

Edinburgh Community Health Forum SCIO

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025



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Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name Edinburgh Community Health Forum SCIO

Charity Number SC023808

Principal Address 222 Leith Walk
Edinburgh
EH6 5EQ

Trustees

[REDACTED]	Chair
[REDACTED]	Treasurer
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

[REDACTED]
Brett Nicholls Associates
Herbert House
24 Herbert Street
Glasgow
G20 6NB

Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their report and annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Lothian Community Health Initiatives' Forum (SCIO Charity Number: SCO23808) was founded by a constitution dated 16th April 2014. On 28th August 2019, its name changed to Edinburgh Community Health Forum. The organisation has been recognised as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) by OSCR and is generally exempt from taxation.

Trustee Recruitment and appointment

The members elect the Board of Charity Trustees at every annual meeting. The day to day running of the Forum is delegated to its Strategic Development Manager, [REDACTED]

Objectives and Activities

The charity's main objective is to advance education and community development and to preserve and protect the good health of the people living in Edinburgh by bringing together in association community based health initiatives.

Membership is open to any individual aged 18 and over responsible for an organisation in Edinburgh which has clientele status and whose main objectives are the advancement of health using a community development approach.

Chair's Report

Thank you once again to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for supporting the Forum so well over this most challenging of all years. I feel I can use that description with some authority since it is my twenty third year of being a Forum member and it is the first time I have ever experienced significant anxiety over the survival of our member charities. Thanks also to my fellow board members who have been, as always, such a pleasure to work with.

This time last year we were concerned that 'all EIJB funded projects were likely to face a significant reduction in funding.' Little did we know that the EIJB were intending to totally withdraw their grant funding to the third sector. It would be unfair not to acknowledge the extreme financial challenges that our EIJB colleagues are facing - with a £25m funding deficit, but in our view their decision to sacrifice the third sector in order to meet their statutory obligations will only serve to increase the pressure on statutory services and drive the EIJB into even greater financial deficit.

We are confident in our view because we know the value of the social model of health. We witness it every day of our working lives and between us we have an abundance of evidence to prove that our community led services:

- Reduce the burden on GP; NHS and CEC resources (Social Work; care packages etc)
- Bring additional funding into the city through non-statutory grants and fund raising (£16m in 2023 – 2024)
- Manage resources and deliver services on extremely moderate budgets demonstrating value for money that is unmatched by any other sector.
- Attract and support thousands of volunteers to deliver, administer and manage services at practically no cost
- Build stronger more resilient communities and reduce social isolation and ill health.

Trustees' Annual Report

Chair's Report (Continued)

We had real fears, for a while, that some of our members would close following the IJB disinvestment but we were saved from this by the City of Edinburgh Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee who, following a vote by local councillors, set up a Resilience Fund for all 64 charities affected by the cuts. This has been a lifeline to those of us who lost our core funding, which is so hard to get from other sources, and which allows us to keep our doors open.

Sadly the Resilience Fund is a temporary measure and we are under no illusions regarding funding beyond March 2026. We will work together to address this problem and the Forum is the vehicle which will enable us to move forward on this challenging journey. We have survived this year, we will work together to survive the next with the usual generosity of spirit, good humour and absolute certainty that what we do is worth fighting for. Thanks to all those who are behind us.

Achievements and Performance

Introduction

The Forum has continued to play a crucial role throughout 2024/25, maintaining its core function of bringing third sector organisations together to share updates, concerns, and strategic input across Edinburgh. Despite a year marked by funding uncertainty and significant sector-wide challenges, the Forum's resilience and adaptability have been evident.

Forum Meetings

Monthly hybrid meetings (in-person and Zoom) were held consistently throughout the year, with strong attendance levels maintained. Guest speakers on a variety of topics continued to encourage members to attend as well as the opportunity for networking and working collaboratively with other member organisations. Specific briefing meetings became a regular feature of Forum life during 2024/2025 with these meetings becoming a trusted source of accurate and up to date information on the funding issues facing the sector.

Funding Challenges and Advocacy

In October 2024, the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB) unexpectedly announced the withdrawal of all third sector grants, effective from January 2025. This triggered several months of intense lobbying, campaigning, and direct engagement by the Forum with the EIJB. Also, the Forum's Strategic Development Manager worked very closely with the Chair of EVOC and the Chief Executive of Volunteer Edinburgh to form a new Third Sector Reference Group that would coordinate and lead on the sector's response to the EIJB's proposals. While the Forum's efforts, and those of the Third Sector Reference Group led to a partial success, the final decision deferred the end of funding to June 2025. As a result, many organisations were left facing significant financial uncertainty. The focus for the Forum then shifted to working with the City of Edinburgh Council to provide a one year Resilience Fund to secure the survival of many of the cities critical community health service providers.

Information Sharing & Representation

The Forum became a go-to organisation for up-to-date information and facilitated shared responses from members. Staff actively participated in a range of citywide and national forums, including:

- Menu for All
- EVOC's Mental Health and Older People's Fora
- EIJB Strategic Planning Group
- Green Network
- Third Sector Reference Group
- Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS)
- CHEX
- Health Equity Network
- Scottish Parliament's Inequalities Group

Trustees' Annual Report

Achievements and Performance (Continued)

Strategic Developments

Edinburgh Wellbeing Pact: Work ceased due to staff changes within the Health and Social Care Partnership.

EIJB Strategic Plan: A new draft was produced for consultation, shifting the focus toward future sustainability.

Capacity to Collaborate: Remaining funds from this grant are earmarked for potential use in 2025/26, and are currently under discussion by Forum members.

Training and Development

While there was a slight decrease in training activity this year, the Forum delivered key training such as ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). OutNav & Evaluation: The Forum continued working with A Matter of Focus, offering workshops on the "OutNav" tool. However, uptake was affected by sector-wide funding uncertainty.

Partnerships and Sector Collaboration

The Forum maintained close working ties with EVOC, despite the significant challenges EVOC faced as an organisation. The Strategic Development Manager continued to serve as a third sector representative on the EIJB's Strategic Planning Group, ensuring that the voice of the sector remained present at key decision-making tables.

Staff Contributions

[REDACTED] Member and Stakeholder Engagement Officer, played a pivotal role in supporting Forum operations, organising training, engaging members, and maintaining a strong social media presence.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the Charity, at a level equivalent to three month's expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the organisation's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

Based on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025, ordinary expenditure for 3 months amounts to £17,541. At 31 March 2025 the charity held unrestricted free reserves of £33,825 (2024: £45,056) therefore the board are satisfied that this policy is being met. Funds held in excess of this policy will be reinvested in the development of the charity.

Financial Review

The charity incurred a net deficit of £731 for the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024: Deficit of £1,462). At 31 March 2025 reserves stood at £61,425 (2024: £62,156), with £33,825 of these being unrestricted (2024: £45,056) and £27,600 being restricted (2024: £17,100).

The trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

[REDACTED]
Date: 02/09/25

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of	Edinburgh Community Health Forum SCIO
Registered charity number	SC023808
Accounts of the charity for the year	1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025
Set out on pages	8 - 12

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. 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 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

- 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.

..... Date:

FCCA

Fellow of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Brett Nicholls Associates
Herbert House, 24 Herbert Street, Glasgow, G20 6NB

Receipts and Payments Account

		<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>2025 Total</i>	<i>2024 Total</i>
Receipts	<i>Notes</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Grants	3	-	63,263	63,263	70,292
Trading Income	4	2,265	-	2,265	3,598
Investment Income	5	143	-	143	149
Other Income	6	3,763	-	3,763	3,658
		<u>6,171</u>	<u>63,263</u>	<u>69,434</u>	<u>77,697</u>
Payments					
Charitable Activities Costs	7	17,402	52,763	70,165	79,159
Net Receipts/(Payments)		<u>(11,231)</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>(731)</u>	<u>(1,462)</u>
<i>Funds Brought Forward</i>		45,056	17,100	62,156	63,618
Funds Carried Forward	10	<u>£33,825</u>	<u>£27,600</u>	<u>£61,425</u>	<u>£62,156</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form an integral part of these accounts.

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

Statement of Balances

	<i>Unrestricted Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	<i>2025 Total £</i>	<i>2024 Total £</i>
Opening Cash and Bank Balances	45,056	17,100	62,156	63,618
Surplus/-Deficit for the year	(11,231)	10,500	(731)	(1,462)
Closing Cash and Bank Balances	<u>33,825</u>	<u>27,600</u>	<u>61,425</u>	<u>62,156</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees:




Date:

2/9/25

Notes to the Accounts

1. General Information

Edinburgh Community Health Forum ("the charity") is a trust governed by its constitution dated 16 April 2014. It was registered as a charity in Scotland (registered number SC023808) on 13 May 1996. It's registered address is 222 Leith Walk, Edinburgh, EH6 5EQ.

2. Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

3. Grants	<i>Unrestricted Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	<i>2025 Total £</i>	<i>2024 Total £</i>
Edinburgh Council (IJB)	-	49,763	49,763	55,292
NHS Lothian (C2C)	-	13,500	13,500	15,000
	-	63,263	63,263	70,292
4. Trading Income	<i>Unrestricted Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	<i>2025 Total £</i>	<i>2024 Total £</i>
Training	2,265	-	2,265	3,598
5. Investment Income	<i>Unrestricted Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	<i>2025 Total £</i>	<i>2024 Total £</i>
Bank Interest	143	-	143	149
6. Other Income	<i>Unrestricted Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	<i>2025 Total £</i>	<i>2024 Total £</i>
Employment Allowance	3,763	-	3,763	3,658

Notes to the Accounts

7. Charitable Activities Costs	<i>Unrestricted Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	<i>2025 Total £</i>	<i>2024 Total £</i>
Salaries	8,232	37,442	45,674	44,915
Employer NI	691	3,072	3,763	3,658
Pension	361	1,618	1,979	1,933
Accountancy IE Fee	660	-	660	660
Bank Charges	60	-	60	60
Evaluation Framework	5,220	-	5,220	2,160
Grants 8	-	3,000	3,000	7,400
Insurance	523	-	523	508
Office Expenses	-	2,101	2,101	1,659
Payroll Costs	562	-	562	557
Travel	-	1,956	1,956	945
Workshop and Training	1,093	3,574	4,667	14,704
	<u>17,402</u>	<u>52,763</u>	<u>70,165</u>	<u>79,159</u>

8. Grants Distributed

As part of the NHS Lothian agreement, grants of £3,000 were distributed to the following organisations:

	<i>Unrestricted Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	<i>2025 Total £</i>	<i>2024 Total £</i>
ELGT	-	-	-	3,400
Edinburgh Community Food Ltd	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Car Gomm	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>7,400</u>

9. Related Party Transactions

Trustee [REDACTED] is the CEO of Edinburgh Community Food Programme which received grant money from the Forum in 2024 and 2025. Trustee [REDACTED] is also the CEO Of ELGT which received grant money in 2024.

There were no other related party transactions during the year.

Notes to the Accounts

10. Funds Analysis	<i>Opening Balance 1 Apr 2024</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Payments</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>Closing Balance 31 Mar 2025</i>
Unrestricted					
General	45,056	6,171	17,402	-	33,825
Restricted					
Edinburgh Council (IJB)	-	49,763	49,763		-
NHS Lothian (C2C)	17,100	13,500	3,000		27,600
	17,100	63,263	52,763	-	27,600
Grand Total	62,156	69,434	70,165	-	61,425

Purposes of Funds

General Fund	- The unrestricted, free reserves of the charity
Edinburgh Council (IJB)	- Main Grant funding for the Forum
NHS Lothian (C2C)	- Collaboration fund for unspecified work with members of the forum