

# Annual summary 2020 – 2021



## Our Vision

People with learning disabilities are able to achieve greater independence, lead fulfilled lives and live as full citizens in society.

## Showing resilience in adversity

**This year saw significant trials for the world at large, and Minstead Trust was not spared.**

Yet in the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic, we found considerable light. The pausing of certain services and closure of our social enterprises was countered by the extraordinary assistance of our community of generous supporters, the flexibility and talent of our volunteers, the resilience and ingenuity of our staff, and the adaptability of the people we support.

This snapshot report serves as a record of the trials of the year and a celebration of its successes.

The optimism we have for the future exists as a consequence of the hard work and support you will read about here, and we would like to thank each and every person who played a part in bringing us to this position.

Thank you.

**Elizabeth Selby**, Chair

**Adam Dodd**, Chief Executive

## At a glance

224

People supported monthly

130

Staff members

122

Volunteers

9

Supported living houses

2

Day opportunity services

1

Residential home

3

Social enterprises



# Highlights of 2020-2021

Lying behind these statistics are the thousands of hours of committed and passionate work of our care teams. As the world changed and we all faced the fear of the unknown, care workers made huge sacrifices to support some of the most vulnerable people in society. These startling numbers are testament to their commitment and we are truly grateful.

More than

**150**  
online



day opportunities  
sessions in  
lockdown

**110**



people attending  
day opportunities

Over

**3,000**

volunteer  
hours



**1,221** hours

of weekly support  
for people living in  
their own homes



**445** hours

of support weekly  
for nine people in  
residential

## Simon

### Supported through singing

**Simon is part of our online choir, who meet regularly on Zoom to sing and support each other.**

'I like singing, we join on Zoom and I remember singing 'I Wore My Coat' from Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat. Me and my friend Philip have seen that at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton.

'Singing makes me feel happy, which helps me. Lockdown was hard because we had to stay indoors and couldn't go out – it was harder to find things to do. I missed dancing at Minstead Trust which helps me keep fit and I also miss working in the kitchens at Minstead Lodge.

'During lockdown our support worker would come and see us which made me feel safe. I also joined Zoom sessions like the Friday afternoon quiz, but singing is my favourite thing.'



'Singing  
makes me feel  
happy, which  
helps me.'





# Furzey Gardens

## Providing a sanctuary

This was a difficult year for our social enterprises, as Hanger Farm Arts Centre and Minstead Lodge wedding and event venue were mostly closed.

However, amongst such difficulty Furzey Gardens was a beacon of hope and a sanctuary for many.

The gardens were permitted to reopen in June 2020 and stayed open through ensuing lockdowns to offer fresh air, exercise and peace to visitors.

Throughout it all, staff, volunteers and the learning disability work team continued to work incredibly hard maintaining the gardens and serving visitors. Their commitment was one of the highlights of a difficult year.

## Alison Steele A fresh start at Furzey

'I've been volunteering as a 'meet and greet' volunteer at Furzey Gardens for four years. During lockdown it felt so strange not to be heading across the New Forest every Monday. I really missed meeting up with the other garden volunteers and students and staff. It was particularly frustrating not to be able to share the spectacular spring flowers with visitors in 2020 for what is usually one of our busiest seasons.



'When we were able to open the gardens again in June it was extra special as all our visitors were so delighted to be out and about again, especially those who had been shielding and I was happy to welcome them and share their joy. It was great to catch up with the other volunteers too.

'Volunteering at Furzey helped me regain my self-confidence and enthusiasm after losing my husband. The friends I have made here have been wonderfully supportive and I find a Monday spent welcoming visitors to this beautiful place lifts my spirits and sets me up for the rest of the week.'

Over  
**25,000**  
visitors



**200**

days  
open to  
visitors

Over  
**£120,000**  
in entrance donations



Over **20**  
people  
supported  
to work and  
volunteer

Over  
**5,400**  
plants sold





## Major achievements in a difficult year

We completed a substantial refurbishment project thanks to generous grant funding – opening our newest and largest supported living property, Elingfield House, in summer 2020. It consists of five studio flats, a two-bedroom flat and communal spaces for seven people.

Hanger Farm Community Theatre for people with learning disabilities and members of the general public was unable to run during the pandemic. Despite this, the drama facilitators played a role in

providing video sessions during the first lockdown as part of our day opportunities online initiative.

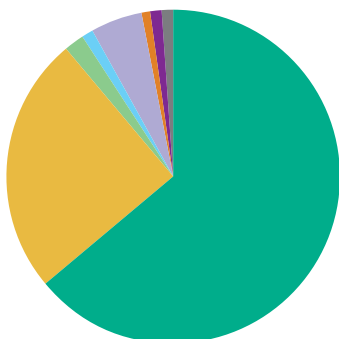
Towards the end of this year, we received funding to enable our Step up for Work scheme to expand to Portsmouth thanks to Solent Supporting Employment Programme. The programme is part-funded by the European Social Fund. This will allow workshops to begin for people in Portsmouth looking to work towards employment.

## Making every penny count

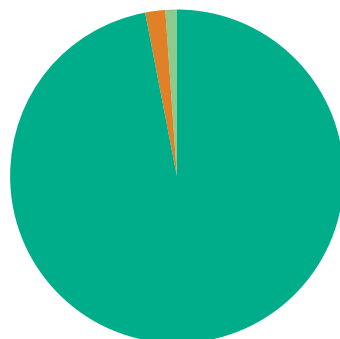
The consolidated accounts show a surplus of £965k compared to a surplus of £414k in 2019-20.

As a result, we have built back unrestricted reserves, which were severely depleted in the first half of the year, to £1,200k. This is below our ultimate target but in line with our projection for the year and is on track to meet the trustee's target of achieving six months of operating expenditure in a three year period.

### Income £4,581K



### Expenditure £3,737K



#### Income

- Fees and contributions **64%**
- Donations and legacies (excluding Furzey Gardens) **25%**
- Furzey Gardens entrance donations **2%**
- Hanger Farm Arts Centre trading **1%**
- Property income **5%**
- Furzey Gardens trading **1%**
- Hospitality Trading **1%**
- Plants and crafts trading **1%**

#### Expenditure

- Charitable activities **97%**
- Furzey Gardens trading **2%**
- Raising funds **1%**

## Thanks to funders

We were extremely fortunate to receive overwhelming support in response to our emergency and capital campaigns from individual donors, companies, other charities and grant-giving bodies.

These included The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, The Coronavirus Community Support Fund, administered by The National Lottery Community Fund, The Theatres Trust and The Monday Charitable Trust.

It is no exaggeration to say that there are elements of the Trust which have survived and will be able to thrive again as a direct result of this support.

Please support us: [www.minsteadtrust.org.uk/donate](http://www.minsteadtrust.org.uk/donate)