



Trustees Report 2025/26

Charity Name: Hambleton Community Action

Registered Charity number: 1164895

Address: 159-160 High Street Northallerton DL7 8JZ

Trustees

Michael Harvey (Chair)

David Walker (Treasurer)

Steve Hadwin

Fiona Ellin

Nigel Fox

Rachel Percy

Chief Officer

Liz Lockey CMgr FCMI

Independent Examiners

TP Jones & Co LLP, First Floor, 23 Victoria Avenue, Harrogate HG1 5RD

Bankers

Virgin Money, 35-37 High Row, Darlington DL3 7QT

Further savings accounts are held with Triodos Bank, Shawbrook Bank and Redwood Bank

Governing Document

Constitution last amended and approved by trustees 16/12/2015

How the charity is constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Summary of the Charity Objectives

To promote for public benefit in North Yorkshire:

- Information, advice, education, training, services and resources
- The support of innovation and meeting of new or unmet need
- Promotion of charitable giving and volunteering
- Promotion of services to advance education
- Protection of mental and physical health
- Relief of poverty and distress
- Other activities which from time to time the trustees see fit

Summary of activities relating to these objectives

The financial year ending March 31st 2026 has been very busy. Our range of activities has expanded to attempt to meet the growing demand in a financially difficult time. We have supported over 2000 people in different settings - in one-to-one or groups-based support settings, by providing information and/or training, by hosting events, and through referrals/signposting to appropriate statutory and non-profit organisations.

Around 200 volunteers deliver services locally on behalf of the charity and the trustees cannot thank these people enough. Without them the charity could not function. Our work is also enhanced by our positive and collaborative relationships with statutory, private and other voluntary and community sector (VCS) partners.

Key activities for the financial year 2025-6 included:

- Upfront development - our community space continued to support a multitude of purposes such as our innovative social supermarket, as a safe comfortable space for people to come together socially, offering digital training and support, a range of social activities to keep people connected, building trust and improving access to our own and other services. Other charities use the space for drop ins and group sessions. During the year Halifax joined Barclays as regular room hirers, further developing our reach within the community as the recognised community banking hub (and joined in this financial year by Santander).
- By Your Side – our “advocacy-lite” project continues to provide a much-needed resource to build people’s self-advocacy skills and resilience, and ensuring people get their voices heard in difficult meetings; we help people understand and complete application forms, support them with difficult phone calls, or even opening their post, and accompany people for medical and welfare meetings to ensure they feel listened to and have the opportunity to say what they need to say.
- Armed Forces – learning from our first project working with military spouses (Outside the Wire) helped us to further develop our support for military and

veterans' spouses with the new Outpost Leeming project. We have also become a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant.

- Collaborative working - we continue to work closely with other organisations, formally and informally. This includes providing administrative and payroll support for other non-profits, supporting Northallerton BID and the Tourist Information Centre to give a warm welcome to coach visitors through the Town Ambassador project, distributing funds for older residents of Northallerton parish for The Grace Gardner Trust, working with Thirsk Community Library to generate and distribute the Talking Newspaper. We are particularly proud of our new Hambleton Talking Newspaper website [Hambleton Talking Newspaper](#) which incorporates cutting edge technology and the highest standards of reader/listener accessibility.
- The community car scheme, Carers' Break Service and Let's Get Connected core activities continued to experience significant demand, and demonstrated strong positive benefits for clients and their families. Changes to the NHS non-emergency patient transport criteria at the end of May created a sudden uplift in demand which staff and volunteers have worked hard to absorb.
- Throughout the year we invested in training for our own volunteers, volunteers from other charities, and our staff, in addition to pastoral support where needed.
- The new HCA website was launched in April 2025
www.hambletoncommunityaction.org
- Our electric-powered wheelchair-accessible vehicle was delivered during the summer, with several staff and volunteers trained in safe use of the lifting equipment.
- During the year we continued to support the wider sector in our role as Community Anchor Organisation for Northallerton, by hosting the HarBus bus users forum meetings, chairing the Hambleton & Richmondshire Mental Health Forum, and by convening a county-wide community transport network which held a vibrant and well-attended summit in Northallerton in March 2025.
- Improving our cybersecurity and preparing for Cyberessentials certification (achieved April 2026)
- Working with partners to develop and pilot a collaborative buying approach for community food support.

In summary, demand for our various services continues to be high – as an organisation we try to meet existing and emerging local need by providing a wide range of flexible, adaptive and person-centred services, with clients, volunteers and partner organisations integral to our operating approach.

Hambleton Community Action's Aims for 2026/27

The operating environment for charities continues to be highly challenging with increasing competition for grants; the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and spiralling energy costs affect both demand for services and our delivery capacity.

Following on from the successful restructure of our staff roles in April 2025 to better meet the demands of delivery, the board has agreed to review how it delivers on the constitution this year to strengthen capacity for the future. This includes the recruitment of new trustees, a review of officer roles and our subcommittees, to better meet our long-term objectives.

Over recent years we have experienced rapid growth, testing new approaches and growing our reach; as a result, our portfolio of projects is wide-ranging and supports a large number of individuals and for the coming year we want to focus on optimising delivery of our "tried and tested" interventions. However, we remain open to new ideas and as an agile organisation we aim to remain able to respond quickly to changing needs.

In addition to maintaining the provision of our core services, and developing these during the year in response to identified need, our aims for 2026/27 are to:

- Further develop and deliver against our financial, workforce and marketing sub-strategies
- Continue to apply for funding for core and new projects
- Strengthen our organisational resilience through skills development and strong governance, including responding quickly to legislative changes and technological developments
- Explore opportunities to increase earned income as a percentage of turnover
- Continue to foster positive relationships with statutory and non-statutory partners to create effective responses to emerging and increasing needs

To achieve these aims we are fortunate to be able to draw on the skills and knowledge of our staff team and dedicated volunteers.

Funders

In 2025/26 we were grateful for support from:

- North Yorkshire Council
- York and North Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority
- The National Lottery
- Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Defence Medical Welfare Service
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust
- Northallerton BID
- Jack Brunton Trust
- Bedale and Villages Community Forum
- Co-Operative Society
- Betty's Northallerton
- Enterprise Car Hire

- Two Ridings Community Foundation

Financial Review

These accounts are presented as a consolidated record within which individual funds are classed as Unrestricted, or Restricted or as part of the Designated Fund.

Grants are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

At 31 March 2026 HCA had total assets of £270,550 (2025 -> £261,874). Within this figure HCA's unrestricted funds were £262,550 (2025 -> £201,645) with restricted funds £8,000 (2025 -> £60,229). There is currently no designated fund.

In 2023/4 the replacement Wheels to Work van was purchased with a grant from North Yorkshire Council with conditions for stage payments should the van be disposed of within 5 years of its purchase. At the end of 2025/26 two years of stage payments remain resulting in £8,000 of restricted funds.

Operationally after asset adjustments, HCA had an operational surplus of £8,676 for the period.

HCA holds a Risk Management Register, which is reviewed at each meeting of the Board of Trustees, identifying key risks for the organisation and mitigating actions to reduce the likelihood and impact of these risks on the organisation.

Looking forward, the finances of HCA are likely to continue to be strongly influenced and impacted by Local Authority budgetary constraints and cost of living pressures. Grant funding remains highly challenging, with funders continuing to focus on short-term grants, often for relatively small amounts but with increased expectations around reporting. Many funders remain wedded to funding specific projects or capital items. Even so, securing grant funding is highly competitive, with artificial intelligence both a help and a hindrance. Ongoing geopolitical uncertainty and – closer to home – a lack of end in sight to the so-called cost-of-living crisis continues to challenge. The Trustees receive regular financial and operational reports to ensure the charity remains well placed to deliver its services and ensure that the reserves policy is fully met.

Policy on reserves

HCA aims to achieve sufficient free reserves (unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets) which will:

- support those projects, and the general costs of the organisation, where expenditure is incurred before funding is reclaimed.
- finance the development of new activities to the stage where external funding can be obtained.

- provide time to seek new funding sources at a project's conclusion or facilitate restructuring of the organisation whilst meeting on-going obligations including staff redundancy payments.

As a guide, the Trustees have agreed that the free reserves held by HCA should be equivalent to approximately 6 months budgeted expenditure of unrestricted funds and this criteria was fully met by the accounts of the organisation at 31st March 2026.

As at 31st March 2026, HCA held £262,550 in unrestricted reserves.

Investment policy

HCA holds no investments and will not purchase or dispose of any investments without the approval of the Trustees. All funds are kept with Banks approved by the Trustees, with the aim of ensuring a balance between interest received and charges incurred on accounts. In this period HCA had accounts with Virgin Money Bank, Redwood Bank, Shawbrook Bank and Triodos Bank.

SIGNATURES

CHAIR:

DATE:

TRUSTEE:

DATE: