centre. We plan to maintain our financial resources by careful financial management and by continuing to provide excellent public benefit in conjunction with our partners and seeking funding for our projects and charitable services to the local VCFSE sector.

We have ensured continuity in our Resource Centre provision by negotiating a new 15-year lease from October 2024.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We are committed to continuing as an independent organisation bringing together civil society in Islington and representing the interests of local VCFSE organisations to the main statutory agencies. We will continue to participate in Islington-led boards that influence how Islington Council plan and make decisions that impact on communities, particularly at a local level, as well as North Central London.

We will continue to work with VCFSE sector organisations to help diversify funding and other support. We will encourage collaboration and joint funding bids, which include smaller local organisations in service delivery. As part of this approach, we will continue to work with the VCFSE sector by providing networking and partnership opportunities. We will continue to work with other local, regional and national organisations that provide capacity building and organisational support to their membership and continue to work with and explore how our collective efforts can be made more strategic.

We plan to continue to support the effective management of volunteers and to support organisations through a mix of one-to-one support and training workshops.

We will continue to make applications for grants and to submit tenders for contracts, which are related to our core functions.

Our Resource Centre is an important community asset for local VCFSE sector organisations and will continue to be an important source of income supporting our core offer to local organisations. We reinvest all the income generated into the community through our services. We will continue to take account of our environmental impact in our management of this facility.

Our website and social media are well used resources, and we are committed to continuing to develop the use of these facilities over the coming period.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association. This was last amended in November 2013. The provisions of the governing document have been complied with during the year under review.

The trustees serve on a Board of Trustees. They consist of at least three and not more than 12 individuals, all of whom must be authorised representatives of organisations or an individual member. Each Trustee shall retire from office at the end of three years commencing from the

date of his or her appointment. A retiring Trustee may be reappointed but a Trustee who has served for nine years in total must take a break from office and may not be reappointed until the anniversary of the commencement of his or her break from office.

At the end of the year, there were 8 trustees with plans to recruit 4 further trustees. The trustees keep under review gaps in experience and expertise represented on the board, and during the past year a skills audit of current trustees was carried out. Induction meetings are organised for trustees to brief them about the work of the charity and trustees attend occasional conferences and courses to keep up to date about relevant developments.

The charity is organised through the Board of Trustees to whom the Chief Executive is answerable, through the Chair. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are appointed from amongst the trustees at the first meeting after the AGM. These officers serve for a period of one year.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the management of staff in 3 core functions: Volunteer Centre, Resource Centre and capacity building and organisational development. The CEO and staff have responsibility for specific areas of work and reporting to funders. The Chief Executive is not legally a director for the purposes of company or charitable law. The Charity is a member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), and NCVO. These memberships provide information and resources that help us to assist voluntary and community organisations serving the community in Islington.

The Charity has a subsidiary trading company, Voluntary Action Services Limited (VAS). This is a private company limited by share capital and wholly owned by Voluntary Action Islington. To date VAS has only traded in online learning courses. At its meeting on 9th September 2016 the trustees decided that this company should cease trading on 30th September 2016 and should be retained as a dormant company, for potential future trading. Emma Hutchins remains a director of both companies. As VAS is currently dormant, there are no plans as yet to appoint new Directors.

Several of the trustees of Voluntary Action Islington are employed by or trustees of local voluntary organisations that are members of Voluntary Action Islington. These voluntary organisations benefit from the services of Voluntary Action Islington. A register of trustee interests is maintained and was updated during the year. Any potential conflict of interest is declared at the beginning of each trustee's meeting.

The charity's staff, including management personnel, are paid on the national NJC pay scale. The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the trustees, who take account of the performance of the Chief Executive; the complexity, scale of responsibilities and expected level of external influence of the Chief Executive role; an assessment of current Chief Executive pay levels within the charity sector; comparisons with the pay levels of other CVS Chief Executives in London; the salary range of an equivalent officer within the local authority; and the overall financial position of the organisation.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' REPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Voluntary Action Islington Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming

resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees on 31st March 2023 was 568. The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

STATEMENT AS TO THE DISCLOSURE TO OUR INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's independent assessor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent assessor is aware of that information

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

Goldwins Ltd were re-appointed as the Independent Examiners of the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 7 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Navinder Kaur
Company Secretary

Registered office:
200a Pentonville Road
London N1 9JP

Independent examiner's report

To the members of Voluntary Action Islington Limited

For the year ended 31 March 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE
Goldwins
Chartered accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	-	99,691	**99,691**	-	77,670	77,670
Charitable activities	3						
Community Development		47,089	-	**47,089**	40,000	-	40,000
Member Services and Support		500	-	**500**	-	-	-
Sector Development and Volunteering		54,064	290,721	**344,785**	66,409	301,816	368,225
Investments		-	10,715	**10,715**	-	9,368	9,368
Total income		101,653	401,127	**502,780**	106,409	388,854	495,263
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Community Development		42,419	5,821	**48,240**	67,216	-	67,216
Member Services and Support		1,000	65,248	**66,248**	5,167	47,832	52,999
Sector Development and Volunteering		75,048	369,920	**444,968**	58,528	314,358	372,886
Total expenditure	4	118,467	440,989	**559,456**	130,911	362,190	493,101
Net (expenditure) income before net gains (losses) on investments		(16,814)	(39,862)	**(56,676)**	(24,502)	26,664	2,162
Net gains (losses) on investments	9	-	5,509	**5,509**	-	(4,862)	(4,862)
Net (expenditure) income for the year	7	(16,814)	(34,353)	**(51,167)**	(24,502)	21,802	(2,700)
Transfers between funds		-	-	**-**	3,542	(3,542)	-
Net movement in funds		(16,814)	(34,353)	**(51,167)**	(20,960)	18,260	(2,700)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		48,924	307,452	**356,376**	69,884	289,192	359,076
Total funds carried forward	14	32,110	273,099	**305,209**	48,924	307,452	356,376

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 14 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 28 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited (Limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet

Company No. 01913555

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	**11,626**	3,307
Investments	9	**159,253**	153,744
		170,879	157,051
Current assets			
Debtors	10	**32,615**	30,152
Cash at bank and in hand		**147,543**	223,797
		180,158	253,949
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	**(45,828)**	(54,624)
Net current assets		**134,330**	199,325
Net assets	13	**305,209**	356,376
Funds	14		
Restricted funds		**32,110**	48,924
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds		**83,626**	104,307
General funds		**189,473**	203,145
Total funds		**305,209**	356,376

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Approved by the trustees on 07 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Jorge Llorens

Jorge Llorens
Treasurer

Emma Hutchins
Chair

The notes on pages 28 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	15		**(73,759)**		(36,734)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends from investments		**10,715**		9,368	
Sale (purchase) of fixed assets		**(13,210)**		(3,439)	
Sale (purchase) of investments		**-**		-	
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			**(2,495)**		5,929
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			**(76,254)**		(30,805)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			**224,555**		255,360
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	16		**148,301**		224,555

1 Accounting policies

1a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Voluntary Action Islington 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 or note.

1b Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties regarding the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgements have been made by the charitable company which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1c Income

Income, including income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants are credited to incoming resources when they are receivable as the charity's own money, unless they are for activities that relate to a specific future period, in which case they are deferred to that period.

Income received under contracts for services which cross over the year end are recognised in the financial statements in line with the percentage of completion of the contract at the year end.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Distributions from listed investments are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally the date on which the holding is first quoted ex dividend or the end date of the period for which it is accrued as notified by the fund manager.

1d Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1e Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of services and support to members and developing volunteering and the local voluntary sector undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

1f Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with their use of resources.

Premises are allocated proportionate to floor space occupied by each activity as follows:

Community Development	1.4%
Member Services and Support	2.1%
Sector Development and Volunteering	95.7%
Support costs	0.8%
Governance costs	0.0%

Other costs of administration are allocated per capita VAI staff and other occupants of the Resource Centre as follows:

Community Development	3.2%
Member Services and Support	4.8%
Sector Development and Volunteering	90.1%
Support costs	1.8%
Governance costs	0.1%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Community Development	10.5%
Member Services and Support	15.9%
Sector Development and Volunteering	73.6%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

1g Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the length of the lease.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1h Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £2,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	4 years
Leasehold property	The lesser of 15 years or the remaining lease term

1i Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1j Debtors

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

1k Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash 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.

1l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted	Unrestricted	**2025 Total**	2024 Total
	£	£	**£**	£
London Borough of Islington	-	75,000	**75,000**	75,000
Islington Mayor	-	22,578	**22,578**	-
Other grants and similar income, under £5,000 each	-	2,113	**2,113**	2,670
	-	99,691	**99,691**	77,670

Voluntary Action Islington benefit from a Section 106 Agreement that provides accommodation at a peppercorn rent. As it is not possible to put an accurate value to this, it has not been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	**2025 Total**	2024 Total
	£	£	**£**	£
London Borough of Islington				
Local Wellbeing Networks	47,089	-	**47,089**	30,000
Greater London Authority, Community Resilience Fund				
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	-	-	**-**	5,000
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	-	-	**-**	5,000
Sub-total for Community Development	47,089	-	**47,089**	40,000

	Restricted	Unrestricted	**2025 Total**	2024 Total
	£	£	**£**	£
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	500	-	**500**	-
Sub-total for Member Services and Support	500	-	**500**	-

	Restricted	Unrestricted	**2025 Total**	2024 Total
	£	£	**£**	£
Community resource and other service income	-	272,242	**272,242**	287,114
Peabody (via The London Community Foundation)				
South Islington volunteering opportunities	-	-	-	15,000
Greater London Authority, Community Resilience Fund				
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	-	-	**-**	5,000
The National Lottery Community Fund				
Strengthening Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector	30,000	-	**30,000**	45,000
NHS England via London Plus and Volunteer Centre Camden				
Volunteering for Health Core Partnership	19,031	-	**19,031**	-
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	5,033	18,479	**23,512**	16,111
Sub-total for Sector Development and Volunteering	54,064	290,721	**344,785**	368,225
Total income from charitable activities	101,653	290,721	**392,374**	408,225

4 Analysis of expenditure

4a Current year

	Charitable activities			Governance costs	Support costs	2025 Total	2024 Total
	Community Development £	Member Services and Support £	Sector Development and Volunteering £	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 5)	35,766	50,553	236,477	1,881	25,516	**350,193**	313,792
Agency staff	-	-	1,885	-	19,486	**21,371**	21,796
Other staff costs	228	348	1,464	8	133	**2,181**	4,354
Direct activity costs	1,362	297	11,682	6	49	**13,396**	23,146
Premises	1,180	1,770	91,103	42	716	**94,811**	59,069
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	4,891	**4,891**	13,600
Admin and ICT	2,409	2,180	50,741	45	985	**56,360**	44,400
Compliance	-	-	333	12,122	3,798	**16,253**	12,944
	40,945	55,148	393,685	14,104	55,574	**559,456**	493,101
Governance costs	1,622	2,468	10,014	(14,104)	-	**-**	-
Support Costs	5,673	8,632	41,269	-	(55,574)	**-**	-
Total expenditure 2025	48,240	66,248	444,968	-	-	**559,456**	493,101

5b Prior year

Direct expenditure	57,667	43,984	316,137	12,792	62,521	**493,101**
Support and governance costs allocated	9,549	9,015	56,749	(12,792)	(62,521)	**-**
Total expenditure 2024	67,216	52,999	372,886	-	-	**493,101**

Support and governance costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity (note 1f).
Of the total expenditure, £440,989 was unrestricted (2024: £362,190) and £118,467 was restricted (2024: £130,911).

5 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and key management

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	**307,832**	275,438
Social security costs	**25,693**	23,386
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**16,668**	14,968
	350,193	313,792
Agency costs	**20,371**	21,796
	370,564	335,588

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension) exceeding £60,000 during the year (2024: No employee).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions and employer's national insurance of the key management personnel were £59,892 (2024: £62,863).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2024 £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity in the year (2024: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed expenses (2024: none).

Staff numbers:

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 9 (2024: 8).

The average number of employees (full time equivalent) during the year and by activity was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Community Development	**0.8**	0.9
Member Services and Support	**1.2**	0.9
Sector Development and Volunteering	**5.0**	4.2
Support and governance	**0.5**	0.5
	7.5	6.5

6 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

7 Net income (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	**4,891**	13,600
Board of Trustees - indemnity insurance	**889**	584
Operating lease charges	**22,395**	13,457
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	**3,300**	3,150

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment £	Leasehold property £	2025 Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	98,867	133,179	**232,046**
Additions in year	13,210	-	**13,210**
Disposals in year	(11,874)	(4,019)	**(15,893)**
At 31 March 2025	100,203	129,160	**229,363**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	95,560	133,179	**228,739**
Charge for the year	4,891	-	**4,891**
Eliminated on disposal	(11,874)	(4,019)	**(15,893)**
At 31 March 2025	88,577	129,160	**217,737**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	**11,626**	**-**	**11,626**
At 31 March 2024	3,307	-	3,307

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

9 Fixed asset investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Listed investments (note 10a)	**159,252**	153,743
Investment in subsidiary company (note 10b)	**1**	1
	159,253	153,744

9a Listed investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Analysis of movement of investments		
Market value at start of year	**152,985**	157,847
Disposals at market value	**-**	-
Realised gains / (losses)	**-**	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**5,509**	(4,862)
Market value at year end	**158,494**	152,985
Cash instruments and cash held for reinvestment	**758**	758
Fair value at year end	**159,252**	153,743
Historical cost	**158,595**	158,595

The investments comprise two UK unit trusts.

9b Investment in subsidiary company

VAI beneficially owns the entire share capital of Voluntary Action Services Limited (a company limited by share capital, company no. 8612449 (England and Wales)), through which VAI's commercial trading previously took place. In September 2016 the decision was taken to suspend trading through the company. The company remained dormant at 31 March 2025.

The share capital and reserves of the subsidiary are not material and therefore no consolidated accounts have been prepared. Disclosure is confined to this note to the accounts.

	2025 £	2024 £
Investment in Voluntary Action Services Ltd at cost	**1**	1

At 31 March 2025 VAI held one share of £1, being the entire share capital of the trading company.

9b Investment in subsidiary company (continued)

Relevant financial information regarding Voluntary Action Services Ltd is as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Assets	**1**	1
Liabilities	**-**	-
Total funds	**1**	1

10 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	**18,941**	22,409
Other debtors	**2,277**	3,247
Prepayments	**11,397**	4,496
	32,615	30,152

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Tax and social security costs	**7,242**	7,044
Trade creditors	**28,929**	11,285
Other creditors	**732**	2,090
Accruals	**8,075**	33,445
Deferred income (note 11)	**850**	760
	45,828	54,624

Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	**760**	170
Amount released to income in the year	**(760)**	(170)
Amount deferred in the year	**850**	760
Balance at the end of the year	**850**	760

Deferred income comprises Resource Centre income received in advance (2024: Resource Centre income received in advance).

12 Related party transactions

Craig Burgess was both a trustee of VAI and Chief Operating Officer of City Year from December 2023 until May 2024 .

City Year paid VAI £10,966 in rental and other charges during that period.

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

13 Analysis of group net assets between funds

13a Current year

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	**Total funds £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,626	-	**11,626**
Investment assets	-	36,000	123,253	**159,253**
Net current assets	32,110	36,000	66,220	**134,330**
Net assets at 31 March 2025	32,110	83,626	189,473	**305,209**

13b Prior year

	Restricted £	Designated £	General £	**Total £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,307	-	**3,307**
Investment assets	-	72,000	81,744	**153,744**
Net current assets	48,924	29,000	121,401	**199,325**
Net assets at 31 March 2024	48,924	104,307	203,145	**356,376**

14 Movements in funds

14a Current year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	2,009	-	(500)	-	**1,509**
Conferences and events	-	533	(533)	-	**-**
Enabling Volunteering for Migrants and Refugees	-	5,000	(5,000)		**-**
Local Wellbeing Network	6,197	47,089	(42,419)	-	**10,867**
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	-	-	-	-	**-**
Strengthening Islington's VCFSE sector	40,718	30,000	(50,984)	-	**19,734**
Volunteering for Health	-	19,031	(19,031)		**-**
Total restricted funds	48,924	101,653	(118,467)	-	**32,110**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Building improvements	25,000	-	(12,541)	23,541	**36,000**
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	(4,000)	**-**
Relocation	72,000	-	-	(36,000)	**36,000**
Fixed assets	3,307	-	(4,891)	13,210	**11,626**
Total designated funds	104,307	-	(17,432)	(3,249)	**83,626**
General funds	203,145	406,636	(423,557)	3,249	**189,473**
Total unrestricted funds	307,452	406,636	(440,989)	-	**273,099**
Total funds	356,376	508,289	(559,456)	-	**305,209**

14 Movements in funds (continued)

14b Prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	7,176	-	(5,167)	-	**2,009**
Conferences and events	-	1,409	(1,409)	-	**-**
Local Wellbeing Network	27,918	30,000	(51,721)	-	**6,197**
Public Health and Community	23,864	-	(23,864)	-	**-**
South Islington volunteering opportunities	-	15,000	(16,968)	1,968	**-**
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	**-**
Strengthening Islington's VCFSE sector	-	45,000	(4,282)	-	**40,718**
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure	3,921	5,000	(10,495)	1,574	**-**
Fixed assets	7,005	-	(7,005)	-	**-**
Total restricted funds	69,884	106,409	(130,911)	3,542	**48,924**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Building improvements	-	-	-	25,000	**25,000**
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	**4,000**
Relocation	97,000	-	-	(25,000)	**72,000**
Fixed assets	6,463	-	(6,595)	3,439	**3,307**
Total designated funds	107,463	-	(6,595)	3,439	**104,307**
General funds	181,729	388,854	(360,457)	(6,981)	**203,145**
Total unrestricted funds	289,192	388,854	(367,052)	(3,542)	**307,452**
Total funds	359,076	495,263	(497,963)	-	**356,376**

14c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds

Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	Funds provided by the London Borough of Islington to support activities by the Children's Voluntary Sector Forum.
Conferences and events	Contributions from supporters towards the costs of the VCFSE conference held in partnership with London Met University and LBI and other smaller thematic events.
Enabling Volunteering for Migrants and Refugees	To promote and enable volunteering for asylum seekers in Islington.
Local Wellbeing Network	As part of Islington Council's Cost of Living Programme, VAI have been funded to continue to deliver Local Wellbeing Networks, to improve resident access to holistic services by increasing collaboration between Food Aid providers and local services.
Public Health and Community Engagement	Funding to develop effective partnerships with Public Health and the local VCFS to promote Covid vaccination and other health and wellbeing offers.
South Islington volunteering opportunities	To provide outreach services to Peabody residents especially those located in the south of the borough.
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	To increase community preparedness for emergencies, funded by GLA and London Communities Emergencies Partnership. Funds distributed via London Plus.
Strengthening Islington's VCFSE sector	To improve VAI's internal infrastructure in order to collaborate with our local VCFSE sector more effectively. Funded by the National Lottery Communities Fund.
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure Fund	To partner with Healthprom, and develop a network of organisations to provide more effective support to Ukrainian families hosted through the sponsorship programme.
Volunteering for Health Core Partnership	To deliver a system-wide volunteer infrastructure, build diversity of our volunteering population, increase access to volunteering and support volunteering into work.
Fixed assets	To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed

14c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of designated funds

Building improvements	A fund to be used to improve VAI's Resource Centre so that it remains an up to date facility that is attractive and welcoming venue to local charities and community organisations.
ICT infrastructure development	A fund to invest in essential improvements to the ICT infrastructure of the Resource Centre. Discontinued in 2025.
Relocation	A fund to be built up over the 15 years of the current premises lease so that VAI is in a position to manage its liabilities, and to seek alternative premises if required, at the end of the lease in October 2039.
Fixed assets	To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from unrestricted funds.

15 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	**(51,167)**	(2,700)
Depreciation	**4,891**	13,600
Interest, rent and dividends from investments	**(10,715)**	(9,368)
(Gains) / losses on investments	**(5,509)**	4,862
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	**(2,463)**	(2,925)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	**(8,796)**	(40,203)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	**(73,759)**	(36,734)

16 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	Other changes £	**At 31 March 2025** £
Cash at bank and in hand	223,797	(76,254)	-	**147,543**
Cash held by investment managers	758	-	-	**758**
Total cash and cash equivalents	224,555	(76,254)	-	**148,301**

17 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Equipment	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Less than one year	**19,622**	18,616
One to five years	**40,999**	55,591
Over five years	**-**	-
	60,621	74,207

18 Contingent liability

Under the terms of the lease for its current premises Voluntary Action Islington is liable for the costs of restoring the property to its original condition, including removal of all fixtures and fittings, if so required by the landlord when yielding up the property at the end of the lease term. The current lease expires in October 2039. The extent of the works that will be required and the consequent cost cannot reasonably be estimated at this time and so no provision has been made for this in the accounts.

19 Company limited by guarantee

Voluntary Action Islington is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.