Charity number: SC032729

Company number: SC227931

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

Contents

Reference & Administrative Information	1
Report of the Trustees	2-9
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Statement of Financial Position	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13-19
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	20

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of charity Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

Charity registration number SC032729

Company registration number SC227931

Principal address 1A Clydeview Shopping Centre

Blantyre G72 0QD

The Trustees and Directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

J Dunn

J Reid

E Horrell

A Shanks

R McKean

C Thompson – Retired 28th August 2024 M Ronnie – Joined 27th January 2025

Bankers Royal Bank of Scotland

158a Fenwick Road

Giffnock Glasgow G46 6XW

Independent examiner James Lochery

Kilbryde Accounting and Taxation Services Ltd

EK Business Centre 14 Stroud Road East Kilbride G75 0YA

TRUSTEES REPORT

Our report will provide an overview of how we delivered positive outcomes for the communities, groups, and partner agencies we have worked with.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our Roots

Established in 2002, Community Links (South Lanarkshire) is an independent Lanarkshire-based Community Anchor organisation. We have a proven track record and passion for working with, encouraging, and supporting communities to co-produce sustainable and meaningful involvement, participation, and community-owned change.

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) engages and empowers residents within South Lanarkshire to be positive contributors to local decision-making within their communities; to take part in learning and development opportunities - benefiting them, the wider community and building community spirit.

Our activities

With 23 years' experience, we continue to carry out community development, consultation and engagement, activities for adults, young people and children in the local community - as well as services in environmental improvements, community safety, food and community cafes, recycled IT equipment provision and climate action activities.

These involve:

Engaging with communities and involve them in decision-making processes hence re-enforcing the importance of local democracy;

Increasing community capacity and involvement utilising Asset Based Community Development, Participatory Budgeting and Co-production;

Facilitating community consultations and events, by promoting the Community Planning Partnership objectives to the communities by using innovative methods of communication; supporting the creation of local group networks;

Encouraging volunteering opportunities by recruiting, training and supporting local volunteers to deliver services and opportunities for the benefit of their local community;

Support to enhance digital inclusion, increasing opportunities to education, health and employment;

Providing information/communication to ensure individuals and communities are aware of services and opportunities, using appropriate methods;

Developing true and representative community engagement to help shape service delivery in the communities to improve people's quality of life;

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Improving our commitment to the environment and social responsibility in our communities and workplace by implementing our environmental policy and encouraging climate action.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles adopted by Community Links (South Lanarkshire) in 2002 are those which continue to underpin the organisation, namely:

Independence - we will work to ensure that we behave and are seen as, an independent organisation, apolitical, and always working in the best interests of our communities.

Facilitation and involvement -we will work to involve our communities and volunteers in wider activities.

Listening and understanding - we will communicate clearly and regularly talk to our communities and partner agencies.

Responsiveness - we will be responsive to the changing policy context and to the needs of our communities.

Learning - we will constantly learn about the needs of the area from our successes and failures and from networking with others.

Partnerships and linkages - we will work with others to develop and deliver our services and build on making connections with local service providers and the communities.

Sustainability - we will work to ensure that the impact of our support makes a difference to the communities and Community Engagement Team/partner agencies, and that the projects can be sustainable.

Openness and transparency - we will readily make available information about our services in clear and accessible formats and will ensure that our activities are transparent and enable us to be accountable for our services.

Professionalism - we regard a professional approach as essential and will support our volunteers and staff to have the skills and behaviours appropriate to providing quality services.

Our Values

We are a value-based organisation. Our organisation Values were established in early 2013, and this is reflected in how we deliver our services and interact with the communities we serve. These are:

Inclusion

'Recognising and valuing difference'

We appreciate that communities are made up of individuals from different backgrounds – understanding experiences and viewpoints.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Commitment

'Dedication to effective community leadership'

We strive to provide a platform for which a community can determine how their lives are shaped.

Respect

'Valuing and recognising every individual'

Taking away from community level and focusing on individuals. Understanding that not everyone fits into a group - a community is made up of individuals.

Innovation

'Creative and inspired community engagement'

We always like to be at the forefront of cutting-edge and innovative engagement methods.

Vibrance

'Channelling community spirit and passion'

Mirroring and steering the enthusiasm and energy of local volunteers.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our experience over twenty-three years has demonstrated that communities are responsive to working with an organisation that they know are impartial and independent of the agencies that deliver services in their area.

Most of the work carried out focuses on the data zones which fall into the lowest 5 - 15% as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2020)

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) works to ensure that their opinions and comments are routed to service providers. We work with and for local people to facilitate community influence on services and decision-making processes. We provide opportunities for communities to actively engage with services to continually improve their own, their families', and their communities' quality of life.

As an anchor community-led organisation, we continue to develop our asset-based community development activities, with safety, kindness and a warm welcome being the ultimate consideration for those who participate. The Local Area Networks for Blantyre, Hamilton and Larkhall continue to meet to share ideas and solutions to challenges. We continue to monitor and evaluate our services with our communities' involvement – developing new well-being, creative, physical and mental health initiatives. Embedded workers achieve this by harnessing people's strengths to establish activities they want – creating a safe space in which the types of positive social interactions above can flourish, creating supportive relationships. Through active involvement, learning, sharing new skills, and volunteering, people also build confidence and self-esteem.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (Continued)

Through our Asset Based Community Development Work and Participatory Budgeting activities, Neighbourhood Plans, known as Our Place Our Plan (OPOP), for the areas of Hillhouse, Udston & Burnbank and Strutherhill & Birkenshaw have continued to progress, driven forward by enthusiastic working groups. A total of 2,637 Hillhouse, Udston & Burnbank community votes secured £27,900 of Participatory Budgeting funds; similarly 1,698 Strutherhill & Birkenshaw community votes secured £18,600 to ensure grassroots initiatives are delivered for the benefit of their local communities.

Our work on Participatory Budgeting, both locally and nationally, continues to contribute strategically to Scotland's broader Participatory Budgeting movement. We do this through active involvement in formal networks and events, while applying the knowledge gained to effectively promote and deliver Participatory Budgeting activities within South Lanarkshire for the benefit of communities.

We continue to provide services, partly as a way to keep in touch with our communities, but always as a way of addressing issues of income inequality, while also delivering softer outcomes of connection people and reducing isolation.

We successfully delivered all activities planned in our grant agreements with South Lanarkshire Council and the Scottish Government's Investment in Communities Fund. These funds allow us to continue our commitment to providing meaningful mitigations to the cost of living crisis, including high energy costs and food poverty, all the while fostering climate awareness.

Funding Support from the National Lottery Awards for All allowed us to create and facilitate our very own Community Links Climate Action Festival. A vibrant week-long programne of events that engaged communities with the theme of climate action in fun, inclusive, and educational ways. A wide range of activities tailored to all ages were delivered, culminating in a free family fun day attracting over 300 participants, bringing together families, partners, and the wider community into celebration.

A small grant from Austin Hope & Pilkington enabled us to provide cooking demonstrations in partnership with the award-winning chef at Dunns Food and Drinks. Significantly benefitting 48 families, learning to cook healthy nutritious cost-saving meals, with locally sourced products. Each participant received a take-home bag with recipes, essential ingredients, and resources to support meal preparation/replication at home.

Our Winter Warmer Event distributed a comprehensive range of winter essentials to local households, making a significant and holistic impact on individuals and families in need., while also supporting climate actions through the promotion of sustainable practices and energy-efficient resources.

We continue to provide and to support local community organisations to provide weekly Hubs – where local people have access to social and recreational activities, free food, informal advice, including recycled and energy saving devices and a variety of outreach services.

Our SELECT service discontinued at the local Hubs, with access remaining to IT equipment at a lower level of support to assist people with their employment issues. We finally re-distributed 25 stand alone computers to be gifted to families, to help with children's IT skills and homework.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (Continued)

Hamilton Health and Social Care Forum continue to involve and support the communities of the Hamilton locality in the development of health and social care services particularly where services are being redesigned at primary care levels. This is achieved through hosting regular six weekly meetings, the sharing good practice and open dialogue highlighting current key issues and our participation in appropriate consultations. Our main aim is to ensure that the communities help shape the future of local health services in a meaningful way.

The Forums Positive Pathway to Mental Health and Wellbeing booklet continues to be a valuable resource for communities and partners, and the Forum will launch the 2nd edition of the booklet in August 2025.

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) has held a Service Level Agreement on behalf of NHS Lanarkshire and the Forum since 2008. https://www.slhscp.org.uk/info/10/get_involved

Income generation continues with our Community Consultation and Engagement activities

We appreciate our continued involvement in developing collaborative partnerships, the Third Sector Chief Officer's Group in particular, ensuring third sector views are reflected across Community Planning Partners to strengthen the Public and Third Sector relationships.

Our networks continue with partners: South Lanarkshire's Community Engagement Team and other South Lanarkshire Council resources; NHS Lanarkshire; VASLan and other third sector partners.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)'s principal funding sources for the year under review were South Lanarkshire Council's Community Engagement Team; Scottish Government's Investing in Communities; National Lottery- Awards for All; and Austin, Hope and Pilkington.

Self-generated income for service and consultation provision equated to almost 10% of total income.

Future Developments

It is our belief that our collaborative and co-operative approaches as an Anchor organisation will allow us the capacity to manage the challenges ahead.

Whilst attending our Board and Staff development session, we committed to expanding and enhancing our services to better support individuals and communities. Our focus will be on improving health, social, and economic outcomes, while ensuing that Community Links remains relevant, responsive, and effective in working with and for our communities.

Community Engagement and Community Development in the first instance, for the capacity to work alongside communities, is a vital process with our Community Planning partners. We aim for a longer-term sustainable core income whilst continuing to deliver on existing work, responding to local priorities.

We will continue to work to attract income from Trusts and other funders. Additional promotional activities will be reviewed and considered to enhance future income generation opportunities.

Mental health and wellbeing of our staff is fundamental to a healthy, productive and inclusive workplace. As an employer, we are committed to fostering a culture of care, open communication, and access to supports are prioritised. This includes providing mental health resources, promoting work-life balance, and offering flexible working arrangements. By investing in wellbeing initiatives, like private health insurance, and listening to staff feedback, we aim to create an environment where everyone feels valued, supported and empowered to thrive.

Addressing environmental issues and tackling climate change is a key priority across all our activities. We are committed to recruiting local people or community members who are passionate about climate action to help drive this forward.

Reserves policy

Owing to the nature of the operation, funds would generally be retained within, and maintained for individual projects, however where the income for each project has been self-generated, the Reserves are held centrally, and have been provided to cover future operational costs.

The free reserves, i.e. those not tied up in fixed assets nor relating to restricted funds, as at 31st March 2025, amounted to £142,004. These reserves are in line with the policy of maintaining a minimum of six months' running costs including potential statutory redundancy payments.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charitable company is controlled by its governing document, it's Articles of Association, and constitutes a company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The principal activity of the charitable company in the year under review was that of organisational and administrative support to the communities in South Lanarkshire to include promotion of community participation utilising: the Asset Based Community Development Approach; undertaking local consultation and the provision of appropriate services for income generation to support the sustainability of the organisation.

Organisational Structure

The organisational structure is made up of 6 Directors who are volunteer community representatives. This ensures that board decisions are community driven. During the year to 31st March 2025, the charitable company employed 6 staff made up as follows:

- 1 Chief Officer
- 3 Officers (Business and Development Support)
- 1 Community Development Officer
- 1 Community Development Worker

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) is an accredited real Living Wage employer who voluntarily signed up to ensure their employees and any subcontracted staff can earn a wage which is enough to live on.

Wider Network

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)'s core funding is from South Lanarkshire Council's Community Engagement Team. The continued support received from our funders and partners is very much appreciated.

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) are members of SCVO (The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) and VASLan (Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire), both organisations provide support, training, networking and opportunities for Community Links (South Lanarkshire) to contribute to the Scottish voluntary sector at local and national level.

Related parties

The Board of Directors comprise of volunteer Community Representatives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charitable company is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) constantly review their policies and procedures; practices Impact Assessment policies; and is a member of Information of Commissioners Office (ICO).

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

One trustee was appointed during our reporting financial year.

Induction and training of Trustees

Training is made available for the Directors on a group or individual basis. Where training is identified, records are maintained within the office electronic systems.

	06 August 2025
Morag Pinion	-
Secretary	

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2025

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position and the related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charitable company's trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charitable company's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

------ 06 August 2025

James Lochery FCCA
Kilbryde Accounting and Taxation Services Ltd
EK Business Centre
14 Stroud Road
East Kilbride
G75 0YA

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted		
		funds	funds	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
Income:					
Donations and Grants	2	26,532	250,465	276,997	315,174
Investments	3	901		901	1,305
		27,433	250,465	277,898	316,479
Expenditure:					
Charitable activities	4	(50,678)	(234,660)	(285,338)	(309,595)
		(50,678)	(234,660)	(285,338)	(309,595)
Net Income/Expenditure:		(23,245)	15,805	(7,440)	6,884
Barrar ell'all'arract formula					
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		149,444		149,444	142,560
Total funds carried forward	12	126,199	15,805	142,004	149,444

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) Statement of Financial Position For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible Assets	9		
Current assets			
Debtors	10	27,289	18,377
Cash at bank and in hand		126,695	164,516
		153,984	182,893
Creditors: amounts falling due within	11	(11,980)	(33,449)
one year			
Net current assets		142,004	149,444
Total assets less current liabilities		142,004	149,444
Net assets		142,004	149,444
			_
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12	15,805	-
Unrestricted funds	12	126,199	149,444
Total Funds		142,004	149,444

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

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its Financial Statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of Financial Statements. These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The Financial Statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and signed on its behalf by:
05 August 2025
J Dunn

Trustee

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) 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 note(s).

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributable to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. The charity is not registered for VAT and therefore all expenditure is shown gross.

Tangible Fixed Assets

The charity operates a policy of capitalising tangible fixed assets that have an original cost exceeding £5,000. Any assets with a value lower than £5,000, are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

When applicable, depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Office Equipment 25% straight line.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Directors.

Restricted Funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. Income from donations and grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Income generation	26,532		26,532	64,037
Grants received		250,465	250,465	251,137
	26,532	250,465	276,997	315,174

3. Investment Income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Bank interest receivable	901	1,305

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	32,034	225,398	257,432	274,907
Support Costs	18,644	9,262	27,906	34,688
	50,678	234,660	285,338	309,595

5. Analysis of support costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Travel and Incidental	1,278	2,998
Director Expenses	-	112
Office Expenses	15,577	22,131
Premise Costs	8,932	7,270
Bank Charges	117	92
Governance Costs	2,002	2,085
	27,906	34,688
6. Net income for the year		
Stated after charging:	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of owned assets	-	-
Accountancy fees	2,002	2,045
Staff pension contributions	12,178	11,492
7. Staff costs and emoluments		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	207,539	216,595
National Insurance Costs	16,014	16,039
Pension costs	12,178	11,492
	235,731	244,126

8. Comparative for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Grants	64,037	251,137	315,174
Investments	1,305	-	1,305
Total	65,342	251,137	316,479
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities	(58,458)	(251,137)	(309,595)
Net income/expenditure	6,884	<u>-</u>	6,884
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	165,260	-	142,560
Total funds carried forward	172,144	-	149,444
9. Tangible fixed assets		Plant and	d Machinery £
Cost or valuation			
as at 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025			17,562
Depreciation			
as at 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025			17,562
Net book values			
at 31 March 2025			
at 31 March 2024			

10. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Trade debtors	=	1,584
Other debtors	27,289	16,793
	27,289	18,377
11. Creditors		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Trade creditors	1,260	-
Other creditors	8,988	9,529
Accruals and deferred income	1,732	23,920
	11,980	33,449

12. Movement in funds

Unrestricted Funds	Balance as at 01.04.24	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.25 £
General	149,444	27,433	(50,678)	126,199
	149,444	27,433	(50,678)	126,199
Unrestricted Funds - previous year	Balance as at 01.04.23 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.24 £
General	142,560	65,342	(58,458)	149,444
	142,560	65,342	(58,458)	149,444
Restricted Funds	Balance as at 01.04.24 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.25 £
Scottish Government Investing In Communities NHS Lanarkshire (HHSCF) SLC Community Engagement Team Awards for All (National Lottery) Austin, Hope & Pilkington Small Donations	- - - -	108,994 5,950 110,896 18,677 1,000 4,948	(108,994) (5,950) (110,896) (4,379) (1,000) (3,441)	- - 14,298 - 1,507
		250,465	(234,660)	15,805

12. Movement in funds (continued)

Restricted Funds - previous year	Balance as at 01.04.23 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.24 £
Scottish Government Investing in Communities	-	114,951	(114,951)	-
SLC Community Engagement Team	-	110,896	(110,896)	-
Awards for All (National Lottery)		9,011	(9,011)	-
NHS Lanarkshire (HHSCF)	-	7,450	(7,450)	-
SOLWEC	-	8,829	(8,829)	-
		251.137	(251.137)	
	_	251,137	(251,137)	

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets/(liabilities) £	Net assets £
Unrestricted	-	126,199	126,199
Restricted	<u>-</u> _	15,805	15,805
	<u>-</u> _	142,004	142,004

Analysis of net assets between funds - previous year

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets/(liabilities)	Net assets £
Unrestricted	-	149,444	149,444
Restricted			
		149,444	149,444

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) Detailed Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
INCOME	£	£
Grants and income generation		
Income Generation	26,532	64,037
Grants	250,465	251,137
	276,997	315,174
Investment		
Bank interest receivable	901	1,305
Total Incoming Resources	277,898	316,479
EXPENDITURE		
Costs of generating voluntary income	258,008	274,907
Charitable Activities		
Travel and Incidental	1,278	2,998
Director Expenses	-	112
Office Expenses	15,001	22,131
Premise Costs	8,932	7,270
Bank Charges	117	92
Governance Costs	2,002	2,085
Total Outgoing Resources	285,338	309,595
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(7,440)	6,884