

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 06624568

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1126093

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2024

THOMPSON JONES BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LIMITED

Chartered accountants
2 Heap Bridge
Bury
BL9 7HR

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2024

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Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)
Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Inspire Middleton
Charity registration number	1126093
Company registration number	06624568
Principal office and registered office	18 Aylesbury Grove Middleton Manchester M24 2TG

The trustees

C.A. Roach
J.L. Roach
K. Hughes
S.M. Howarth
M. Lee
B. Mudzingwa

Independent examiner	Mr C. Urmston A.C.A. 2 Heap Bridge Bury BL9 7HR
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Structure, governance and management

The current Memorandum and Articles of Association that govern Inspire Middleton are those dated June 2008 as amended by Special Resolution no.1 - dated 3rd September 2008, which are registered with Companies House and which have been accepted by the Charity Commission of England.

All work carried out is as identified in these documents.

Election to the Board of Trustees is open to other individuals or organisations who:

- (a) apply to the Charity in the form required by the Directors; and
- (b) are approved by the Directors.

All current and future work is monitored through regular trustee meetings. Trustees will supervise and manage the running of the work to ensure that the charity is compliant with its aims and objectives and operating within the Charity Commissions guidelines as presently constituted.

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Year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

Public Benefit Statement

(1) To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of Middleton, North Manchester in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

(2) To promote, for the benefit of the public, the efficiency of the police in Middleton, North Manchester and to promote good citizenship and greater public participation in the prevention and solution of crime in the area.

(3) To advance in life and help young people through:

The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life; providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

(4) To relieve persons who are in condition of need, hardship or distress by reason of their social and economic circumstances in particular but not exclusively by the provision of a drop in centre.

(5) To provide education and training for the persons referred to in clause 4.

(6) To preserve and protect the good health of the persons referred to in clause 4.

(7) To advance the Christian religion.

The trustees believe that these objectives clearly demonstrate the concept of "public benefit", as specified in Section 4 Charities Act 2011.

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Year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance

Charity Overview

We are a community development charity and our aims are to inspire the people, places and organisations of Middleton. We describe the way we work as 'the plant pot model', the pot being the container in which things are grown. Once grown people focus on what is produced rather than the pot they are carried in, and so it is with us. People are our focus, not ourselves.

Inspire Middleton runs a variety of community projects and activities through which the charity's objectives are advanced: these projects are the names that the public are more familiar with. They include, the Lighthouse Project, our drop-in style community centre/hub, Middleton Central Foodbank, Lighthouse Money Advice our FCA registered debt service, and the Lighthouse Pantry.

The charity operates out of leased premises on the second floor of Middleton Shopping Centre right in the heart of Middleton town centre. We moved into these premises in December 2016 on a 3-year short-term lease, and subsequently were able to agree a lease for a further ten years, running from December 2019 - December 2029.

The building and its location contribute significantly to the success of our work. We are centrally located, have ease of access in terms of transport and disabled facilities, and have good regular passing footfall. Our presence also contributes to the wellbeing of the Shopping centre as the people visiting us or attending our activities also visit the local shops.

The Lighthouse Project is one of our specific charitable objectives, and as a community anchor organisation it is a hub used as the main outlet for advancing many of our other charitable aims.

Middleton Central Foodbank is co-located within the Lighthouse Project, and it is run as part of the national **Trussell Trust** foodbank network, in collaboration with local churches, tackling individual crisis, poverty and hardship.

The Lighthouse Pantry is a membership food club helping people and families struggling to cover their weekly/monthly household costs, it offers them access to supermarket surplus food to reduce their weekly food costs leaving them with more money to spend on other household costs. The Pantry is part of a growing national network operating under the banner of 'Your Local Pantry' managed by **Church Action on Poverty**.

The Lighthouse Money Advice service is a FCA accredited debt advice service run as part of the **Community Money Advice** network. The service offers free advice and face-to-face support for people experiencing personal debt and financial crisis. Many of the clients are referrals from the Foodbank, or Pantry and several of our team are dedicated to supporting Foodbank and Pantry members.

Highlights and Project Activity Summary

Attendance

Lighthouse Project as a whole

With the challenges of Covid-19 largely behind us we have thankfully seen a recovery in attendance at the Lighthouse, which is now looking more like our pre-Covid levels.

Here are some of the Lighthouse Project Highlights for 2023-2024, which is a summary of all attendances and sessions.

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Year ended 31 March 2024

Highlights

1. **Annual Footfall of** - 35,634 attendances during the year (which is 96% of pre-covid target of 37,000) - we are therefore seeing a healthy return of attendance for our social groups and activities.
2. **Sessions** - during the year we ran 5,360 sessions/activities supporting people's needs. This includes structured sessions, unstructured drop-in and advice sessions, social, leisure, art/craft sessions, etc.
3. **Individual Visitors** - 2,489 different people/visitors were directly supported during the year.
4. **New Visitors attending** - 1,669 new people who first visited between 1 April 23 - 31 March 2024.

People/Families Fed

Middleton Central Foodbank

The Foodbank opens twice a week offering volunteer led support and food parcel distribution. In emergencies we also give out food parcels at other times of the week through the Lighthouse.

Highlights

1. During the reporting period the Foodbank **redeemed 1147 vouchers**, which is slightly below the number of vouchers issued in the previous year, but is still a high number of families in need.
2. Some of this levelling off is because of the partnership with the Lighthouse Pantry where regular users of the foodbank as offered membership in the Pantry as a progressive step towards self-management. This is a positive thing reducing attendance at the Foodbank and helping families to move away from reliance on emergency support. The Pantry is also used to catch families who are starting to struggle to help them before they need to use the Foodbank.
3. The food parcels we issued provided the equivalent of **61,100 meals** during the year, supporting **2,596 adults and children**, who came from **700 different families**.
4. The foodbank **received 30 tonnes of food donations** during the year from a variety of groups, individuals and organisations, which is excellent given that our donors have also been facing their own cost-of-living challenges.
5. The foodbank **gave away 27 tonnes of food** in its 3-day emergency food parcels. This equates to approx. **61,100 meals valued at over £61,000**.

Throughout the year we also donate surplus or short-dated food to other groups providing food support to families and individuals that we can't reach, e.g. local veteran's groups. We choose not to operate in isolation and support other groups where we can. This builds wider community.

In a typical year we would normally expect to give out a similar amount of food to what we receive.

6. To help identify people in need within the community, the Foodbank has over 60+ referral agencies on its books, which includes, local schools, community groups, churches, and other support agencies. These are the primary eye-and-ears of the foodbank.

We also accept referrals from organisations not on our books to make sure there are as few barriers as possible for families to get access to crisis food support whilst still maintaining appropriate checks and balances from the referrers. New referrers are then offered the opportunity to join the Foodbank's list of regular referral agencies.

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The purpose of using a referral system is to ensure that people receive additional support relevant to their need or circumstances, not just simply giving them a bag of food for the short term.

Lighthouse Pantry

The Lighthouse Pantry opens for three sessions per week during the year, typically supporting 100-110 families per week. Demand for Pantry membership remains high and we have a waiting list to try and mitigate and manage demand. This is regularly reviewed.

There is a practical limit to how many families the Pantry can support, which is our ability to access enough food to support the weekly sessions. The Pantry needs over 1,500 items each week to stock the shelves, which is sourced from donations, or full-priced purchases. Maintaining enough stock to support over 100 families per week is an ongoing challenge.

Highlights

1. The Pantry ran **150 sessions**, and **supported 5100 member visits** during the year. This was a slight increase in the number of members attending over the same period last year. The demand is sustained by the growing number of people struggling with low income, and the ongoing national cost-of-living crisis.
2. We supported **370 different families** (23% increase), and within these families there were an **additional 402 adults or children**, so collectively the Pantry supported **768 people** during the year.
3. The Pantry supplied 5100 'baskets' of food for members to use. A weekly basket is typically valued at between £25-30, which would have an estimated retail value of between £127,500 - £153,000.
4. This means that for every £1 members spent (£4.50 / week) they received an average of £6.67 worth of food in return! This is an excellent social return of value for them.
5. This produced a potential saving of £1,275 per family on their annual food bills, which leaves more money available for other household expenditure, which is one of the primary aims of the Pantry.
6. In addition to this we gave families 2 weeks of free attendance during the year.

Collectively the Pantry and Foodbank provided food support for 3,360 individuals from 1,070 families.

Financial & debt support

Lighthouse Money Advice

The Lighthouse Money Advice service provides access to daily face-to-face appointments for people needing financial help and support. We are one of only 2 organisations in the whole of the Rochdale Borough who do this.

It is widely recognised by the governments Money and Pensions Service (MAPs) that there is a national shortage of face-to-face appointments available for people in debt. There is plenty of online, or self-help type services, but so little direct face-to-face support. This is what we are working to change.

Here are some of the Highlights from the year.

Highlights

1. During the year the team worked with 699 different clients (44% increase) who made use of our service on at least

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one occasion, attending 2,100 appointments, and experiencing collective personal debts estimated at £1.32 million in total value.

2. Of these we had 345 new clients (35% increase) requesting support.

3. From the clients supported during the year, £406,248 worth of debts were removed by Debt Relief Orders (DRO's), and a further £39,885 was written off by creditors - totalling £446,133 of debt relief.

4. Many other clients tackled their debts through the use of other options such as Debt Management Plans valued at circa £6,700, Bankruptcy valued at £34,900, or IVA valued at £32,300 = £73,900.

5. For clients helped with benefit advice we recorded over £471,000 worth of grants, or benefit increases or expenditure reductions during the year.

6. This totals over £991k financial benefits/relief gained by people we have supported.

7. For each client/family supported by the service the knock on benefits of improvement in health, mental health and general wellbeing are clear to see once they start to get help, or they see their debts/benefits being reduced/increased, or removed. In many cases these improvements are considered by the clients as 'significant', and some would even say 'life changing'.

Computer Classes, Employment, Skills and Getting back into work

The Lighthouse Project is part of the National Digital Inclusion Network, formerly the UK Online Centre network, and through this we support people with free access to the internet, and access to tutor and peer supported free basic computer training. This is part of our contribution to tackling digital exclusion which remains stubbornly high at over 20% of people in the UK.

This work was halted completely during the Covid-19 pandemic, and since then has gradually been picking up. The uptake of attending computer courses has been slow and not at the levels we have previously seen. This is therefore still a work in progress in terms of re-engaging people.

We offered some employability support during the year, however this was also a reduced amount compared to pre-pandemic levels. It involved a combination of remote interaction and support, and face-to-face engagement.

Highlights

1. During the year we supported **99 people** attending **over 2150 times** through 269 sessions. With this **54 people attended** Learn My Way basic computer skills training courses. We anticipate that this will continue to increase through the coming year.

2. During the year our employability sessions supported **88 people who were looking to improve their life chances** by developing their employability and job hunting skills and to help them get back into work, or improve their chances of getting back into work.

3. Of these people we recorded **110 attendances** for activities related to actively looking for work, improving their job hunting skills, and improving work place skills through online learning and face-to-face appointments.

4. We provided **CV support for 63 people**, and **37 people** attended job hunting sessions to help them get back into work.

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Family and Children support - Toy Appeal

Over the last six years we have organised an annual 'Toy Appeal' aimed at collecting toys and games from the general public to support Lighthouse Project families, and others who may be referred to us from partner organisations, including local schools and foodbank referral agencies. Its aim is to ensure that as many of the families we work with, or are connected to, are able to have some toys and gifts to open at Christmas.

As with previous years we were supported by many local organisations, individuals, and schools who collected toy donations for us to give out. Middleton Shopping Centre, our local Tesco Extra, and several other groups helped with the promotion and setting up of collection points. In the shopping centre a 'Giving Tree' was used as an alternative to their regular annual Santa's Grotto. The local community have been extremely generous when it comes to supporting the Toy Appeal, and it is safe to say that we were inundated with toys, gifts and financial support for the Appeal.

Highlights

1. We were inundated with local support providing toys, gifts and financial donations.
2. We were able to support **193 children** from **84 different families**. Each child receiving at least one main present, 4 medium presents, 3 small presents, a game, book, confectionery, and stocking fillers.
3. 32 children came from the **Lighthouse Project, foodbank and pantry families**, 40 families were referred through **local schools**, 5 children came from **self-referrals** or other family contacts, and 7 children came from **Lighthouse Money Advice families**.
4. The local schools, as well as nominating children, also arranged fun themed toy collections, sponsored runs and devised other interesting ways of giving toys and donating money.
5. We received over £2,300 in cash/voucher and online donations which help us buy targeted gifts and gift cards to fill gaps in the types of toys donated, and so we could help and support different aged children. This made sure that no-one missed out.
6. We also supported another local community centre, Burnside, who we work with regularly, by providing them with additional toy donations from which they were able to set up a 'toy bank' to support some of their own families.

Social Leisure and Health Activities

During Covid-19 all of our Social and Leisure activities were stopped over-night, so once restrictions were lifted we literally had to start all over again. Thankfully this has been a successful campaign and over the last 2 years we have seen a growth in attendance for all the groups we are running/hosting.

The types of groups and activities include, knitting sessions, arts, craft and card making, photography, walking, a Tea Disco, quiz and gaming sessions, and cooking. With others still to develop. Here are some of our highlights.

Highlights

1. During the year 2023/24 we ran over **700**, social/leisure/health related sessions/activities (an increase of 94% on last year - 2022/23).
2. These activities which were attended **8,749 times** by **400 different people**.
3. The activities aim to tackle social isolation and poor health/mental health by offering opportunities for people to connect with others, make new friends, learn new skills, and improving their health. This included physical events, such as walking, leisure activities/interest groups, and some social groups/gatherings.

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Other Achievements and Developments

Core Staff: This year the trustees want to again acknowledge and give thanks to our core staff team who worked so hard during the year, Pam Semp, Cath Stott, and Carl Roach, who all live locally in Middleton, and who have such a great passion to see the Community changed and transformed. This team continue to inspire and innovate in order to advance and progress the Charity's objectives. Their work is to be greatly commended.

The collaboration and flexibility of the core team is one of our organisational strengths, and is key to making sure that all of our services are integrated and work in concert; and their efforts underpin all that we do. Well done, and thank you! Your work is often unseen by the majority, but it doesn't go unnoticed by those who see behind the scenes.

Volunteers: Our volunteers provide a significant amount of support to our work, and without them it would be difficult, or expensive to provide the same amount of help and support that they offer to us. We've calculated that they typically provide over 12,000 hours of free support, which if we had to pay for would cost over £160,000 per year.

The Lighthouse Project is about empowering people, which includes our volunteers. To mark their contribution to our work we held a Volunteer Celebration in October 2023. This was attended by over 60 volunteers, including Steve Coogan our Lighthouse Project patron as a special guest handing out the awards. During the event we gave out 92 awards across 9 different categories, - it was a great evening of celebration, and thankful reflection of all that they have helped us to achieve.

Our Premises: Our main base is the Lighthouse Project Community Hub located in Middleton Shopping Centre. This centre makes a significant contribution to the success of our work. It is a great place for a community hub as we are accessible to the whole area, and it allows us to work with a wide variety of people and services in supporting the community.

Being centrally located means we offer ease of access in terms of transport and disabled facilities, and we also have good amount of regular passing footfall.

We are part way through a 10 year lease which offers us stability and longevity in terms of building and sustaining the work and services we provide.

Development of our Systems and facilities: this is an ongoing process where we review and adapt our infrastructure and admin systems to help us be 'light of foot' and continually improve how we work.

We continue reviewing our activity recording and general record keeping, which provides us with better insights into the impact we are having. In turn this gives us greater opportunities to tell a more complete story, develop our capacity, and improve how we serve and support people, which in turn makes us a more robust and stronger organisation.

We want to improve how we tell the story of the impact our work makes, and to the development of our fundraising, sustainability plans, and strategic planning.

Areas we have been working on include:

1. Improved staff communication and management.
2. Improvement of Visitor and Activity database (Lamplight) to record information about individual attendance, progression and engagement, as well as activity recording and summary analysis.
3. Software updates for managing Pantry membership and payments, including the introduction of online and contactless payments and donations.

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4. Stocktaking processes for Pantry stock management improving our understanding of the financial benefit that Pantry membership provides.

5. Specialist Debt management software and client engagement software.

6. Promotion of our new 120 seat capacity conference, and training and activity rooms. These are spaces we also use for our own activities as well as being a resource for the community. These spaces also allow us to run activities for larger groups and events that need more space, e.g. tea-dances, exercises, table tennis competitions, exhibitions, and larger group meetings.

7. Updating and development of the Lighthouse Project website, and other social media outlets.

Our Community Impact

Our work remains people centred and solution focussed, and by taking a community development approach our impact increases as we support more ongoing needs and challenges.

Our biggest and most noticeable impact remains the support offered through our food projects and the Lighthouse Money Advice service. All three have remained strong and effective in the face of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and the negative effects of expanding levels of poverty faced by our community. Thankfully these projects are taking the strain and we have managed to remain steadfast and strong during this year, whilst also looking ahead to find ways of doing things in a better way.

Through both food projects we have ensured that over a 1,000 families have had regular food on their table, been able to feed their kids, and able to save money to meet other household bills/cost.

Collectively the Foodbank and Pantry have served and supported **3,360 individuals** (Adults and Children) from **1,070 different families**, and provided the equivalent of **180,000 meals**.

The Lighthouse Money advice service has also seen significant growth in demand and it has been a life-line to many new people this year, with close to 44% increase in the number of clients being helped to face over **£1,332,000 worth of debt**. It has been able to support clients during very difficult and changing times.

With funding from different partners we grew the capacity of the money advice team, retaining our specialist debt and benefit staff, helping meet the continued and increasing demand for debt and benefit advice support. The predicted increase in families struggling with their finances has manifested, fuelled by the energy and cost of living crisis' the nation has been experiencing.

Partnership Working: Our model of operation is built upon partnership and collaboration, so, in addition to our own work we also partner with and support other groups and organisations with their work. For example we donated lots of toys to the Burnside Centre on Langley, supporting their 'Toy Bank' for local families, we also helped them, and others, with bulk food donations in support of their efforts to prepare meals for families and individuals.

Our approach is to complement and not to compete. The needs of Middleton are substantial and we recognise that no one organisation has the capacity or resources to meet all those needs. Therefore, it is essential that we nurture and encourage a collaborative approach of supporting the community, with each playing their part and using their skills and resources to best advantage.

We also participate in many of the community prevention networks organised through Action Together operating as the co-ordinator for many VCSFE activities in the Borough. We attend the Anti-Poverty Network, Welfare Network, Food Solutions Network, and were active in the Economic Support Forum when it was running. Our aim is to participate in strategic and structural reforms as well as providing 'on-the-ground' practical solutions for day-to-day needs.

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Things we've learned

Person Centred/Whole person Approach

We remain committed to a person centred approach which is one of the founding principles upon which our work is built; and whilst we ourselves have always believed this to be true its value in recent years is being more widely recognised and adopted by other groups.

Co-location, and co-delivery are also key principles we advance. We have always used this approach, however it is now becoming the aspiration of many other organisations, both large and small.

Many organisations start with a single focus, e.g. Foodbanks delivering emergency food, or a Pantry's making use of supermarket surplus to feed people, but now it is recognised that providing additional 'wrap around' support is the most beneficial of helping people in a 'whole person' way. This is the model we have been advocating since we first launched the Lighthouse Project in 2010.

A good example of this integrated approach is the three-stranded support provided by the Foodbank, Pantry and Lighthouse money advice service. Each has its own strengths but by working together they are more successful in helping people move away from crisis and return to being more self-sufficient.

If someone is in crisis and ends up at the Foodbank, they will get food, but if their crisis is as a result of financial difficulties they can be supported by the debt or benefit adviser to improve their situation, and after a while we can move them from using the Foodbank into becoming a member of the Pantry, where they still save money but are on a progressive journey away from poverty towards recovery.

This is where the benefit of being whole person / person centred project comes into its own. Everyone who uses the Lighthouse Project comes in via a different doorway depending upon their need or circumstances, but once inside we don't just help them in one way and then say 'goodbye'.

Through relationship and active listening we become aware of other related needs, and are then able to link them up with other services and activities within the centre to progress in those areas too.

For us it's all about helping people to cope with or to remove burdens they are carrying alone, and giving them access to opportunities, helping them to develop their own potential and finding ways of solving problems or needs. In essence we do stuff 'with' people, not 'to' them.

Relationship and Trust

We value the importance of building relationships and trust. The key thing that people are often looking for when accessing support services is the quality of welcome, relationship and trust that they can develop with you in order to help them solve their needs.

Success in these areas means that the impact of the work is significantly amplified, even if all you did was make someone a cup of tea and listen to them.

Providing a 'safe place' within the community is one of Inspire Middleton's foundational objectives, and being an accessible community anchor organisation where people know they will get a good welcome, be listened to, and be supported to achieve is our goal.

Time and time again we see people opening up to our staff or volunteers in ways that they haven't done with other types of organisation. People are often guarded when they talk to agencies, e.g. the council, DWP, their housing

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provider, etc., which can mean that their underlying needs may not be fully explained or revealed. Yet, when they feel safe and welcomed, they will then often ask for support or share a deeper need allowing it to be addressed or supported.

Change, and the need to adapt is not always a bad thing

The pandemic caused us all to look at what we did, and to evaluate how we could do it differently to meet the needs of the day. We learnt from that experience that 'change is not always a bad thing', and that 'adaptation can actually make a service better'.

At the start of the pandemic all of our services were changed and adapted, and some of the changes we made to how those services were run have been retained as they made the service better.

We have learnt that we can be adaptable, and that change is not to be feared, and actually a fresh look at the way things are done can prove positive and illuminating.

We have always been a reflective organisation and open to change, so, this is something we are not afraid of and realise that flexibility and being adaptable is actually one of our organisational strengths.

Emerging needs - how the challenge of low income affects every area of life

The impact of low income is affecting more and more people, drawing them into increasing levels poverty and hardship. As an organisation this is one of the reasons that Inspire Middleton was set up, to help improve the lives of the people in Middleton.

During the last few years we have begun to see the number of people experiencing the difficulties of low income grow and expand to the extent that it now threatens the daily lives of a significant proportion of our community. Low income also often leads to related indebtedness, the decline of health/mental health, homelessness, and possibly destitution.

For us tackling low income and debt is a practical reality as well as a campaign topic. We are not yet a campaigning organisation, but we may well be drawn into this, increasingly advocating on behalf of people if the local economics don't improve, and people's lives become less sustainable.

We are already helping people deal with the practical impact of low income, by tackling food insecurity, through the provision of access to food, and/or helping them with debts and benefits. But these needs are growing, along with the associated impact on mental and physical health and wellbeing. There were already many needs in these areas. We can already see that the next few years are likely to expose a much greater need than those currently manifesting.

A solution needs to be found, and maybe it is actually many solutions rather than just one, of how to help people to increase their income, or reduce their expenditure. This is not just simply about improving budgeting skills as many suggest. The expenses and outgoings that people have are not always within their ability to change, e.g. energy costs, rents, council tax, etc., and neither is their ability to increase their income, so, they become trapped.

These societal challenges, which are huge topics, only strengthens our resolve to remain whole person focussed and people centre, to strengthen the safe space, and the co-located services that we offer. We need to build more bridges, to connect with people, and support them so that they can be connected to more opportunities to improve their lives.

Working Relationships with other organisations

Here is a selection of the organisations we have worked with during the year, or who have used the Lighthouse to provide services / activities for visitors.

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- Action Together - voluntary sector support
- Albany Logistics - foodbank supporter
- Alkrington & Junction GP surgeries,
- All Saints & Martyrs C of E Church Langley,
- Ashdown Phillips - MSC management
- Barclays Bank - Community spaces
- Better Health 4 Middleton - community activist group
- Bowlee Primary School - foodbank supporter
- BNI Middleton - emerging business network
- BOC - Cardiac Care services
- Cardinal Langley RC High School - foodbank supporter
- Castle Grey Training - training sessions
- Creative Health and Wellbeing - art and creative craft sessions
- Chris Clarkson MP - Apprenticeship Fair / exhibition
- Church Action on Poverty - Lighthouse Pantry
- Chinese Overseas Christian Mission - Alpha course and community cohesion sessions
- Community Connectors - RMBC advisers
- Community Money Advice - Lighthouse Money Advice
- Edgar Wood Academy High School - foodbank supporter
- Elmwood Primary School - foodbank supporter
- EnergyWorks - Drop-in support group
- Fareshare - Food recycling - Lighthouse Pantry
- FareshareGO - supermarket surplus
- Getir - local food delivery organisation
- GMP - anti fraud advisers
- GM Tenants Union Middleton - a new local tenants support group
- Good Things Foundation - National Digital Inclusion Network
- Hollin Primary School - foodbank supporter
- Ingeous - employability drop-ins
- Inspire Community - missional community
- Job Centre Plus - Middleton,
- Long Street Methodist Church,
- Many local schools and community groups through the Foodbank referral agency network
- Middleton Cooperating - collaborative working and digital skills development
- Middleton Photography Group - community camera club
- Middleton Rotary - Community humanitarian group
- Middleton Shopping Centre - promotions and support
- Mills Hill Baptist Church,
- Mizkan Food Distributor - foodbank supporter
- N-Compass Carers Hub - drop in and training events
- New Economics Foundation
- NHS Early Attachment Service
- Neighbourly - surplus food distribution
- Parkfield Primary School - foodbank supporter
- Pike Fold Primary School - foodbank supporter
- Positive Steps - careers service for young people,
- RBH - Rochdale Boroughwide Housing,
- Rochdale Council - Adult Care, Revenue & Benefits Service, Welfare team and recycling team
- Rochdale Healthwatch - independent voice on health for the community
- Riverside Housing
- Royal British Legion - Middleton
- Slimming World - foodbank supporter
- St. Anne's Academy - foodbank supporter

Inspire Middleton

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

- St. John Fisher RC Primary School - foodbank supporter
- St Mary's RC Primary School - foodbank supporter
- Tesco Extra Middleton branch, and Tesco Express branches
- The Hive, Drs Stockton & Thompson - Boarshaw Clough surgery
- The National Lottery - Reaching Communities Fund
- Trussell Trust - national Foodbank network charity
- Veterans in Community - Veterans support group
- Wonderfully Made Women - women's support group
- Your Local Pantry - Pantry food network

Financial review

During the year unrestricted funds have increased from £258,008 to £294,817. Restricted income of £178,319 was received during the year with £153,530 of its related expenditure occurring before the year end.

The Trustees have reviewed the reserve policy and agreed to maintain reserves of at least six months expenditure, for the Lighthouse Project. Current reserves are sufficient to meet this requirement.

In June 2022 the 3-year National Lottery Communities Fund grant that covered the majority of the Lighthouse Project's core costs came to an end, and a renewal application for extension of the funding was unsuccessful. From July 2022 the Lighthouse Projects core costs post lottery grant were therefore being met from the charity's own funds, which were sufficient to do this.

A second reduced and revised funding application was made to the National Lottery Communities Fund for a project called 'Lighthouse Project - Community Toolbox' to support a proportion of our core costs and the development of some new activities for 2-years. This application was successful and commenced in November 2023 running until October 2025.

Other parts of our core work were also supported through short-term grants from Comic Relief, the Trussell Trust and the RBC Innovation Fund, which helped cover some of project core costs for the balance of the year, and into 2024/25.

Historically our work has been mainly grant funded, but as we have grown in size the challenge of covering all of our costs this way is proving more difficult. In response we are open to exploring new alternative sources of funding and are working on a Sustainability and Fundraising plan to set out future strategic fundraising goals and objectives for the charity.

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*
Year ended 31 March 2024

Plans for future periods

With regards to the future, and the upcoming year, our biggest and most immediate challenges are:

1. Continuing to re-engage and inform existing and new visitors of the range of services that they can access through the Lighthouse Project.
2. Building up our volunteer capacity to its pre-pandemic levels so that we can once again offer a full and varied selection of activities.
3. To develop and expand our donor and funder base in support of our ongoing growth, helping us to be sustainable in our ambition to be less reliant on short-term grant funding.
4. Developing new resources to meet emerging needs brought on by the cost-of-living crisis, e.g. increased mental health support, tackling isolation and loneliness, etc.
5. Promoting the availability of community rooms and spaces that can be hired, which will help us offer more services and build up a sustainable income stream.

We will continue to reflect and review how we operate in the coming year, as we are keen to ensure that our work remains effective and efficient in an ever changing environment. Review and reflection is an ongoing process especially as we see new needs and emerging issues showing themselves in the community and wider society. Thankfully our structure and team dynamic allows us to be light of foot in adapting to change and meeting new needs. This is something we have confidence in being able to do in the year to come.

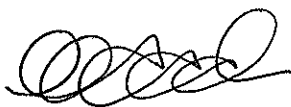
We want to offer more face-to-face services and expand the relational basis of our work. We have learnt a number of lessons from having to adapt and rethink our methods and approach over the last few years, and we want to continue this if activities can be delivered in different and better ways.

We trust that this report inspires you as much as it has inspired us.

Small company provisions

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

The trustees' annual report was approved on 5 December 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



C.A. Roach
Trustee

Inspire Middleton

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Inspire Middleton

Year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Inspire Middleton ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The trustees are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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).

Inspire Middleton

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Inspire Middleton *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

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.



Mr C. Urmston A.C.A.
Independent Examiner

2 Heap Bridge
Bury
BL9 7HR

5 December 2024

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)
Year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024		Total funds £	2023
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £		Total funds £
Income					
Donations and grants	5	64,112	178,319	242,431	138,176
Other trading activities	6	67,173	–	67,173	43,826
Investment income	7	2,917	–	2,917	305
Total income		<u>134,202</u>	<u>178,319</u>	<u>312,521</u>	<u>182,307</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8,9	122,982	153,530	276,512	261,811
Total expenditure		<u>122,982</u>	<u>153,530</u>	<u>276,512</u>	<u>261,811</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		<u>11,220</u>	<u>24,789</u>	<u>36,009</u>	<u>(79,504)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		258,008	800	258,808	338,312
Total funds carried forward		<u>269,228</u>	<u>25,589</u>	<u>294,817</u>	<u>258,808</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	£	2023 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets	14		1,265	1,687
Current assets				
Debtors	15	4,615		4,386
Cash at bank and in hand		297,405		261,677
		<u>302,020</u>		<u>266,063</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>8,468</u>		<u>8,942</u>
Net current assets			<u>293,552</u>	<u>257,121</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>294,817</u>	<u>258,808</u>
Net assets			<u>294,817</u>	<u>258,808</u>
Funds of the charity				
Restricted funds			25,589	800
Unrestricted funds			<u>269,228</u>	<u>258,008</u>
Total charity funds	18		<u>294,817</u>	<u>258,808</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors 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.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 5 December 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



C.A. Roach
Trustee

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 18 Aylesbury Grove, Middleton, Manchester, M24 2TG.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Going concern

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

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

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

Incoming resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates: Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

- 25% reducing balance

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial instruments

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

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

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

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

4. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. The liability of the members of the company, as set out in the Memorandum of Association is limited to £10 per member in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are a member or within a year of ceasing to be a member.

Inspire Middleton

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

5. Donations and grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations Inspire Middleton	38,445	–	38,445
Donations Lighthouse Project	5,718	–	5,718
Donations Foodbank	9,632	–	9,632
Donations LMA	300	–	300
Donations Pantry	540	–	540
Donations Toy Appeal	1,025	–	1,025
Donations DIAL	40	–	40
Grants			
Big Lottery	–	88,989	88,989
RMBC Foodbank Contribution	3,600	–	3,600
RMBC Innovation Fund	–	16,380	16,380
Trussell Trust	3,012	51,750	54,762
Action Together	1,800	8,700	10,500
Comic Relief	–	12,500	12,500
	<u>64,112</u>	<u>178,319</u>	<u>242,431</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations Inspire Middleton	17,635	–	17,635
Donations Lighthouse Project	3,634	–	3,634
Donations Foodbank	12,778	–	12,778
Donations LMA	300	–	300
Donations Pantry	425	–	425
Donations Toy Appeal	–	–	–
Donations DIAL	22,474	–	22,474
Grants			
Big Lottery	–	–	–
RMBC Foodbank Contribution	3,600	–	3,600
RMBC Innovation Fund	–	15,000	15,000
Trussell Trust	8,580	51,750	60,330
Action Together	–	2,000	2,000
Comic Relief	–	–	–
	<u>69,426</u>	<u>68,750</u>	<u>138,176</u>

Inspire Middleton

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

6. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Room hire	40,283	40,283	26,495	26,495
Dial sales and rentals	6,934	6,934	3,320	3,320
Pantry subscriptions	19,276	19,276	13,797	13,797
Other income	680	680	214	214
	<u>67,173</u>	<u>67,173</u>	<u>43,826</u>	<u>43,826</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>2,917</u>	<u>2,917</u>	<u>305</u>	<u>305</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Inspire Middleton	2,220	2,176	4,396
Lighthouse Project	90,384	68,996	159,381
Middleton Central Foodbank	9,606	7,108	16,714
Lighthouse Money Advice	2,915	68,630	71,544
Lighthouse Pantry	17,318	5,900	23,218
DIAL	499	–	499
Support costs	40	720	760
	<u>122,982</u>	<u>153,530</u>	<u>276,512</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Inspire Middleton	4,416	–	4,416
Lighthouse Project	130,921	27,138	158,059
Middleton Central Foodbank	17,392	–	17,392
Lighthouse Money Advice	2,047	66,750	68,797
Lighthouse Pantry	9,911	2,000	11,911
DIAL	516	–	516
Support costs	720	–	720
	<u>165,923</u>	<u>95,888</u>	<u>261,811</u>

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2024

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds	
			2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Inspire Middleton	4,396	–	4,396	4,416
Lighthouse Project	159,381	–	159,381	158,059
Middleton Central Foodbank	16,714	–	16,714	17,392
Lighthouse Money Advice	71,544	–	71,544	68,797
Lighthouse Pantry	23,218	–	23,218	11,911
DIAL	499	–	499	516
Governance costs	–	760	760	720
	<u>275,752</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>276,512</u>	<u>261,811</u>

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>422</u>	<u>563</u>

11. Independent examination fees

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>760</u>	<u>720</u>

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	191,207	162,868
Social security costs	8,541	6,919
Employer contributions to pension plans	4,479	3,790
	<u>204,227</u>	<u>173,577</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 11 (2023: 9). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Number of support staff	7	6
Number of administrative staff	2	1
Number of management staff	2	2
	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 31 March 2024

12. Staff costs *(continued)*

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

During the year £35,729 (2023: £34,833) was paid to C.A. Roach a trustee of the charity for his employment as Development Manager. No monies were paid for any trustee duties undertaken.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	4,000	<u>4,000</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	2,313	2,313
Charge for the year	422	<u>422</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,735</u>	<u>2,735</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2024	1,265	<u>1,265</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,687</u>	<u>1,687</u>

15. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	2,407	2,609
Prepayments and accrued income	2,087	1,656
Other debtors	121	121
	<u>4,615</u>	<u>4,386</u>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	50	297
Accruals and deferred income	3,074	3,641
Social security and other taxes	3,773	3,646
Other creditors	1,571	1,358
	<u>8,468</u>	<u>8,942</u>

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2024

17. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £4,479 (2023: £3,790).

18. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>258,008</u>	<u>134,202</u>	<u>(122,982)</u>	<u>269,228</u>

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>310,374</u>	<u>113,557</u>	<u>(165,923)</u>	<u>258,008</u>

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Comic Relief	–	12,500	(8,875)	3,625
Rochdale Innovation Fund	–	16,380	(16,380)	–
Big Lottery	–	88,989	(67,825)	21,164
Action Together	–	8,700	(8,700)	–
Ambition for Aging	800	–	–	800
Trussell Trust	–	51,750	(51,750)	–
	<u>800</u>	<u>178,319</u>	<u>(153,530)</u>	<u>25,589</u>

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Comic Relief	–	–	–	–
Rochdale Innovation Fund	–	15,000	(15,000)	–
Big Lottery	26,638	–	(26,638)	–
Action Together	500	2,000	(2,500)	–
Ambition for Aging	800	–	–	800
Trussell Trust	–	51,750	(51,750)	–
	<u>27,938</u>	<u>68,750</u>	<u>(95,888)</u>	<u>800</u>

Inspire Middleton
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2024

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,265	–	1,265
Current assets	276,431	25,589	302,020
Creditors less than 1 year	(8,468)	–	(8,468)
Net assets	<u>269,228</u>	<u>25,589</u>	<u>294,817</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,687	–	1,687
Current assets	265,263	800	266,063
Creditors less than 1 year	(8,942)	–	(8,942)
Net assets	<u>258,008</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>258,808</u>

20. Operating lease commitments

In 2019 a 10 year lease was been signed with Middleton Shopping Centre with a breakclause exercisable by the charity at 5 years. No disclosure has been made due to the commercial confidentiality agreement in the lease.