



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 Period start date, to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 Period end date

Charity name: Hands Together Ludlow

Charity registration number: 1171979

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The relief of those in need by reason of youth, old age, ill health, loneliness, dysfunctional relationships, disability, or financial hardship who are living in Ludlow and surrounding villages.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	We support our communities through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The provision, largely through community volunteers, of direct services, resources and activities to individuals and families in need</li><li>• Working alongside local agencies to help develop and implement local plans.</li><li>• Working in partnership with a range of organisations and facilitating networking. Operationally, many of our activities depend on joint working (for example, surplus food collection)</li><li>• Supporting other organisations through sharing of good practice and facilitating activities</li></ul>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have been provided with the Charity Commission Public Benefit guidelines and are reminded of them at the beginning of each Board meeting

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making.	Para 1.38	Not applicable
Policy on social investment including program related investment.	Para 1.38	Not applicable

Other		
-------	--	--

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 551 beneficiaries were engaged, across 5505 engagements reducing loneliness and isolation and supporting vulnerable people in the community.</li> <li>• 48 afternoon tea sessions (517 meals served)</li> <li>• 47 Community Lunches served (1087 meals)</li> <li>• 25 Company at Christmas meals</li> <li>• 422 Befriending sessions</li> <li>• 214 Social Space sessions</li> <li>• 270 transported to HTL events (return trips)</li> <li>• 228 Men's Shed sessions (561 attendances)</li> <li>• 17 Youth Drop-in sessions (35 attendances)</li> <li>• 139 individuals signposted to other provision.</li> <li>• 117 Digital Inclusion sessions (35 attendees)</li> <li>• 32 Good Start together playgroup sessions (107 attendances)</li> <li>• 264 dog walks (5 individuals)</li> <li>• 11 Parkinson's Support Group sessions (88 attendances)</li> <li>• 5299 Community Fridge visits resulting in 14.135 tonnes of food saved from landfill.</li> <li>• 9576 volunteer hours given</li> </ul>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set.	Para 1.41	Performance against the business plan is monitored and reported to quarterly at trustee meetings.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set.	Para 1.41	Fundraising activities reflect the priorities established in the business plan in order to facilitate service delivery. Fundraising has been sufficient to meet those priorities.
		Not applicable

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity's financial position is healthy but requires continuous fundraising for a sustainable future. The finance subcommittee meets as part of the monthly Executive meetings. A separate statement of accounts is submitted.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The trustee board has agreed a policy of holding unrestricted reserves equivalent to 6 months' worth of operating costs. This is to cover limited periods of unexpected loss of funding and any unforeseen losses or wind-up costs.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	6 months' worth of operating costs in 2023 was £90k. HTL is carrying forward £99k of unrestricted funds (excluding designated funds), equivalent to 6.6 months of operating costs at 2024 budget figures.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Not applicable

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	There are three pillars to HTLs fundraising strategy. 1. Major funding organisations, such as the National Lottery 2. Local grants and trusts 3. Individual donors
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted.	Para 1.46	Not applicable
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Risks to the charity are detailed in the organisational risk log

Other		
-------	--	--

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (Trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g., election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are re-appointed at the AGM Trustees may be appointed by the governing body and a selection process is in place

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.	Para 1.51	A trustee induction policy has been developed and implemented. A regular trustee skills audit identifies gaps in knowledge and training needs.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works.	Para 1.51	HTL is led by volunteer trustees and managed by an Operations Manager Currently there are 8 (maximum 12) trustees. Service delivery is by volunteers, and a small group of staff. The charity is not part of any umbrella organisation.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	HTL held a subcontract from Shropshire Council for the delivery of Social Prescribing services. This ended in 2023. A contract with Shropshire Council to deliver activity funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is in place, to be delivered in 2024
Other		



Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

**Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others.**

Description of the assets held in this capacity.	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this fall within the custodian charity's objects.	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

**Additional information (optional)**

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

--

**Exemptions from disclosure**

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--


**Other optional information**

--

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	SUSAN CHANDLER	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	
Date	7/4/24	