

# **THE AUTUMN DAYCARE CENTRE CORBY**

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## **DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1st APRIL 2024 - 31st MARCH 2025**



**The Autumn Centre Limited  
Company Registered Number: 05397008  
Registered Charity Number: 1110164**

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**Legal and Administrative information:**

Company Registration Number:	05397008
Charity Registration Number	1110164
Registered Office:	The Autumn Centre Counts Farm Road Corby Northants NN18 8BH
Directors/Trustees:	Jonathan Sheldon- Chair Dianne Floody - Vice-Chair Peter Floody MBE Marie Bissett Les Coupland Marion Palmer Susan Sorrie Susan Tew Navin Bhatia Lesley Willan Lorraine D'Albert 1 x vacancy
Company Secretary:	Peter Floody MBE
Treasurer:	Peter Floody MBE
Bankers:	Co-operative Bank Delf House Southways Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Independent Examiner:	Brenda Peers-Ross 29 Drift Road Selsey Chichester West Sussex PO20 0PW

The trustees present their report, together with the financial statement of the Charity (**See Appendix I**) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

## **Executive Summary 26th August 2025**

Towards the end of March 2024 we were made aware of our Annual Grant from North Northants Council (NNC) being reduced from a historical £37,000.00 to just £10.8K further reduced in July to £8.8K a massive blow just days before the commencement of the 2024/25 financial year. We had to restructure the budget with this alarming cut in mind and form a collaborative with 4 other organisations to be included in the reduced grant process. This has resulted in the Autumn Centre recording a loss of £19K (2024/25) whereas the year before we recorded a profit. Thankfully we have a reserve budget to ensure we can continue to deliver our much needed service and reassure our members and their families.

On a much more positive note we are working very closely with Public Health (PH) for the Charity to become a “Centre of Excellence”, in partnership with Northampton University, and NNC to support this ambitious venture. The new “Orchard Project” will enable a study to be undertaken aimed at people living with the early onset of dementia and also allow for early stage intervention through a research programme coupled with a Capital Investment of £199K. As a charity, we are very excited with this concept, and are really looking forward to making an even bigger difference for our senior and wider community in the future.

As a charity we are constantly thanked and commended for our service delivery as we continue to improve the quality of life for our senior community with many of our members living with a host of health issues. We will continue to strive to become financially independent to ensure we are not at the mercy of continually reducing grants from various quarters.

The Trustees would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our members and their families, staff, volunteers, supporters and well wishers. A huge thank you to you all.

## **Trustees Report 1st April 2024 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**

### **Structure, Governance and Management.**

The Company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and recruitment and appointment of Trustees is through election at our Annual General Meetings. If a vacancy exists we can consider future trustees with specific skills who are recommended to the board.

The trustees meet on the last Tuesday of the month to discuss business on behalf of the charity and to take any decisions required by the trustees as an active and inclusive process.

All trustee meetings are minuted and sent out to all trustees to be agreed at the next monthly meeting along with any matters arising / amendments before proceeding with that month's agreed agenda.

## **Staffing**

The Autumn Centre used to employ 8 members of staff including our Manager who runs the Centre on a day to day basis in partnership with the users, volunteers, staff and the Board of Directors (Trustees who are all members of the charity). This number rose to 9 members of staff from May 2022 as we appointed an additional carer for the Dementia Suite as the need was clearly developing with increasing pressure to accommodate more new members living with dementia.

We were hoping to employ an additional carer last year but the grant reduction of £28,200 from NNC has made this impossible in the short term. This left the trustees and staff being a bit confused and disappointed after all the positivity we were hearing from North Northants Council Officers & Elected Members regarding our high quality and much needed service provision.

We had 2 members of staff leave over the last 18 months and this allowed us to promote from within and appoint new health workers to fill the vacant posts. This also gave us an opportunity to restructure the allocated hours to suit our current operational needs to the benefit of both staff and members.

We are where we are today because of our amazing dedicated staff members. As they all say this is not a job, it is a “way of life”, and this is so obvious as they all go well beyond their individual “job descriptions”. The care and support they give to all our members is what creates the “Autumn Centre Caring Environment” and why we continue to attract new members.

### **Staffing Structure**

1 x Manager / Level 5 Health & Social Care / Leadership & Management  
1x Deputy Manager / Level 3 Health & Social Care  
4 x Health Care Assistants / All Level 3 Health & Social Care  
2 x Catering Staff  
1 x Caretaker Cleaner post / (post delivered with 2 part time staff)

### **Volunteers & Members.**

Our staff are supported in a big way by our band of dedicated volunteers who help us to deliver a higher quality of service as they have brought and gained so many skills to ensure all our members are looked after in our “Family Environment” and every one is cared for, respected and also given the opportunity to become part of the team. Staff and volunteers ensure that many of the local events around the town are attended by our team to promote and raise awareness of a wonderful local charity on people’s doorsteps.



### **Proposed new staff posts in future years.**

- Intergenerational Officer
- Additional Health Care Assistants
- Coordinator for Business Development/Income generation
- Site Supervisor (depending on increased hours of opening)
- Admin Support

We can also boast a variety of related qualifications within the “Team” such as First Aid, Fire Wardens, OTAGO, Assistant Yoga Teacher, Mental Health Well-Being Co-ordinator, Activities Co-ordinator - keep fit and stay active.

### **Training for Staff / Volunteers, Students & Trustees**

We invest heavily in our staff training to ensure compliance and continual development. To this end we have substantially increased our training budget to ensure funding is always available to top up training requirements. This has also resulted in the purchase and training of staff for the Charity Log system.

Utilising a training matrix with over 70 site specific courses for staff, trustees and volunteers, this includes dementia awareness which is proving invaluable.

The training is coupled with regular individual supervision sessions between staff and our Manager to ensure any issues are addressed early. It is very important to us that all the staff and volunteers enjoy coming to work. To this end we also updated the Employee's Handbook with all terms / conditions produced by both staff and trustees along with all our policies and procedures.

We also work closely with the local college to allow students studying Health and Social Care to take up work placements at the centre to allow them hands-on experience. We can boast that one of the students worked with us for over a year gaining qualifications and being able to move on to a new post with another organisation.

### **Potted History (2002 - 2025)**

The town used to boast three day centres from 1970's / 80's & 90's (Central Day Centre, Arran Way Day Centre and Darley Dale Day Centre) but all three were merged in 2002 into what we have today “The Autumn Centre”, as it was proving difficult to sustain three centres in one town, and all three were funded by Northamptonshire County Council and Corby Borough Council (now merged into North Northants Council) .

With the merger of the three facilities it greatly reduced the funding needed from the two councils and has saved the authorities many, many hundreds of thousands of pounds over the past 23 years with better facilities and services all under one roof.

The building is owned by NNC and it had for many years agreed to retain landlord's responsibility but the lease is up for renewal (expires August 2025).

After negotiations NNC have agreed to offer us a new 25 year lease under current terms and conditions, for the first two years after we have signed the new lease. After the first two years of the new lease the charity will become responsible for more accountability of internal facilities such as sanitary ware, flooring, lighting and boilers etc.

### **Covid 19 Staying Vigilant**

Staff are very aware that Covid has greatly reduced but also aware it has not fully left us. A number of the local community are still contracting the disease but thankfully the Covid Jabs have reduced the number and severity of people still contracting it. We will continue with various implemented practices and remain vigilant as most of our members will remain in the high risk bracket.

We were unable to hold an AGM in 2020 or 2021 owing to Covid 19 but thankfully we have held AGM's in 2022 / 2023 / 2024 and our most recent in March 2025.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Charity is very focused on its objective to improve the quality of life for our seniors in Corby and across the North of the County . We also have some younger members of the community either living with dementia or a variety of disabilities or life long illnesses. We have many members living with a variety of health conditions including:

- Members living with early and mid stages of diagnosed dementia
- Wheelchair bound or unable to walk unaided
- Mental Health
- Heart Disease
- Non Communicative
- Diabetes
- Heart Conditions
- Visually Impaired
- Learning Conditions
- Asthmatic

To this end the charity provides a host of activities as agreed / requested by the users to improve health / mobility / fighting loneliness / isolation / reducing the impact of dementia on individuals and their families and staying fitter longer giving many the chance to retain home independence

The activities of the centre are always aligned with key outcomes required by Public Health / NNC through the Well Being Programme for vulnerable adults.

We have been inspected by officers from North Northants Council and our service comfortably met their high bar criteria for quality of services. This has given the team a real boost and is a very encouraging message going forward.

We are the only Day Care Centre in Corby, freely accessible, operating 5 days a week Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. offering a variety of services / activities including:

### **Special Events**

Christmas Parties, Burns Suppers, Halloween Fun, New Year Celebrations, St Patrick's Day, St Andrews Day, Summer Inclusive Programme, Race Days (on the big screen), Easter Celebrations, Indian Food Experience,

### **Tribute Acts/Other Entertainers**

Stage Entertainers bring a fantastic feeling to our members and we include various tribute acts such as Elvis and Neil Diamond, Jersey Boy and have groups such as Andante and the Wanderers, who have a wide repertoire entertaining the members at many special events, and DJ John Headley. The members love these events as they bring back wonderful memories to the members and with many having a really good sing along.

### **Activities**

Floor projector interactive play, Virtual Reality Headsets, personalised individual playlists along with OTAGO in falls prevention plus Get up and Go, seated dance, aerobics, yoga, exercise sessions, smoking cessation, weigh-ins, along with many other health initiatives. Musical

We have our very own "Body Rockers" who love doing all the exercises and have their own motif tee shirts.

We have Virtual Reality Headsets to allow our members to visit the world, go on walks while still at the centre, all through embracing modern technology.

Pet therapy, TV & Films, darts, quizzes, table top ping pong ( brilliant for stimulating the brain), board games, arts & crafts, bingo, Ukulele band.

Food-market, members can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for a small donation.

We previously purchased a floor projector that the members can interact with such as walking through meadows, resting their feet in a stream with electronic fish swimming in and out, making it a living experience, plus a host of other activities all projected on the floor for many members to enjoy all at the same time. This has proven to be an excellent provision for members.

As an organisation we encourage new ideas from within the membership and where new requests are made we try hard to deliver new and exciting activities. As can be seen from above there is normally a wide list of activities and this is expanding year on year. This programme of events suffered badly during the pandemic but we have bounced back stronger and fitter than ever before.

Visits by local dignitaries, sponsors, local and NNC councillors, health representatives, local schools and prospective clients are regular attendees to the centre.

### **Intergenerational Officer (One for the Future).**

The Trustees of the Autumn Centre have never lost sight of the fact that we are not just a Day Care Centre but have the desire to become a “Community Hub”. To this end we have a long-term objective to promote interaction between our older community and the younger community bringing them together to explore common ground where all members of the local community can benefit and enjoy the centre for interactive opportunities.

Outside the centre we have a Multi Activity Games Area (MUGA) that could be utilised to organise joint and mixed activities across the age spectrum. This could include different activities being led by different age groups but linked to something for all.

To achieve this ambitious proposal we would love to create a future post of an Intergenerational Worker whose role would be to explore, create and deliver an interactive development programme for all the members of the community regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, race or religion.

Over recent years we have seen the demise of youth provision and it is with this in mind we want to reach out and welcome the younger generation to feel the centre has something for them and they also can have the feeling of ownership with respect for the centre, their peers and all different generations in a positive, rewarding, and inclusive programme. Much of the future programme could operate outside the hours of our current daily service provision.

### **Financial Pressures (Our biggest threat!)**

All charities face continual financial challenges and as already mentioned earlier in the report regarding the huge reduction of our annual grant and our lease expiring in 2025 we will face even greater pressures as a result of this.

With the government increasing the National Minimum Wage from April 2024 and then again in April 2025 and NI Contributions, we as a caring charity always pay our junior members of staff the enhanced living wage, adding a considerable increase in our salaries budget. We also had to bring in a temporary member of staff to cover the absence of a health worker owing to an operation and recovery time.

This among other costs has forced all staff, trustees and members to be even more proactive in fundraising, sponsored activities, grant applications, chasing donations, and of course our structured income streams from our users in Tiers 1, 2 & 3 service provision.

An improved training budget agreed to pursue accreditation for the Charity to become recognised as a “Centre of Excellence”

Plus all the other related increases in utilities, various contracts, food stuffs etc are all rising pressures and many charities have gone under and this is something we are working tirelessly to avoid.

### **Restricted Funding (£55K +£5K + £2K +£25K =£87K) Specific Projects.**

We have recently set aside some Restricted Funding as we have been very successful in bringing in new monies either through grant applications or donations. These are of course to be used for specific elements of our future plans and often in compliance with specific grant applications compliance / donation requirements.

We were given a donation of **£55K** and it is presently restricted after consultation with the Executors of Jeff Ward’s will to be utilised for the benefit of the Dementia Suite and its users. A fitting tribute to Jeff.

Within the restricted funds we also have **£7K** towards Grow/Cook/Eat projects. This year we were also awarded a **£25K** grant towards new furniture, which will be utilised within the Dementia Suite upgrade and across the rest of the Centre. We have put all the above on hold to ensure maximum opportunity with the recent announcement from Public Health for a large Capital Grant to make improvements to the building.

## **Sustainability for the Future**

### **Delivery of our 3 Tier Daily Experience**

April 2021 was the start of the implementation of our “Going Forward “ strategy with the implementation of our new “ **3 Tier Daily Experience**” pricing structure. In the past pre Covid and being paid for delivering 3 x Public Health Contracts (Value £54K per annum) which ceased in March 2021, we had to restructure our complete service delivery to give the charity any chance of survival in the coming

years (which thankfully so far we have managed to do) as we are still looking to go forward after that huge financial blow four years ago and more recently the cut this year of £28,200 from NNC. This has resulted in us having to dive deeply into our reserves and utilise £19k.

Our “**3 Tier Daily Experience**” pricing structure included for all tiers:

- Three Course Meal (including specific dietary requirements).
- All beverages
- Health Exercises, Wellness Checks, OTAGO, YOGA Singalongs/Quizzes / Arts & Crafts, Table Top Games plus others.
- Support from staff with showering, meals, hydration, toileting, barber services, shaving, manicures, weighing / blood pressure checks,
- Opportunity to meet new people and forge new friendships.
- A comfortable, warm, safe welcoming environment.
- If any member is unable to attend through ill health a freshly cooked meal can be delivered to their home.

Tiers 2 & 3 include more personal care with various functions such as assisting members with toileting, showering and meals, often One to One interaction and **Tier 3** being for members living with Dementia. The pricing structure (April 2024-March 2025) reflects this being as below:

### **3 TIER DAILY EXPERIENCE**

**Tier 1** = £12.00 with increase to £13.00 from April 2025 ( more able bodied)

**Tier 2** = £35.00 with increase to £40.00 from April 2025 ( early diagnosis of dementia, additional care required)

**Tier 3** = £55.00 with increase to £60.00 from April 2025 ( members living with dementia / continual additional care )

For all financial information please refer to our examined accounts (Appendix I).

As pointed out above we will have to increase our prices substantially from April 2025 and all the members / their families are on board and understand the reasons for the increase and our quest for financial sustainability. This has become essential for our very existence especially with the cut from April 2024 in our usual local authority annual grant.

The **Daily Experience** has proven to be of significant importance in various degrees to our many members and their families. In some instances it has given an element of life back to certain family members as all know their loved ones are in good hands and are treated as part of “**Our Family**” but with high levels of professional support / care linked to their individual needs.

All our meals are freshly cooked daily on site by our own in-house catering team with individual requirements and needs built into any care / support packages. We also have the facilities to ensure any member not wishing to eat all three courses at lunch time, the courses not eaten, can be taken home, packed up in catering packaging to keep fresh, for eating later.

Many of Tier 2 & Tier 3 are referred through Adult Social Services with some Tier 1 also being referred but most Tier 1 are here because they choose to be as it supports their quest of staying healthy longer, retaining independence and meeting new friends. Also some Tier 2 & 3 are from private sources with their families paying us directly.

We are currently averaging 124 visits per week by members with the following in each tier, Tier 1 = 67, Tier 2 = 36 & Tier 3 = 21 with a total number of visits of 6,167.

Our overall membership is currently 130 members.

It is important to note our delivery of front line services brought in £50K per annum up until March 2021 and since relaunching our new business model because of losing PH contract funding our front line service delivery Tiers 1/2/3 we have brought in over £167,500 to the end of March 2025 and have projected an income for next year of £182,500 by March 2026.

To run the Autumn Centre over the next 12 months will be in the region of £250,000.00 ( yes a quarter of a million £££££'s) so we have an awful lot of services to deliver over the next 12 months to give us any hope of becoming financially sustainable and linking to our grants strategy and other income generating ideas.

We are continually looking to expand our membership for future sustainability but if the trend was in the other direction it would severely put the charity at risk of failing and therefore closure. The efforts by all the staff, members, volunteers and trustees are committed to ensure that never happens.

## **Working Groups**

We have 5 working groups as follows:

- 1. Carers & Volunteering**
- 2. Fundraising Initiatives / Events and Grant Strategy.**
- 3. Marketing, Promotion & Website**
- 4. Five Year Business Plan**
- 5. Orchard Project Steering Group**

All of these groups have been playing an instrumental role in bringing another element of sustainability to the Autumn Centre Corby through their targeted efforts in their field of expertise.

This has recently seen the fifth working group being created, the Orchard Project Steering Group.

### **1. Carer / Volunteering**

The Carer Working Group includes Trustees, Staff, supportive friends & family members who have a vested interest in ensuring our loved ones' needs are indeed met. The level of care is an ongoing development for us but the staff, trustees, volunteers, general members and now family members have all embraced this development with open arms. This group has allowed us to link in more volunteers.

We have some excellent volunteers and counting the trustees input and other volunteers this gives us an additional level of support, if we had to pay for the volunteers time it would add over £55K to the existing salary costs. This voluntary

contribution is priceless for our well being as a charity and it humbles us at their dedication for supporting our charity.

## **2. Fundraising Initiatives / Events & Grant Strategy**

Members of this group will concentrate on income generating activities / events such as the Trustees 20 Kilometer sponsored walk, fun days, our Managers sponsored swim, A Day at the Races, raffles, The group has some very experienced members in this field and is reaping dividends as we go forward. We had set aside £1,800 in the 24/25 financial year to utilise a professional bid writer to submit grants on our behalf, this brought in £25,000 and still awaiting other grant bids being processed.

## **3. Marketing / Promotion & Website**

This group has already played a major role in: the production of leaflets & posters, designing an advert on Corby Radio, adverts in various circulars such as The Corby Trader, NHS Newsletter, in house quarterly bulletin/ videos on tik tok and facebook and continues to shape our website. This has been a real bonus getting our message out and is bringing in new members and volunteers on a regular basis as well as utilising the space in the local Corby Library. This also allows future members and their families to check the service provision, even before they set foot inside the centre. It helps current members' families to track our development and new activities / health initiatives as they are added to keep our service delivery fresh and specifically aimed at our members for their continued well being.

To promote the centre the staff wear branded uniforms. This allows us to fly our own flag at various health initiatives and community events held around the county.

## **4. Evolving 5 Year Business Plan.**

This Working Group and will use the last 4 years trading figures since the introduction of the **3 Tier Daily Experience** to produce a Business Plan that will shape our service delivery well into the future and seek the best roadway to follow to achieve the long term objective of inhouse sustainability.

We will be looking at:

- Where we came from                      Pre 2002 - 2019
- The Pandemic & coming out of it      2019 - 2022
- Where we are now                              2025
- Where we want/need to be              2026 - 2030

We will use our 23 years of operational experience, the pandemic, our service delivery plan and North Northants Corporate Plan, Public Health Aims and Objectives and of course our members' needs and aspirations to strive for our ambition of being financially sustainable, by providing a service aimed at the senior community with a variety of health issues made even more difficult with NNC cut to annual grant.



Currently we are providing a much needed service for the senior community offering support to many to live a healthier life and at the same time providing a complimentary service to cater for many seniors (and some younger members) already living with a variety of health issues including dementia.

### **Please Note**

The medium/long term business plan will change over the coming months as we are in the process of exploring the Autumn Centre Corby becoming a Centre of Excellence. We are currently working alongside Public Health, NNC and Northampton University (please see below).

### **5. Orchard Project Steering Group**

The project steering group, consisting of representatives from each organisation: Professor Jacqueline Parkes, University of Northampton, Assistant Director of Public Health, Shirley Plenderleith, Public Health, Capital Programme Manager, Denise York, North Northamptonshire Council, Claire Davies PhD student, four Trustees and the Centre Manager. Professor Parkes will be leading the research project into the slowing down of early onset dementia, through delivery of a pilot project at the Autumn Centre. Public Health, NNC have allocated £199,000.00 to upgrade and redesign the Autumn Centre to accommodate this pilot. This is an addition to current services and not a replacement. Over the last 6 months the project has been outlining the processes with the Autumn Centre and plans have been drawn up to upgrade the building, ensuring that we all agree the way forward.to

### **Transport (Local Provider) & Escort Service (in-house staff).**

We provide an excellent transport service/escort service and we strive to make the service self-sufficient, but this is proving difficult owing to the current financial processes in place with NNC Adult Social Services. From April 2025 we will be included in the NNC automatic uplift regarding referred placements, this is a financial bonus to us.

### **Notable Achievements**

We have achieved on so many other fronts as well as the above including:

- We were nominated and short-listed for a Spirit of Corby Award, again this year, however we were unsuccessful but received great plaudits on the night.
- In recent years we have faced a new challenge of mini heatwaves and now have processes in place, such as providing cooling fans, ice lolly hydration stations, more ventilation, cold and iced water plus cooling towels to minimise any chance of our vulnerable users feeling unwell from the heat. Thankfully all our additional measures proved effective and our

members and their families are very grateful for our awareness and implementation of an action plan. If needed again this summer we can immediately roll out the safety measures as we remain on high alert for any forecasts of any sustained heatwaves.

- We have also recently had to deal with flooding in the area where many roads were closed and the Centre was inaccessible.
- To qualify for NNC grant funding we had very short notice (about 10 days) in March 2024 to form a collaborative with 4 other partners or we would not have been able to submit a bid. This we managed to achieve and it was an amazing amount of work by ourselves and the other 4 members of the new “Older People's Collaborative” across the whole of North Northamptonshire. This proved how professional the “Voluntary / Charitable Sector” is and how working together we can often deliver, even within a very unfavourable timeframe.
- New plants are annually purchased and planted in the courtyard to complement the outside seating area which is furnished with bistro tables, chairs and picnic tables and used by members during the nice weather. This area is lovingly tended by one of our amazing volunteers.
- Continued development of the “Friends of The Autumn Centre” group, This is a group of individuals with special skills we can call upon as and when required to support the trustees & members. This will be invaluable when we build the two new garden areas for the Grow, Cook and eat projects once the boundary line has been extended. This will also allow the relaunch of the “Digging with Dementia Group”.
- Full Houses again for Members Christmas Dinners staged over a couple of days during Dec 2024 which was attended by our local mayor and representatives from Public Health, NNC and some of our sponsors.
- The previously fitted eco friendly wall heaters in the Dementia Suite continue to make it very snug even in the very cold weather.
- Pauley's continues to offer returned but edible fruit and vegetables free of charge to be collected once a week. We use as much as we can for the week's menus and offer the rest to members for a small voluntary contribution.
- Continuing to utilise a permanent promotion space in Corby Library in the Health & Well-Being area and also on their Facebook page.
- Continued to build on the close working relationship on a number of projects with our local infant / junior schools and technical college
- Demand for the snug / quiet room continues to grow for assessments, consultations, family waiting area, staff meetings, trustees monthly meetings, meeting potential sponsors / volunteers, Yoga, staff interviews, 1 to 1's and Orchard Project Steering Group meetings. This has proven incredibly successful for our “Personal Service” requirements.
- Continuing to work with various agencies including Adult Social Care Commissioning Team, Social Prescribers, Public Health, GP Surgeries, Mental Health Team and SALT Team.
- All trustees DBS Checked
- We are working closely with a number of organisations that allow members of their staff to attend and assist the staff and volunteers within

the Autumn Centre as part of a business community project. This has proven very successful and the volunteers are appreciated, not only by the staff but wholeheartedly by our members.

- Corby Lions made a financial donation to our Charity this year (£500) and also purchased a new wheelchair for us for the benefit of our less mobile members.

## **Donations / Grants / Fundraising**

We are very dependent on a variety of income streams other than our charges for front line daily service provision. To that end we are so grateful to organisations, individuals and grant making funders for the following as without this combined support we would not be able to deliver what we do on a daily basis.

### **Donations**

- £3,000.00 1:1 Diet Weight Plan
- £500 Rolls Royce
- £500 Corby Lions

### **Grants**

- £3,000.00 Members Empowerment Fund
- £8,800.00 North Northamptonshire Council (Service provision)
- £25,000.00 Post Code Lottery (equipment & furnishings)

### **Fundraising**

- £1,065 Managers Swim
- £1,465 Guernsey 39 mile Coastal footpath walk
- £745.00 Santa's 20 Kilometre Walk
- £500 Race Night
- £50.00 Trustee (ST) Knitted Items
- £765.00 Winter Baubles
- £58.00 Bric a Brac stall
- £87.00 Staff / Starbucks quiz night
- £1,500.00 ?????????? (**update fig.**)

Also our own members with the following Raffles, Auctions, 59ers, bingo balls, fruit & veg donations

## **Future Plans & Hopes**

The centre will continue to develop services in line with the ever increasing demands on our more senior members of the community fighting: social isolation, ill health, reduced mobility, onset of dementia, mental health, vulnerability to falls, various disabilities, hospitalisation and personal grief.

As a charity we are totally committed to continue to grow in spite of ever increasing financial pressures from loss of contracts, increased inflation especially food and energy bills, cuts in grant aid and ever reducing funding streams.

We all accept the ageing population is growing and therefore the need for facilities such as ours are in greater demand than ever before. Hence the need for writing a 5 Year Business plan to guide us into the future setting ourselves realistic and achievable targets.

Failure to create a sustainable service is not in the minds of any members, staff or trustees as we are united for the benefit of the Senior Community including many of the most vulnerable.

As mentioned elsewhere in the report we are in current talks with Public Health and Northampton University to explore the possibility of developing the Autumn Daycare Centre Corby into a Centre of Excellence. This will be accompanied by a large Capital Funding Injection and coupled to our own Restricted Funding this could see major improvements to the facility.

Through increased levels of income aligned to increased pricing for services, fundraising, donations, sponsorship and external grant applications we will continue to shape the "Care Team" to complement and grow the service. If we fail to do this and attempt to stand still we will implode and fail our client / member base and the families of those often in desperate need of such a service.

- Owing to the brutal cut in NNC grant funding this year from £37K to just £8,800 we will need to utilise our reserve, drawing down approximately £19K, a huge blow to any charity trying hard to become financially stable.
- This seems incredibly shortsighted as in 2023/24, when we received £37K we made a profit in the region of £10K. As can be seen from our accounts (appendix 1) we no longer have the confidence we felt only 12 months ago.
- We will continue building good working relationships with Public Health, where together we can identify and meet common needs.
- To create an Arts Programme to design murals / photographs on parts of the building to celebrate our members and local heroes.
- Continue to undertake annual reviews of all our policies and procedures to ensure best practice and continual improvement

## **DESIRED FUTURE CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

### **(All on hold awaiting outcome of Orchard Project re-shaping the programme)**

As a charity we have had a Capital Programme item on our monthly Agenda for the past 3 years and trustees / staff and members have agreed to pursue the following over coming years.

#### **Dementia Suite**

- We have wanted to extend the footprint of the Dementia Suite by pushing the toilets back to create 3 new DDA compliant toilet facilities.
- Taking out the west facing window and installing french doors into a safe garden area where members can sit and relax. This could alternatively accommodate a small conservatory to allow all year round access.
- Extend the east wall in the dementia suite to incorporate existing storage rooms into being an integral part of the footprint to allow us to invite more members to utilise the suite.
- Create a new garden / outside area on the east boundary to allow a host of activities to be enjoyed and to implement the Grow, Cook and Eat project with funding (£2K) from the David Cock Foundation. This will include the relaunch of the “Digging for Dementia Group”.

#### **Memory Cafe / Extending West Boundary Fence Line.**

- This will allow us to create a garden/fitness area and alfresco dining area,
- To extend the current boundary fence line to create an additional 80 sq metres. This will allow us to deliver the Grow, Cook and Eat project with funding received from Groundwork.

#### **Reception Area**

- To upgrade the existing toilets and create 3 x new DDA compliant toilets giving more room in the reception area.
- To install a doorway into the external area and build a new reception office to allow all visitors to be greeted on arrival at the centre.

#### **More Recently to Build a Multifunctional Activity Hall in the CourtYard**

- This was originally to be paid for by the legacy from Jeff Ward’s will with match funding from a previously proposed capital grant application. The executors have agreed that the £55K allocated can be used in the re-development of the Dementia Suite and we will ensure that Jeff’s legacy will be recognised within this capital project.
- We may still wish to build the small hall as previously outlined but again this may be one of our future aspirations.

### **Long Term Mezzanine Floor**

- To create a mezzanine floor in the space above the false ceiling in the main hall. This has been a long term plan and may be further down the line but it will one day allow us to provide a host of additional services. As a lift will be required this has to date made this financially unachievable.

### **Desired Capital for Future Consideration**

- Creating a new improved personal care facility with a hoist, shower and possible step in the bath.
- Staff room for changing, washing etc
- Admin / business development office.
- Storage will always be needed and as we develop a capital programme storage will need building in / reviewing.

### **Financial Transparency**

Lee McCormick leads the team and has been an excellent Manager since taking up the role nearly 8 years ago. We are all very much indebted to her and her excellent team of staff and volunteers.

Lee has developed a close working relationship with an officer from CVS Northampton (Brenda Peers Ross) and produces monthly spreadsheets which are copied to our main funders and trustees.

This is complemented with monthly updates by the Treasurer at Trustees meetings on current balance, current income / expenditure plus projected income / expenditure to the end of the current financial year. This ensures transparency and financial dealings are scrutinised at a number of levels by all the trustees.

Unfortunately CVS Northampton ceased to operate from June 2024 owing to a number of financial pressures, a very sad day for the Voluntary sector.

With the cessation of CVS Northampton we have made alternative arrangements regarding our annual accounts and pay-roll services. Our independent examiner this year will be Brenda Peers-Ross.

### **Reserves Policy**

An amount of approximately 6 months operational costs are normally kept in reserve along with a small committed capital fund for future development of the Centre (to act as match funding for future capital grant applications) as secured funding, if ever a Termination Strategy had to be implemented. We need to ensure we can meet our legal obligations towards our hard working and valued staff plus any outstanding bills / contracted services.

The reserve can also be utilised, if for any reason, existing funding sources are late in processing either grants or contractual payments for the wide-ranging care / activity programme currently in place.

**Benefit with Testimonials** As can be seen from the report the Charity of the Autumn Centre meets a growing need for the senior community and various younger individuals living with various disabilities and needs in Corby and beyond. Without the Autumn Daycare Centre many believe many of the senior community living with a wide range of health issues lives would be much poorer than they are at present.

### **Testimonial 1 : My Mother Janet**

The facility of the Autumn Centre in Corby has and continues to be a lifeline for my family. My mother Janet is a regular at the centre, attends every day for 4 hours and really enjoys her time there.

Dementia is a very hard disease to come to terms with, mum has had this for over 8 years now and as a family we struggled to get our heads around this. Mum has attended the centre for 4 years and the stimulation she receives from the support team at the centre is paramount to her quality of life.

My dad is my mum's full-time carer and without the Autumn Centre would be in a much darker place. It gives him the respite he needs to recharge his battery each day. My dad is able to attend the clubs he is a member of and socialise with other friends as therapy, as it can be very lonely otherwise.

Mum definitely benefits from all that happens at the Autumn Centre, we can really see a difference in mum's awareness of everything around her, after she attends the centre.

The team at the Autumn Centre work hard and know how to interact with mum on a daily basis and this is very visible. This service is vital to anyone who has family members with dementia or requires any support in this field.

The family of Janet Jeffery

## **Testimonial 2 : Katie's Grandad (Keith)**

Our family cannot express enough gratitude for the incredible care and support our Grandad received at The Autumn Centre during the last few months of his life. Before attending the centre, he was often confused and spent much of his time sleeping, but everything changed once he started going twice a week. He became a different person - more lively, engaged, and full of stories. It was truly heartwarming to see him so excited to go, often getting ready early and eagerly awaiting his time there.

The activities at the centre brought him so much joy, and he would always talk about the delicious meals with such enthusiasm. The staff's dedication and kindness gave him a new lease on life, and for that, we will be forever grateful.

The morning before he became gravely ill, he attended the centre, and knowing that these were his last pain-free and happy hours spent in a place he loved brings immense comfort to our family. The Autumn Centre gave our Grandad a sense of purpose and happiness in his final days, and we cannot thank them enough for that.

We also treasure the photos and videos from the social media updates that the centre posts. These glimpses into his joyful moments at the centre have become precious memories that we will hold onto forever.

To anyone considering care options for their loved one, we wholeheartedly recommend The Autumn Centre. The compassion, professionalism, and warmth of the staff made all the difference in our Grandad's life and in ours. They truly provide a second home filled with love and understanding, and we will always cherish the memories they helped create for him and for us.

Katie Varden (Granddaughter)



### **Testimonial 3 : What an amazing place! (April 2023)**

What an amazing place the Autumn Centre is! My mum and dad Jean and Mike love coming twice a week. It has improved mum's confidence so much and they love talking to their new found friends. They even try to schedule all their appointments around their Autumn Centre days - so they don't miss out. Their 3 course lunch always sounds delicious. Mum and dad love the chair exercises, the musical bingo, playing dominoes, quizzes, bingo games and so much more. The staff and volunteers are so caring and supportive, making the centre have a real family feel. My dad was dancing at the Christmas Party now he is in his 80's. I highly recommend the Autumn Centre.

Sarah (Jean and Mike's daughter)

### **Testimonial 4: Tribute to my father**

When my Mum passed away six years ago one of my biggest concerns was my father being lonely with close family not living in the same county. I wanted to find somewhere for my dad to be able to socialise with people of the same age. I can truly say the Autumn Centre was the answer to mine and my father's prayers.

Not only does it provide five days a week of fabulous homemade three course lunches, fantastic activities along with transport to and from the centre.

Karen McGee - (daughter of William Fincham)

**Our heartfelt thanks once again go out to a large number of groups, individuals and organisations:**

- Transport Company (in fill with current provider)
- Corby Lions
- Rolls Roycs
- 1:1 Diet Plan
- North Northamptonshire Councillors Empowerment Fund
- W Pauley
- Friends of Corby Woodland Project
- RS Components
- North Northants Council
- Brenda-Peers Ross - Independent Examiner
- Vicky Bell - Professional Grants Advisor
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation ???
- Co-op ??
- Corby Library Services
- Growing Community Award Scheme (David Cock Foundation)
- The Executors for the Will of Jeff Ward (Lesley & Caroline)
- Groundwork (Grow, Cook & Eat Project).
- Starbucks Corby
- And of course our very own Staff, Volunteers, Members and Well-wishers.
- Older People's Collaborative.
- The Orchard Project Steering Group
- Eternity Funerals
- Andante, The Wanderers, John Headley, Adam Whitmee (Jersey Boy), Ukulele Band, Elvis and various tribute artists.
- Laban Dance Training Group

**Thank you all**

## **Trustees Responsibilities**

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993.
- 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 report was produced by our Company Secretary and presented to the trustees for adoption on 26th August 2025.

Peter Floody MBE.....

Company Secretary.....Date: Tuesday 26th August 2025

Jonathan Sheldon.....

Chair.....Date Tuesday 26th August 2025

## Tab 2

