Charity number: SC032729

Company number: SC227931

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

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Community Links (South Lanarkshire)
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2026

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of charity	Community Links (South Lanarkshire)
Charity registration number	SC032729
Company registration number	SC227931
Principal address	Unit 2.19, First Floor 1 Barrack Street Hamilton ML3 0DG

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

J Dunn
J Reid
E Horrell
A Shanks – Resigned 11th February 2026
R McKean
M McCullagh

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. For more than two decades, we have worked alongside local people to encourage participation, strengthen community voice and support community-led change that is sustainable, meaningful and rooted in local priorities.

We engage and empower residents across South Lanarkshire to play an active role in local decision-making, take part in learning and development opportunities, and help build stronger, more connected communities.

What we do

Drawing on 24 years of experience, we continue to deliver community development, consultation and engagement activity for adults, young people and children. Our work also supports environmental improvements, community safety, food and community cafés, recycled IT equipment provision, digital inclusion and climate action.

Our activities include:

Engaging communities and involving local people in decision-making, reinforcing the importance of local democracy.

Building community capacity through Asset Based Community Development, Participatory Budgeting and co-production.

Facilitating consultation and events using creative communication methods, supporting Community Planning Partnership objectives and helping local networks to grow.

Encouraging volunteering by recruiting, training and supporting local volunteers to deliver services and create opportunities for their communities.

Supporting digital inclusion to increase access to education, health services, employment opportunities and online confidence.

Sharing accessible information so individuals and communities know about the services, support and opportunities available to them.

Developing representative engagement that helps shape local services and improves quality of life for people and communities.

Strengthening environmental responsibility by embedding our environmental policy, encouraging climate action and promoting sustainable choices across our communities and workplace.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles adopted by Community Links (South Lanarkshire) in 2002 continue to shape who we are and how we work:

Independence — we act, and are seen to act, as an independent and apolitical organisation. We always work in the best interests of our communities.

Facilitation and involvement — we create opportunities for communities and volunteers to take part in wider activities.

Listening and understanding — we communicate clearly and regularly with communities and partner agencies.

Responsiveness — we adapt to the changing policy landscape and the evolving needs of our communities.

Learning — we learn from success, challenge and partnership, continually improving our understanding of local needs.

Partnerships and connections — we work with others to develop and deliver services, building strong links between local service providers and communities.

Sustainability — we aim to create lasting impact for communities, our Community Engagement Team and partner agencies.

Openness and transparency — we make information about our services clear, accessible and easy to find, ensuring our work is transparent and accountable.

Professionalism — we support staff and volunteers to develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed to deliver high-quality services.

Our Values

We are a values-led organisation. Our values, established in 2013, continue to guide how we deliver services and how we work 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 24 years of experience show that communities respond positively to working with an organisation they know is impartial, independent and committed to representing local voices.

Much of our work focuses on data zones within the lowest 5–15% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2020), ensuring support is targeted where it can make the greatest difference.

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) helps ensure local opinions, ideas and concerns reach service providers. We work with and for local people, creating opportunities for communities to influence services, shape decisions and improve quality of life for themselves, their families and their wider communities.

As a community-led anchor organisation, we continue to grow our asset-based community development work, with safety, kindness and a warm welcome at the heart of every activity. Local Area Networks in Blantyre, Hamilton and Larkhall continue to bring people together to share ideas and develop solutions to local challenges. With community involvement, we monitor and evaluate services and develop new wellbeing, creative, physical and mental health initiatives. By building on people's strengths, our embedded workers help communities create activities they want, safe spaces where positive connections can flourish, and opportunities to build confidence through learning, volunteering and shared experience.

Through our Asset Based Community Development and Participatory Budgeting work, neighbourhood plans known as Our Place Our Plan (OPOP) continue to progress in Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw. Enthusiastic local working groups are driving this work forward. A total of 403 people cast 1,209 votes in Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank securing £27,900 of Participatory Budgeting funding; similarly, 667 people cast 1,785 votes in Strutherhill and Birkenshaw securing £18,600 to deliver grassroots initiatives for the benefit of their communities.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (Continued)

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 that help us stay connected with communities while addressing income inequality, reducing isolation and strengthening social connection.

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 from National Lottery 'Awards for All' enabled us to create and deliver the Community Links Climate Action Festival — a vibrant week-long programme that brought climate action to life in fun, inclusive and educational ways. Activities were designed for all ages and culminated in a free family fun day attended by more than 300 people, bringing families, partners and the wider community together in celebration.

Our Winter Warmer Event provided local households with a wide range of winter essentials, offering practical support to individuals and families while promoting sustainable choices, energy-efficient resources and climate-conscious action.

During Lanarkshire's Climate Action Hub's Festival we delivered our ever popular 'Make a Meal of It' project and 'Silly Science' activity for children, in addition to our climate action awareness sessions at our local community hubs.

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.

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 2nd edition of the Forum's Positive Pathway to Mental Health and Wellbeing booklet continues to be a valuable resource for communities and partners alike.

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

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (Continued)

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. In particular the new Partnership Agreement between the essential sector and local authority.

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; and National Lottery-Awards for All.

Self-generated income for service and consultation provision equated to almost 3.3% 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.

We are committed to expanding and enhancing our services so we can better support individuals and communities. Our focus will continue to be on improving health, social and economic outcomes, while ensuring 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. 'Keep the Beat Alive' will also be a part of our strategic direction in relation to the Partnership Agreement between Scottish Government and the voluntary sector.

Staff mental health and wellbeing are fundamental to a healthy, productive and inclusive workplace. As an employer, we are committed to a culture of care, open communication and practical support. This includes mental health resources, work-life balance, flexible working arrangements, private health insurance and regular opportunities for staff feedback. By investing in wellbeing, we aim to create an environment where everyone feels valued, supported and able 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.

We have had the privilege and pleasure to be based at the beautiful premises at Clydeview in Blantyre courtesy of a lease agreement between Asda Estates and South Lanarkshire Council. Sadly this lease arrangement has come to an end after 20 years. We will continue to seek our forever home within our areas of service delivery, however in the meantime we are working from temporary premises. We will keep our communities and partners updated as we progress through the year ahead. Thank you to all who helped make our last twenty years based here so productive and meaningful whilst serving our wider communities.

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 2026, amounted to £111,613. The Board of Directors made the decision to review the reserves policy and reduce these reserves to maintain a minimum of three 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 5 Directors who are volunteer community representatives. This ensures that board decisions are community driven. During the year to 31st March 2026, 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, and Scottish Government's Investing in Communtiies. 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.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Related parties

The Board of Directors comprise of volunteer Community Representatives.

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 retired 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.

Morag Pinion ..... 11 August 2026
Morag Pinion
Secretary

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2026

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2026, 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.

---------- 11 August 2026

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 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 £	2025 £
Income:					
Donations and Grants	2	9,132	269,050	278,182	276,997
Investments	3	1,083	-	1,083	901
		10,215	269,050	**279,265**	**277,898**
Expenditure:					
Charitable activities	4	(49,582)	(260,074)	(309,656)	(285,338)
		(49,582)	(260,074)	**(309,656)**	**(285,338)**
Net Income/Expenditure:		**(39,367)**	**8,976**	**(30,391)**	**(7,440)**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		126,199	15,805	142,004	(149,444)
Total funds carried forward	12	86,832	24,781	111,613	(156,884)

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)
Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026	2025
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible Assets	9	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	10	7,841	27,289
Cash at bank and in hand		112,283	126,695
		120,124	153,984
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(8,511)	(11,980)
Net current assets		111,613	142,004
Total assets less current liabilities		111,613	142,004
Net assets		111,613	142,004
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12	24,781	15,805
Unrestricted funds	12	86,832	126,199
Total Funds		111,613	142,004

For the year ended 31 March 2026 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:

Juliet J Dunn ..... 11 August 2026

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	2026	2025
	£	£	£	£
Income generation	9,132		9,132	26,532
Grants received		269,050	269,050	250,465
	9,132	**269,050**	**278,182**	**276,997**

3. Investment Income

	2026	2025
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Bank interest receivable	**1,083**	**901**

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2026	2025
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	28,828	249,462	278,290	257,432
Support Costs	20,754	10,612	31,366	27,906
	49,582	**260,074**	**309,656**	**285,338**

5. Analysis of support costs

	2026	2025
	£	£
Travel and Incidental	1,360	1,278
Director Expenses	11	-
Office Expenses	20,862	15,577
Premise Costs	7,018	8,932
Bank Charges	101	117
Governance Costs	2,014	2,002
	31,366	**27,906**

6. Net income for the year

Stated after charging:	2026	2025
	£	£
Depreciation of owned assets	-	-
Accountancy fees	2,014	2,002
Staff pension contributions	22,052	12,178

7. Staff costs and emoluments

	2026	2025
	£	£
Salaries and wages	205,989	207,539
National Insurance Costs	15,351	16,014
Pension costs	22,052	12,178
	243,392	**235,731**

8. Comparative for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £
Income and endowments from:			
Grants	26,532	250,465	276,997
Investments	901	-	901
Total	27,433	250,465	277,898
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities	(50,678)	(234,660)	(285,338)
Net income/expenditure	(23,245)	15,805	(7,440)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	149,444	-	149,444
Total funds carried forward	126,199	15,805	142,004

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and Machinery £
Cost or valuation	
as at 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026	17,562
Depreciation	
as at 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026	17,562
Net book values	
at 31 March 2026	-
at 31 March 2025	-

10. Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Trade debtors	20	-
Other debtors	7,821	27,289
	7,841	27,289

11. Creditors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Trade creditors	648	1,260
Other creditors	5,848	8,988
Accruals and deferred income	2,014	1,732
	8,511	11,980

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2026

12. Movement in funds

Unrestricted Funds	Balance as at 01.04.25 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.26 £
General	126,199	10,215	(49,582)	86,832
	126,199	**10,215**	**(49,582)**	**86,832**

Unrestricted Funds - previous year	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**

Restricted Funds	Balance as at 01.04.25 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.26 £
Scottish Government Investing In Communities	-	112,110	(112,110)	-
SLC Community Engagement Team	-	110,896	(110,896)	-
Awards for All (National Lottery)	14,298	19,458	(21,444)	12,312
PB Fund	-	9,958	(7,439)	2,519
Comm Mental Health and Wellbeing		9,632	-	9,632
Small Donations	1,507	2,496	(3,685)	318
VASlan Powerlines	-	4,500	(4,500)	-
	-			-
	15,805	**269,050**	**(260,074)**	**24,781**

12. Movement in funds (continued)

Restricted Funds - previous year	Balance as at 01.04.24 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.25 £
Scottish Government Investing in Communities	-	108,994	(108,994)	-
NHS Lanarkshire (HHSCF)	-	5,950	(5,950)	-
SLC Community Engagement Team	-	110,896	(110,896)	-
Awards for All (National Lottery)		18,677	(4,379)	14,298
Austin, Hope & Pilington	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Small Donations	-	4,948	(3,441)	1,507
	-	**250,465**	**(234,660)**	**15,805**

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets/(liabilities) £	Net assets £
Unrestricted	-	86,832	86,832
Restricted	-	24,781	24,781
	-	111,613	111,613

Analysis of net assets between funds - previous year

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

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
INCOME	£	£
Grants and income generation		
Income Generation	9,132	26,532
Grants	269,050	250,465
	278,182	**276,997**
Investment		
Bank interest receivable	1,083	901
Total Incoming Resources	**279,265**	**277,898**
EXPENDITURE		
Costs of generating voluntary income	278,290	258,008
Charitable Activities		
Travel and Incidental	1,360	1,278
Director Expenses	11	-
Office Expenses	20,862	15,001
Premise Costs	7,018	8,932
Bank Charges	101	117
Governance Costs	2,014	2,002
Total Outgoing Resources	**309,656**	**285,338**
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**(30,391)**	**(7,440)**