Lochee Community Larder & Café SCIO

Trustees' Annual Report

1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Charity contact information

Lochee Community Larder & Café SCIO

Scottish Charity Number: SC048968

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Charity Trustees

Name all of your charity trustees

1. Samantha Hunter
2. David MacGregor
3. Robyn Fegen
4. Scott Hunter
5. Wendy Hovell
6. Jacqui Reid
7. Martyn Smith
8. Brooklyn Fleming

Chairperson's Summary

This past year has been one of resilience, renewal, and remarkable community spirit. As Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am proud to reflect on the progress we've made, not just in numbers, but in lives touched, voices heard, and dignity upheld.

Our charity continues to grow as a beacon of inclusion and empowerment. Whether through tailored volunteer support, trauma-informed services, or our commitment to environmental sustainability, we've deepened our roots in the community and expanded our reach to those most in need.

We've faced challenges, particularly in navigating digital transitions and ensuring accessibility for all. But thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, staff, and partners, we've turned obstacles into opportunities, building systems that are not only secure and efficient, but also compassionate and inclusive.

This report captures the heart of our work: the stories of resilience, the frameworks we've built, and the strategic steps we're taking to create lasting change. From launching our Inclusion & Accessibility Policy to strengthening safeguarding practices and securing new funding streams, every milestone reflects our shared commitment to dignity, safety, and hope.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on expanding our volunteer network, deepening community partnerships, and embedding sustainability into everything we do. Together, we are not just responding to need - we are reimagining what support can look like when it's rooted in empathy and equity.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Mrs Samantha Hunter
Chairperson
Lochee Community Larder & Cafe SCIO

Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives are to relieve food poverty, reduce social isolation, and promote community wellbeing by providing affordable access to food, practical support, volunteering opportunities, and welcoming spaces where people can connect with others. We seek to support individuals and families experiencing financial hardship while promoting dignity, inclusion, and community resilience.

These objectives were pursued through the continued operation of the community larder and café. The community larder provided members with regular access to affordable food, including fresh fruit and vegetables, cupboard staples, chilled and frozen items, helping households maximise limited incomes and reduce food insecurity. The café offered a welcoming and accessible environment where members of the community could meet, socialise, and access informal support, helping to reduce loneliness and social isolation.

Alongside food provision, the charity provided information, advice, and signposting to a range of external services, including welfare support, housing advice, health services, employability programmes, and other community organisations. Staff and volunteers worked closely with members to identify additional support needs and help them access relevant services where appropriate.

Volunteering remained a key aspect of the charity's work. Throughout the year, volunteers contributed across all areas of service delivery, including food collection and redistribution, stock management, customer support, administration, and community engagement activities. We expanded our investment in volunteer recruitment, induction, training, and ongoing support, creating opportunities for individuals to develop skills, build confidence, improve wellbeing, and gain valuable experience.

A strategic priority during the year was strengthening organisational capacity and sustainability. This included developing partnerships with local businesses, food suppliers, charities, and public sector organisations to increase the quantity and variety of food available through the larder while reducing food waste. The charity continued to explore new food redistribution opportunities and worked towards securing longer-term arrangements that support both environmental and social outcomes. We also continued to grow our partnership with Fans Supporting Foodbanks Dundee to expand fund raising events

The charity also focused on maintaining safe, inclusive, and accessible services for all members. Policies, procedures, and operational systems were reviewed and strengthened where necessary to ensure effective service delivery, support volunteers and staff, and respond to emerging challenges within the community. Efforts were made to improve data collection, monitoring, and reporting systems to better understand community need and measure the impact of our activities.

Throughout the reporting period, the charity remained responsive to changing local circumstances and emerging needs. By adapting services, reducing barriers to access, and fostering a supportive community environment, we continued to provide practical assistance, encourage social connection, and create opportunities for people to participate positively in community life. Through these activities, the charity worked towards its mission of supporting individuals and families to thrive, while strengthening community wellbeing and resilience across the area.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The Lochee Community Larder & Café is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with voting members other than its charity Trustees. The SCIO is governed by a constitution, with charity Trustees being elected at the Annual General Meeting. Any vacant seats may be filled by a nomination and co-option by the existing Trustees during the year. All Trustees are volunteers and undertake activities to further the objects of Lochee Community Larder & Café SCIO as required with no remuneration or financial benefit received for their time.

General structure

The structure of the organisation consists of:-

the MEMBERS - who have the right to attend members' meetings (including any annual general meeting) and have important powers under the constitution; in particular, the members appoint people to serve on the board and take decisions on changes to the constitution itself;

the BOARD - who hold regular meetings, and generally control the activities of the organisation; for example, the board is responsible for monitoring and controlling the financial position of the organisation.

The people serving on the board are referred to as CHARITY TRUSTEES.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

At each AGM, the members may elect any member (unless they are debarred from membership) to be a charity trustee.

The board may at any time appoint any member (unless they are debarred from membership) to be a charity trustee.

At each AGM, all of the charity trustees elected/appointed shall retire from office – but shall then be eligible for re-election.

A charity trustee retiring at an AGM will be deemed to have been re-elected unless: -

they advise the board prior to the conclusion of the AGM that they dnot wish to be re-appointed as a charity trustee; or

an election process was held at the AGM and they were not among those elected/re-elected through that process; or

a resolution for the re-election of that charity trustee was put to the AGM and was not carried.

Achievements and performance

This year, our charity has grown not just in reach, but in depth. We have deepened our commitment to dignity, inclusion, and community resilience. Every milestone we've achieved reflects the power of practical action rooted in compassion.

From recruiting a dedicated volunteer co-ordinator to help empower volunteers with training to embedding accessibility into every layer of our work, we've built systems that serve people, not just processes. Our digital transformation has made coordination safer and more efficient, while our environmental commitment ensures that our impact is sustainable in every sense.

Lochee Community Larder & Café continued to provide affordable food, community support, and volunteering opportunities to local people experiencing financial hardship. Demand for our services has remained high with us reaching over 3,500 people each week and many households continuing to face rising living costs and increasing pressure on household budgets.

The Community Larder enabled members to access a regular supply of food and household essentials at a significantly reduced cost compared to mainstream retailers. This support helped individuals and families to stretch limited incomes while maintaining dignity and choice in the food they selected.

We also provide vital food donations for other volunteer-run clubs supporting families in our high-deprivation area, making a meaningful difference in their daily lives.

In addition to food provision, the organisation provided a welcoming community space where people could access social interaction, practical support, and signposting to other services. Many beneficiaries reported reduced isolation and improved wellbeing through regular engagement with the Larder and Café.

After a successful pilot we now have a busy appointment-based system to cater for individuals who are working. This is now full and we have a wait list for this service

A key achievement during the year was the continued development of our volunteer programme. Volunteers contributed thousands of hours across food distribution, stock management, administration, customer support, and community activities. We remained committed to creating meaningful volunteering opportunities that build confidence, skills, and employability while enabling people to contribute positively to their community.

The organisation also strengthened its operational capacity by improving systems, processes, and volunteer support arrangements. The recruitment of a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator in January 2026, due to increasing demands on volunteer recruitment, training, and support, we ensured volunteers received the guidance

and development opportunities needed to continue delivering high-quality services.

Throughout the year, we continued to work collaboratively with local partners, funders, and food redistribution organisations to maximise available resources and increase the support offered to the community. These partnerships enabled us to reduce food waste, increase the range of products available, and respond flexibly to emerging local needs.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity has continued to meet its charitable purposes by relieving poverty, reducing social isolation, promoting community participation, and creating opportunities for volunteering and personal development. The positive feedback received from beneficiaries, volunteers, and partner organisations demonstrates the ongoing value and impact of our work within the local community.

Future plans

Looking ahead to 2026/27, the charity will focus on expanding food access, reducing barriers to support, and strengthening community resilience.

In the second quarter, we plan to introduce a Mobile Pantry service to reach individuals and families who face difficulties accessing our existing provision due to mobility, health, transport, or geographical barriers. This initiative will enable us to bring affordable food and support directly into local communities, helping to tackle food insecurity while connecting people with additional services, advice, and opportunities for engagement.

Alongside this development, we will expand our programme of community activities aimed at reducing isolation and improving wellbeing. Building on relationships established within the local community, we plan to introduce and develop dedicated social groups. These groups will provide regular opportunities for social interaction, shared activities, peer support, and access to information, helping local residents remain active, connected, and engaged within their communities.

The charity also intends to continue delivering cooking and food education sessions for our local primary school. Through practical cooking activities and discussions around nutrition, food budgeting, and reducing food waste, we aim to equip young people with essential life skills while encouraging healthier eating habits and a greater understanding of sustainable food practices. We believe these early interventions can contribute to improved health outcomes and increased confidence around food preparation and household budgeting.

Volunteer development will remain a key priority throughout the year. We plan to establish the Saltire Awards programme within the organisation, creating structured volunteering opportunities for young people and recognising the valuable contribution they make to our work.

We will continue to strengthen our volunteer programme more broadly through recruitment, training including trauma-informed, development opportunities, and ongoing support. In addition, we will seek to increase opportunities for community participation and engagement while building stronger partnerships with local organisations, schools, community groups, and statutory agencies to ensure support is accessible to those most in need.

The charity will also continue to explore new funding opportunities, food redistribution partnerships, and income-generating activities to enhance long-term sustainability and increase our ability to respond to changing community needs. Investment in systems, governance, and organisational capacity will remain important as we work to ensure the charity is well positioned to deliver effective and sustainable services into the future.

The trustees remain committed to delivering inclusive, dignified, and compassionate support while developing innovative approaches that increase access, participation, and positive outcomes across the communities we serve. We will we aim to strengthen community resilience, reduce inequalities, and create opportunities for individuals and families to thrive.

Financial Review

Our expenditure focused on delivering our core services and strengthening operational capacity – running costs, staffing, volunteer support, food transportation and storage, community engagement activities, and investment in systems and infrastructure required to maintain safe and effective service delivery.

The charity continued to benefit from substantial non-financial support throughout the year, including donations of food and essential goods, volunteer time, and assistance from partner organisations. These contributions significantly increased the value and reach of our services and allowed resources to be directed towards frontline community support.

The trustees regularly reviewed the organisation's financial position throughout the year and remain satisfied that the charity is operating on a sustainable basis. Careful budget management and ongoing monitoring of income and expenditure enabled the charity to maintain essential services while responding to increasing levels of demand within the community.

During the year, the charity received a restricted capital award to support planned capital improvements. As the project had not been completed by the financial year end, the unspent restricted funds have been carried forward and will be utilised during 2026/27 in accordance with the conditions of the award.

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining adequate reserves to manage unforeseen challenges and support future service development. Efforts will continue to diversify income sources and strengthen long-term financial resilience to ensure the charity can continue delivering its charitable objectives in the years ahead.

Statement of Reserves Policy

Lochee Community Larder & Café SCIO maintains a reserves policy to ensure financial stability, continuity of service, and resilience in the face of unforeseen challenges. Our approach reflects the scale of our operations, the nature of our funding, and our commitment to responsible stewardship.

The charity holds reserves to:

- Cover essential operating costs in the event of delayed or reduced income
- Ensure continuity of core services, including food access and volunteer support
- Provide a buffer for unexpected expenses, such as equipment failure or emergency repairs

- Support planned investments in digital systems, training, and service development

Target Level of Reserves

Trustees have agreed a target of maintaining unrestricted reserves equivalent to three months of core operating costs. This level is reviewed annually and adjusted based on:

- Changes in service demand
- Funding landscape and income volatility
- Strategic priorities and planned growth

Review and Oversight

The reserves policy is reviewed annually by the board of trustees as part of the budgeting and risk management process. Any significant deviation from the target level is discussed and addressed through financial planning and fundraising strategy.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name	Samantha Hunter
Designation	Chairperson
Date	21/09/26

Statement of Balances as at 31st March 2026

	For the period from	1st April 2025	To	31st March 2026
Statement of Receipts & Payments	**Unrestricted (£)**	**Restricted (£)**	**Total Current Period (£)**	**Total Last period (£)**
Receipts				
Donations	6,077		6,077	4,020
Grants	28,000	55,939	83,939	48,270
Fundraising	7,515		7,515	4,951
Trading	50,969		50,969	51,769
Other charitable activities	46		46	72
Total Receipts	**92,607**	**55,939**	**148,546**	**109,082**
Payments				
Trading costs	44,053	7,536	51,589	43,132
Costs of charitable activities	50,460	28,442	78,902	78,704
Governance				
Expenses For Fundraising Activities	2		2	352
Total Payments	**94,515**	**35,978**	**130,493**	**122,188**
Purchase of fixed assets				
Surplus Receipts/Payments for year	**(1,908)**	**19,961**	**18,053**	**(13,106)**

Statement of Balances as at 31st March 2026

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Current Period	Total Last period
Cash and bank balances at start of year	36,958	-	36,958	50,064
Surplus/deficit for the year	(1,909)	19,962	18,053	(13,106)
Balances Carried Forward	**35,049**	**19,962**	**55,011**	**36,958**

Other Assets	Fund	Cost	Current Market Value	Last year To nearest £
Bain Marie	Unrestricted	140	30	50
Water Boiler	Unrestricted	297	200	200
Shop Racking	Unrestricted	201	50	50
Logik Refrigerator	Unrestricted	302	100	100
C Pentane Freezer FZC019	Unrestricted	600	250	250
Miele Dishwasher	Unrestricted	1,080	750	750
Triple Adexa Fridge	Unrestricted	2,495	1,800	2,000
Adexa Double Chest Freezer	Unrestricted	780	500	500
Adexa Contender Freezer	Unrestricted	682	425	450
Cash Till and Card reader - SumUp	Unrestricted	500	400	400
King Double Fridge	Unrestricted	1,500	900	1,000
Bain Marie – Sneeze Proof - XL	CRF Restricted	600	550	
	Total	**9,177**	**5,955**	**5,750**

Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due current period	Amount due last period
Salary Chef (12 months)		Northwood/Robertsons Unrestricted Funding	-	8,320
Salary Operational Manager (12 months)		Northwood/Robertsons Unrestricted Funding	22,100	20,800
NI (12 months)		Northwood/Robertsons Unrestricted Funding	658	658
Pension (12 months)		Northwood/Robertsons Unrestricted Funding	437	437
Salary Volunteer Coordinator		Restricted Volunteer Suppoirt Fund	7,650	
		Total	**30,845**	**30,215**

Signatures of trustee on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of Approval
	Samantha Hunter	21/09/2026

APPENDIX 3

OSCR
Scottish Charity Regulator

Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2

Report to the trustees/members of
Charity name: LOCHEE COMMUNITY LARDER & CAFE SC10

Registered charity number
SC048968

On the accounts of the charity for the period

Period start date				Period end date		
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
1	April	2025	to	31	March	2026

Set out on pages
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 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 charity 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 [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]

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 9 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.

Signed:** G Turnbull **Date:** 17.09.26

Name: GINA TURNBULL

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Qualified bookkeeper

Address: 23 Kirkton Avenue
Dundee
DD3 0BG

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.
** OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures