REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 256146

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 FOR

DISCOVERY STUDENT VOLUNTEERING SWANSEA











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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Trustees Omon Aiwekhoe

Olugbenga Fayehun
Malgozata Ragosko
Naman Kumar
Levis Varghese
Mamta Behera
Enma Thomas
Charlotte Cooke
Dr Alison Walker
Georgia Rees
Natalie Jarvis
Louise Rees
Felicity McKee
Sian Impey
Dr Mike Buckle

Charity registered

number 256146

Principal office Fulton House

Swansea University

Swansea SA2 8PP

Accountants MHA

MHA House Charter Court

Phoenix Way

Swansea Enterprise Park

Swansea SA7 9FS

Bankers Lloyds

Oxford Street Swansea SA1 3AP

Santander 1 Union Street Swansea SA1 3EE

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Eleanor Norton

The year 2023 to 2024 has been a busy and productive one for us. Our incredible volunteers have contributed over 20,400 hours of service, a true testament to the hard work and dedication of both our staff team and project coordinators (lead student volunteers), who have gone above and beyond to ensure that safe, meaningful, and reliable volunteering opportunities are available to every student who wants to get involved.

We've strengthened and expanded our relationships both within the University and with the wider community. As always, we've been reevaluating our offerings to ensure they remain the best fit and most impactful for both our volunteers and the communities we serve. Our Trustees have provided invaluable support and leadership, particularly in fostering our connections with the University and external partners. Our ambassadors have also played a key role in helping us reach and engage with even more students.

This year, our volunteering platform has become an established and vital tool. Not only has it made our processes work better for our staff and volunteers, it has enabled us to work more efficiently with external charities, offering them a dedicated space to connect with potential student volunteers directly. 32 external charities have used it to promote their opportunities to our student volunteers this year.

In total, 547 active volunteers contributed over 20,400 hours across all opportunities. We offered 27 induction training sessions, 35 other training sessions, 47 one-off volunteering sessions, 11 of our own regular projects, and 32 external partner projects.

The renewal of our Investors in Volunteering Award had illustrated that we are offering the very highest standards of volunteering and adhering to or exceeding best practice in our offer.

I am incredibly proud of our small team. With just 6 core staff members, supported by 4 short term, part time student interns throughout the year, we've created a space where every volunteer—whether they take on a leadership role as a trustee, project coordinator, or ambassador, or simply attend a one-off opportunity—can thrive, connect with others, and feel empowered, knowing they're making a difference to the community and to their own futures.

MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT PRESIDENT

Felicity Mckee

As we reflect on the past year, we are incredibly proud of the impact our student volunteers have made. In 2023–24, 547 students contributed an outstanding 20,400 hours of support to the community, with an estimated financial value of £266,709. Their dedication continues to be at the heart of everything we do, making a real difference while also developing valuable skills for the future.

Looking ahead, 2025–26 will mark our 60th anniversary, a significant milestone for our charity. We are excited about the many planned events and activities that will celebrate this achievement provide an opportunity to honour and celebrate the incredible contributions of our volunteers, past and present.

The funding environment remains challenging for small charities like ours. To ensure the sustainability of our work, we are committed to diversifying our fundraising efforts. This will include encouraging our supporters to contribute directly through initiatives like Lotto Abertawe, fundraising events, and other new opportunities. Despite these challenges, Discovery remains committed to offering a strong and varied student volunteering opportunities and training such as Look After Your Mate, Active 18 and Clwb Cymraeg. Discovery is committed to working closely with the wider Swansea third sector, ensuring that students can engage in meaningful opportunities that both support community needs and enhance their personal development.

Finally, over the past year, the board of trustees have taken steps to strengthen our governance. Following our EGM in November 2023, we extended the term of our student trustees to three years. The hope is that this change will provide greater continuity and allow us to further develop our trustee board and governance function so that Discovery can enjoy another sixty years offering volunteering opportunities and serving the local community.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year, from our students, partners, funders, and community members, none of this is possible without you. The board of trustees is looking forward to another year of making a difference together with all of those who have supported us and celebrating a landmark sixty years of Discovery Student Volunteering Service in Swansea.

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

Who we are

Discovery is a registered charity that has been established since 1966. This year, 547 student volunteers logged 20,400 hours of support to the community; we estimate the financial value of this support at £266,709 but recognise that the impacts, connections and relationships far exceed this value. We also recognise that the huge range of skills and experiences gained by our student volunteers are of huge value and will stand them in excellent stead in their future lives as well as greatly enhancing their student experience. Our organisation envisages a community where people are treated like equals and are not discriminated against or disadvantaged by society. Discovery focuses on providing the best possible service to the people who we work with in Swansea, by providing skilled, trained, and enthusiastic volunteers.

Discovery aims to:

- Enrich the lives of the people in Swansea in order to fulfil their potential as empowered individuals and as members of groups and communities.
- Offer new experiences and opportunities through a broad range of student-led activities in the community, leading to increased mutual understanding and equality.
- Actively support students to be aware of their personal development and the impact upon themselves and the lives of others through their involvement in the community-based activities.

Every year Discovery offers a range of volunteering projects, these are a mix of our own projects, run entirely by our students with support from our staff and partner projects where we link with external charities and other parts of the university to support their activities.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

Discovery is a registered charity and is governed by a constitution adopted on the 13th June 1969, amended on the 6th December 1979, 4th May, 15th June 1993, 16th February 1998, 15th February 2001, 8th June 2005, February 2007, March 2011, March 2015, December 2019 and June 2024. The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Objectives and aims

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the City and County of Swansea and surrounding areas, in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress, and sickness.

Within the limitation of the above, to promote the following main areas:

- To encourage co-operation between voluntary groups, the statutory authorities, and individuals in the
 of the community.
- To foster the ideal of voluntary/community service particularly amongst young people, by providing guidance and opportunities for personal development; learning and developing skills as well as participation in wide aspects of voluntary/community in wide aspects of voluntary/community involvement.
- To focus the attention of individuals connected with, as well as the institution of Swansea University
 and the community at large, onto social problems, with a view to creating a sense of individual
 responsibility and personal participation in remedying those problems.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees, made up of Student Trustees and Non-Student Trustees, appoints the staff of the organisation and oversees the operation of the organisation.

Discovery's staff members for the year ended 31st July 2024 were as follows:

Director: Eleanor Norton

Supported Volunteering Scheme Project Manager: Kirsty Rowles

Volunteering Projects Manager: Vixie Barker-Williams Volunteer Recruitment Marketing Manager: Sian Davies

Project Worker: Maria Oliveira Finance Officer: Joseph Borland

Part time, short term interns

Jo Peacock Rhiannon Hazell Elizabeth Wilde Lois Owumi

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

- Non-Student Trustees shall be elected at the AGM for a three-year period, in accordance with the procedure for the AGM. They may stand for re-election.
- Student Trustees are elected each year at the AGM by members of the organisation, in accordance with the procedure for the AGM, they may also stand for re-election.
- At our EGM in November 2023, our membership voted to extend student volunteers term to 3 years and allow them to stay in post once they graduate.

Induction and training of new Trustees

Trustees are invited to a weekend of training. This training includes roles and responsibilities, team building, sub groups work and strategic planning sessions. On-going support is offered through regular meetings. Trustee training opportunities provided by Swansea Council for Voluntary Service and Wales Council for Voluntary Action are routinely offered to our trustees.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty in relation to section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission in relation to public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and planning future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Risk Management

The Trustees have carried out a review of the major risks to the organisation and believe that the level of reserves policy is sufficient to cover adverse conditions that the organisation may face. The organisation has in place financial, personnel, and health and safety controls to limit the likelihood and impact of risks. All events and activities are risk assessed prior to commencement. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are carried out on all appropriate staff and volunteer roles. The Board of Trustees actively monitor the financial position.

Our fundraising promise

Discovery is a member of the Fundraising Standards Board self-regulatory scheme. The Fundraising Standards Board works to ensure that organisations raising money from the public do so honestly and properly. As a member of the scheme, we follow the Institute and Fundraiser's Codes of Fundraising Practice, and comply with the key principles embodied in the Codes and in the Promise. Further details can be found at www.frsb.org.uk.

Our achievements and Our funders

We are very proud of another highly impactful year and we are incredibly grateful to all of our funders. All of our projects are supported by our core grant from **Swansea University** and our own fundraising activities. We have been extremely fortunate to have been awarded funding by other grant making organisations. As our most significant funder, **Swansea University** supports all of our projects and everything we do

Austin Bailey Foundation supports all of our projects by provide travel and other essential expenses for our student volunteers across all of our projects.

BBC Children in Need supports Building Blocks Lego Project.

Swansea Youth Bank and Toyota Community Fund supports our one off programme of volunteering.

West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Regional integration Fund (formerly ICF C4B) and Volunteering In Wales (WCVA) supports Supported Volunteering.

Postcode Community Trust and Shared Prosperity Fund support all of our volunteering projects.

Our individual funders help us to sustain the whole organisation, filling gaps in funding and enabling us to new exciting things as well as maintaining the important regular work that we do.

Financial Review

This has been another successful year for Discovery; we have received grants from new funders as well as maintaining relationships with long term funders, demonstrating that we continue to offer a high quality provision and to be highly trusted organisation. We have continued to generate a good level of our own income through fundraising events and activities.

Our total income has increased to £274,679 (2023 - £203,539). Our main source of funding are grants, which were higher than last year, at £248,028 (2023 - £189,223). Our main grant provider is Swansea University, but we also receive significant support from Volunteering in Wales.

Our running costs have increased this year by an overall £13,626.

By the end of the year, we had reported a surplus of £56,752, compared to a deficit of £762 last year.

At 31st July 2024, we had total net assets of £202,653 (2023 - £145,901) and £238,778 held as cash in the bank and in hand. Our restricted funds were £19,057 (2023 - £22,746).

Reserves policy

Our reserves policy reflects the challenges in securing unrestricted funds and the increasingly complex and competitive funding environments for small charities. We are aiming to hold one year's running costs, approximately £115,678, as advised by the Charity Commission and a further designated reserve of £50,000 to cover redundancy costs, reflecting our very low staff turnover. Our current unrestricted reserve level is £183,596, therefore in excess of the target by £17,918.

PROJECTS

1st August 2023 - 31st July 2024

Active 18

Active 18 provides both virtual and in-person group activities for adults with additional needs. Active18 ran 17 activities including quizzes, games, puzzles, crafts, painting, wreath making, singing and dancing, jewellery making and clubbing, supporting 15 adults.

"The welcoming and friendly atmosphere from everyone was wonderful to see and receive no matter how many times you volunteer with Active 18, everyone is as kind and supportive as ever. I liked the variety in tasks and that both service users and volunteers were able to mix between activities or stay at one if they wished and I really appreciated how everyone checked in on and supported one another." – Volunteer

"One of my favourite Active 18 memories was a service user coming to one of the parties feeling anxious, and after doing karaoke, colouring and wordsearches, the person said she felt calmer and much happier than she did at the start of the party, especially thanks to spending time with two volunteers who she chatted with throughout the party. I was so happy to see her mood improve and it was incredible that coming to the party helped her. I feel very lucky to have been Active 18 PC!" - Project Coordinator

Age Exchange

Age Exchange brings students and residents together in weekly care home visits. Age Exchange conducted 15 visits to the care home, doing activities such as quizzes, singing and playing music, having tea and cupcakes, love spoon making and card making for around 15 residents.

"Had a great time meeting new people and getting to hear about their lives. It was awesome being able to encourage them to talk about their lives." - Volunteer

Clwb Cymraeg

Clwb Cymraeg is a fortnightly social club where volunteers support students, university staff and community members to come together and learn or develop Welsh skills. Clwb Cymraeg held 11 sessions with activities including boardgames, puzzles, competitions, Santes Dwynwen card making, air dry clay love spoon making and plant pot decorating.

"Fel yr unig berson yn fy nheulu sy'n gallu siarad Cymraeg, mae'n mor bwysig i fi i gymryd rhan yn y digwyddiad Cymraeg. Yn ystod y digwyddiadau, dw i'n cael y cyfle i ymarfer a defnyddio fy sgiliau iaith a chysylltu gyda ffrindiau newydd trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae'r sesiynau Cymraeg gyda Discovery yn helpu i adeiladu cymuned o siaradwyr Cymraeg fy mod i'n ddiolchgar am." — Cyfranogwr

"As the only person in my family who can speak Welsh, it is so important for me to take part in the Welsh event. During the events, i have the opportunity to practice and use my language skills and connecting with new friends through the medium of Welsh. The Welsh sessions with Discovery help to build a community of Welsh speakers that i am grateful for." – Attendee

Buddied Reading

Buddied Reading Scheme pairs students and children together in weekly reading sessions at two local schools. Buddied held 11 school visits across the two sites support -ing around 120 children. 92% children said they enjoyed reading with their volunteers.

"One of the boys was reading a book about dinosaurs and just forgot about the book and kept talking about dinosaurs and how he knows everything about them and love them a lot. It was really sweet to see their enthusiasm and read something that interests them." - Volunteer

LEGO Club

Building Blocks uses the LEGO Therapy Model to run a programme of weekly sessions for children who may be struggling with social skills or friendship making.

LEGO Club ran 12 sessions, supporting 55 children to complete 12 LEGO sets over the year.

"LEGO Club helps me to be patient, calm and helps me communicate with people" - Child

"We are so very grateful to the Discovery students. It is an incredibly popular club with the children and ticks so many boxes in aiding the children's development. Across sessions, we have seen children grow in confidence, whilst making and maintain friendships with their peers. Lego Club has been great for encouraging and developing children's fine motor skills, receptive and expressive language and social communication skills. The wonderful student volunteers give up their own time to work with our children and make it such a fun and meaningful activity too. The children leave each session absolutely beaming and look forward to the students returning each term! We really cannot thank them enough." – St Thomas School

School Daze

School Daze supports students to volunteer in a local school, providing classroom support to children that need it. This year School Daze supported 28 school visits where our volunteers supported around 150 children in years 1–5 on themes including Christmas and Hanukkah crafts, reading and writing, science experiments, sports, Red Nose Day activities, art, religious studies, Maths, Geography, BSL and specific support with SEN students.

Case Study: 'Throughout the project, S has been extremely consistent, and we have received so much positive feedback from the school about him. In his final week in Swansea, he has attend 4/5 days of the week. He has been running activities with young people and being given more responsibility from the school. His confidence seems to have grown and he has developed a connection with the school staff.'

"One week we had a volunteer was Nepalese and spoke with a child who had been writing about Nepal."

Penpal Project

The Penpal Project pairs students with community members young and old to exchange letters and cards. This year the penpal projects facilitated the exchanging of 273 letters to 50 children and 15 adults in the community.

"i am absolutely loving the PenPal project!! it's so heartwarming to receive replies from the Penpals and learn more about them, and i've really enjoyed writing the letters" - Penpal

Supported Volunteering and Social Action Groups

This project enables disabled volunteers to volunteer by pairing them with student volunteers who can provide person centred support either one to one or in small groups. The groups also explore wellbeing, local and global social issues and campaigns.

'The project helps us be more confident, it pushes us a little bit and is generally amazing'







Student Volunteer reflections

"Arriving at Swansea University in September 2023 marked the beginning of a transformative journey for me. I eagerly signed up for volunteering with Discovery the moment I heard about it. Initially, juggling schoolwork and extracurricular activities was challenging. After the first semester, I found myself missing home and struggling with depression. However, in a twist of fate, becoming an active volunteer in the second semester turned into a miracle, helping me manage my depression while having fun and acquiring new skills. The training I received through Discovery shaped my approach to working with individuals, especially those with disabilities, and taught me valuable lessons about empathy and support. As an introvert, I never imagined being able to manage so many activities alongside my demanding science course. Through volunteering, I found a family and a sense of belonging. In reflection, volunteering with Discovery was a pivotal part of my university experience. It not only helped me cope with personal struggles but also allowed me to contribute positively to the community. This experience has set a solid foundation for my future, underscoring the profound impact of giving back to the community."

"Engaging in these projects helped me develop a sense of civic responsibility, while also improving my organizational and teamwork skills. Collaborating with fellow volunteers and community members on these initiatives showed me the power of collective action and strengthened my leadership abilities. Reflecting on this experience, I realize how much my volunteering has broadened my understanding of community impact, refined my communication skills, and solidified my commitment to supporting others. The skills I gained will be invaluable as I continue to pursue roles that focus on education, mental well-being, and community involvement."

"Volunteering at the Vetch was always about the people and that's what volunteering with Discovery has given me; soft skills and the confidence to engage in conversations with people from different walks of life."

"Volunteering at Discovery Swansea has been a transformative experience for me. One that has left a lasting mark on my personal and professional development. Engaging in this initiative has not only allowed me to contribute meaningfully to the community but also to grow in ways I had not anticipated.. The organization's commitment to making a tangible difference is infectious, and this ethos permeated every aspect of my volunteer experience. I was involved in various projects, each designed to address specific community needs, ranging from training programs, social activities, and environmental conservation efforts. One of the most impactful projects I participated in was the Swansea Women's Aid project. Working with Vulnerable Women and children who needed extra support was both challenging and rewarding. It required patience, empathy, ability to make decisions, and adaptability. Additionally, the necessity to adapt to unexpected challenges improved my problem-solving skills. "

"Volunteering is a rewarding experience because I never would have imagined learning so much more than what I could ever have learned in a regular job. I realized that I probably will continue serving due to some sort of satisfaction that comes from helping others like care home support, and asylum seeker support and other fun activities too."

"Volunteering is something that I have always been passionate about. As an international student initially, I was very nervous whether I would be able to survive or adapt here but volunteering at Discovery solved my problems. Hearing about volunteering at Discovery in my 1st year was exciting because I had found my safe space here, the working environment at the office and the people, everything was just amazing. It has been a transformative experience for me. It provided me with a platform to adapt to a new environment, connect with diverse individuals, and build meaningful relationships. Through various roles and responsibilities, I improved key skills such as communication, teamwork, and time management. Being, a project coordinator for a children's project (Buddied Reading) in my 2nd year allowed me to develop leadership and organizational abilities, as I recruited volunteers, planned socials, and ensured tasks were completed efficiently. Becoming an ambassador this year further enhanced my public speaking and networking skills, enabling me to represent Discovery and its values. These experiences not only enriched my personal growth but also significantly boosted my CV. This journey has instilled a sense of confidence in me, encouraging me to seize opportunities and step outside my comfort zone. It strengthened my faith in the ability of volunteer work to shape careers, benefit the community, and spur personal growth. I will always be thankful and grateful to Discovery for this lifetime of joyful experience."

Training programmes

As well as our ongoing induction training for all new volunteers we have offered a vibrant mix of training sessions. Aimed at helping our volunteers build their skills, values and understanding of a wide range of issues that impact on their volunteering roles.

Look After Your Mate

Disability Awareness -

First Aid

Supported Volunteering Scheme

Safeguarding

Sight Loss Awareness

Look After Your Mate

Systems of Oppression and Allyship

Autism Awareness Financial Wellbeing

Disability Awareness

Sensory Sport Workshop

Trans Etiquette For Your

Volunteering

Asylum in the UK

Disability Awareness

Sight Loss Awareness

Supported Volunteering Scheme

Financial Wellbeing

Suicide and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury

Talking About Your Volunteering

Disability Awareness Welsh taster session

One off volunteering

Fidget toys for wellbeing

Beach clean

Shwmae day

Hopewalk with Papyrus

October Give it a go Week

• Active 18 Halloween

Party

Billingual

Kindness

cards for

Penpals

 LEGO model building

Beach Clean

Bay

DIY Bookmarks

for Buddied

Reading and

School Daze

Gardening with Campus Life

Letter Writing for Schools

Trans Affirming Poscard

makings

Wellbeing Wednesday

Crafting in School

Bilingual Christmas kindness

cards

Christmas Card Making

University Beach Clean

School Daze Pack Making

Session

Age Exchange Bunting Making

Tea Dance

Welsh Love Spoon Making

University Beach Clean

February Student

Volunteering Week

Digital media

skills

Creating

Book

Characters

• The Vetch

Building Nest

Boxes

Bingo Bore Coffi

LGBTQ+ History Month

Posters

Circus Eruption Gardening

Letter Writing for Schools

University Beach Clean

Short Story Writing

Community Litter Pick

Short Story Writing

University Beach Clean

Bag Dropping - Help Out

When You Move Out

Kindness Cards and Letter

Writing

Resource Making - Crisis

Welsh Learner Packs

Marathon Cheering - Crisis

Bag Collection - Help out

when you move out

Future Developments

We intend to maintain a strong offering of student volunteering and continue to work closely with the wider Swansa third sector to ensure that students can get invoked in a wide range of opportunities, both building their skills and helping where it is most needed.

We continue to see students requiring more and more support as the cost of living crisis, world events and challenges in the education sector continue. Therefore, being a caring organisation that values its people and finds the best ways to support them will remain central, we will establish strong links with university support services and ensure that students are accessing help when the need it.

By changing the term of our student trustees we hope to be able to develop our trustee board and governance function,. We anticipate changes in our non student trustees over the next year so will be building links with potential new trustees.

2025/2026 will mark our 60th anniversary so we will start planning events and activities to celebrate this important milestone.

The funding environment remails challenging for small charities so we intend to look to diversify our fundraising by finding ways for our supporters to contribute directly to what we do. This will include joining Lotto Abertawe, holding fundraising events and exploring other options.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Student Trustees

President

Felicity McKee (To April 2024) Charlotte Cooke (From April 2024)

Vice President

Rewa Gupta (To April 2024)

Treasurer

Mamta Behera (To April 2024) Levis (From April 2024)

Secretary

Natalie Jarvis (To April 2024) Georgia Rees (From April 2024) Naman Kumar (From April 2024)

Non Portfolio

Felicity McKee
Georgia Rees
Charlotte Cooke
Briony Haines (To April 2024)
Georgia Marklew (To April 2024)
Emm Thomas

From April 2024 (non portfolio)

Olugbenga Fayehun Levis Varghese Mamta Behra Natalie Jarvis Omon Aiwejhoe Malgozata Ragosko Sienna Stone

Non-Student Trustees

Chair

Sian Impey

Vice Chair

Alison Walker

Treasurer

Mike Buckle

Non Portfolio

Louise Rees

Community Trustee

Emily Bollington (To April 2024)

Independent examiner

MHA
Chartered Accountants
MHA House
Charter Court
Swansea Enterprise Park
Swansea
SA7 9FS

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC Oxford Street Swansea SA1 3AP

Santander Bank

1 Union Street Swansea SA1 3EE

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Charities Act requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the statement of financial activities of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the statements on a going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation;
- State whether the financial reporting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed unexplained in the accounts, and
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website.

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant accounting information of which the charity's Accountants and Independent Examiners are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

S Impey- Trustee Chair

Felicity Mckee - Trustee President

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Discovery SVS ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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, 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 that in any material respect:

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: Dated:

Rachel Doyle ACA DChA

MHA, Chartered Accountants, MHA House, Charter Court, Swansea Enterprise Park, Swansea, SA7 9FS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	Note	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	98,200	154,942	253,142	197,214
Charitable activities	4	-	136	136	297
Other trading activities	5	360	21,041	21,401	6,028
Total income	-	98,560	176,119	274,679	203,539
Expenditure on:	-	_			
Charitable activities		102,249	115,678	217,927	204,301
Total expenditure	-	102,249	115,678	217,927	204,301
Net movement in funds	_	(3,689)	60,441	56,752	(762)
Reconciliation of funds:	•				
Total funds brought forward		22,746	123,155	145,901	146,663
Net movement in funds		(3,689)	60,441	56,752	(762)
Total funds carried forward	-	19,057	183,596	202,653	145,901

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 19 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEETAS AT 31 JULY 2024

	Note		2024 £		2023 £
Fixed assets	11010		~		~
Tangible assets	11		1,951		2,519
		-	1,951	_	2,519
Current assets					
Debtors	12	15,310		54,169	
Cash at bank and in hand		238,778		157,729	
	-	254,088	-	211,898	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(53,386)		(68,516)	
Net current assets	-		200,702		143,382
Total assets less current liabilities		-	202,653	_	145,901
Net assets excluding pension asset		-	202,653	_	145,901
Total net assets		-	202,653	=	145,901
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	14		19,057		22,746
Unrestricted funds	14		183,596		123,155
Total funds		=	202,653	=	145,901

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Date:

The notes on pages 19 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

1. General information

Discovery Student Volunteering Swansea is an unincorporated trust, registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The registered number is 256146 and principal address is:

Fulton House Swansea University Singleton Park Swansea SA2 8PP

The functional and presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (\mathfrak{L}) and balances are rounded to the nearest $\mathfrak{L}1$.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared 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 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Discovery SVS 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.

2.2 Going concern

A significant proportion of the charity's income is by way of grant funding. The charity is reliant upon the continuing support of its grant funders. The trustees have responded to this risk by ensuring that cash reserves are maintained in order to cover a sufficient period so that the charity can meet ongoing running costs and any staff redundancy costs.

The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and accordingly adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Charity's accounting policies.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income from tax reclaims are recognised in the same period as the gift or donation to which they relate.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Allocation of support and governance costs

Governance costs comprise of all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees together with support costs. Due to the nature of the operations of the charity it was not considered appropriate to allocate expenditure on activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the charity.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings - 20% Computer equipment - 20%

2.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of expenditure for which it was incurred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2.14 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	-	5,114	5,114
Grants	98,200	149,828	248,028
	98,200	154,942	253,142
	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	-	7,991	7,991
Grants	53,923	135,300	189,223
	53,923	143,291	197,214

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

4. Income from charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from charitable activities		136	136
	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from charitable activities	13	284	297

5. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Other trading activities	360	13,512	13,872
Interest income	-	7,529	7,529
	360	21,041	21,401
	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Other trading activities	800	2,168	2,968
Interest income	-	3,060	3,060
	800	5,228	6,028

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

6.	Analysis	of expenditure	by activities
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	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Charitable activities	210,073	7,854	217,927
	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Charitable activities	<u>195,710</u>	8,591 ———— =	204,301

Analysis of direct costs

	Total	Total
	funds	funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	178,918	161,502
Activities	1,977	4,366
Travel and subsistence	2,164	3,161
Dues and subscriptions	4,998	6,355
Staff training	2,090	5,495
Resources	728	1,299
Refreshments	909	954
Telephone	135	492
Depreciation	568	320
Other costs	17,586	11,766
	210,073	195,710

Analysis of support costs

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

6.	Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)		
	Analysis of support costs (continued)		
		Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
	Insurance	2,647	1,701
	Bank charges	84	77
	Governance costs	5,123	6,813
		7,854	8,591
7.	Governance costs		
		2024 £	2023 £
	Independent examination	3,102	2,800
	Payroll & training fees	1,562	1,265
	Legal fees	459 =	2,748
8.	Staff costs		
		2024 £	2023 £
	Wages and salaries	171,428	154,909
	Pension scheme contributions	7,490	6,593
		178,918	161,502
	The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year	ar was as follows:	
		2024 No.	2023 No.
		8	8

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

8. Staff costs (continued)

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Key management personnel are considered to be those personnel who are not trustees but sit within key operational and strategic roles. The total costs of the key management personnel were £41,599 (2023 - £40,976).

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 July 2024, expenses totalling £372 were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 Trustees (2023 - £NIL). Reimbursed expenses related to general volunteer and office costs.

10. Volunteers

The value of volunteers' time given within the year is estimated with reference to the recorded number of volunteer hours multiplied by the estimated hourly rate that an employee would have been paid for carrying out the service. The quantified benefit to the charity for volunteers' time was £266,709 (2023: £163,256), given that 20,400 (2023: 13,000) hours were recorded. This amount has not been recognised in the accounts.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 August 2023	1,573	1,266	2,839
At 31 July 2024	1,573	1,266	2,839
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2023	236	84	320
Charge for the year	315	253	568
At 31 July 2024	551	337	888

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

11.	Tangible fixed assets (continued)			
		Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
	Net book value			
	At 31 July 2024	1,022	929	1,951
	At 31 July 2023	1,337	1,182	2,519
12.	Debtors			
			2024 £	2023 £
	Due within one year			
	Trade debtors		7,399	47,463
	Other debtors		1,295	2,215
	Prepayments and accrued income		6,616	4,491
			15,310	54,169
13.	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
			2024 £	2023 £
	Trade creditors		2,809	2,516
	Pension fund loan payable		1,008	931
	Accruals and deferred income		49,569	65,069
			53,386	68,516

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 July 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds - all funds	123,155	176,119	(115,678)	183,596
Restricted funds				
Austin Bailey Foundation	2,741	2,750	(5,381)	110
BBC Children In Need	3,695	-	(3,695)	-
Swansea Youth Bank	307	-	-	307
Swansea Siavonga Partnership	1,635	-	(500)	1,135
Volunteering In Wales	6,800	24,204	(24,762)	6,242
Supported Volunteers	5,226	360	(455)	5,131
ICF C4B	221	10,924	(9,324)	1,821
SEA WOW	361	7,151	(4,578)	2,934
Transformation Fund	831	-	-	831
Postcode Fund	-	14,323	(14,323)	-
Toyota Community Fund	191	2,000	(1,815)	376
Shared Prosperity Fund	-	36,848	(36,848)	-
Non Project Specific	738	-	(568)	170
	22,746	98,560	(102,249)	19,057
Total of funds	145,901	274,679	(217,927)	202,653

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 July 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds - all funds	126,804	148,803	(152,452)	123,155
Restricted funds				
Austin Bailey Foundation	3,284	1,750	(2,293)	2,741
BBC Children In Need	2,794	10,000	(9,099)	3,695
Swansea Youth Bank	307	-	-	307
Swansea Siavonga Partnership	2,096	-	(461)	1,635
Volunteering In Wales	4,182	15,706	(13,088)	6,800
Supported Volunteers	4,501	813	(88)	5,226
ICF C4B	1,356	3,164	(4,299)	221
SEA WOW	602	9,770	(10,011)	361
Transformation Fund	-	1,000	(169)	831
Postcode Fund	-	10,533	(10,533)	-
Toyota Community Fund	-	2,000	(1,809)	191
Non Project Specific	738	-	-	738
	19,860	54,736	(51,850)	22,746
Total of funds	146,664	203,539	(204,302)	145,901

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Each of our projects is led by one or two project co-ordinators. These are exceptional student volunteers who are prepared to take on a leadership role, supporting and organising their own teams of volunteers and liaising directly with our community contacts. Without these brilliant, dedicated volunteers we would not be able to offer such a remarkable range of volunteering opportunities to students and to the community around us. We are so grateful for everything they do.

Swansea University and the Shared Prosperity Fund support all of our project.

Active18

Provides group activities for adults with additional needs. Volunteers work as a team to plan and deliver a programme of activities each week, as well as attending sessions and supporting participants to engage. Activities are themed around the NHS 5 ways to wellbeing.

Supported by Regional Integrated Fund, West Glamorgan Regional Partnership (ICF C4B)

Age Exchange

Pairs students and residents together in weekly care home visits. Volunteers may walk around the grounds or hang out in the lounge playing games or doing crafts with the residents. Supported by the Transformation Fund and Austin Bailey Foundation

Buddied Reading

Pairs students and children together in weekly reading sessions at two local schools. Supported by Auston Bailey Foundation

Building Blocks

Uses the LEGO Therapy Model to run a programme of weekly sessions for children who may be struggling with social skills or friendship making.

Supported by Children in Need and Austen Bailey Foundation

Connect Groups

Events to raise awareness of mental health and looking after your wellbeing. Volunteers plan and deliver weekly wellbeing group sessions, virtually and/or in person, for other students.

Supported by Austin Bailey Foundation

Clwb Cymraeg

A regular Welsh Language Club run in partnership with the Student Union and Campus life. Volunteers help to plan and deliver activities.

Supported by the Austen Bailey Foundation

Penpal Project

Pairs students with community members young and old to exchange letters and cards. Supported by Children in Need and Austin bailey Foundation

STAR Project

providing volunteer support for Unity in Diversity, a local drop in and English classes for refugee and asylum seekers in Swansea.

Supported by Austin Bailey Foundation

The Vetch

Supports local community members in maintaining their allotment plots and community garden. Supported by Austin Bailey Foundation and Toyota Community Fund

School Daze

Class room support in local schools.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Supported by Austin Bailey Foundation

Supported Volunteering Scheme and Social Action Groups

The Supported Volunteering Scheme gives volunteers the opportunity to work one to one with a disabled adult to support them to volunteer. Paired volunteers work on tasks in the Discovery office. Small groups work on well being, activism and awareness raising.

Supported by WCVA Main Volunteering Grant, Swansea Youth Bank and Postcode Trust Lottery

Swansea Women's Empowerment Society (SWES)

Activities offering a safe space for students who are a woman, trans or non-binary and have experienced sexual assault/ harassment.

Supported by Austin Bailey Foundation

Ambassadors

Promote volunteering in a range of different ways. Including talks, stalls and presentation, Creating digital media and supporting the staff team with volunteer interviews.

Supported by Austin Bailey Foundation

One off volunteering

A diverse and exciting programme of volunteering including creating resources for other charities, environmental projects and litter picks.

Supported by Toyota Community Fund

Swansea Siavonga Partnership

We are unable to visit Siavonga as we have in the past but this year we were able to support the building of an extra room that would provide stable housing for one of the children who benefited form our scholarship scheme.

Swansea Employability Academy (SEA WOW)

We have worked in partnership with SEA to host student interns. Funded by SEA these student staff members have made a huge contribution to the work of Discovery and expanded our capacity at key times.

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,951	-	1,951
Current assets	63,783	190,305	254,088
Creditors due within one year	(46,677)	(6,709)	(53,386)
Total	19,057	183,596	202,653