Policy & Procedures

Reserves and Investment

1. Introduction

The responsibility for ensuring this policy is implemented rests ultimately with the Board of Directors. However, members of staff are responsible for the implementation of the policy and monitoring it on a day-to-day basis and reporting on its operation to the Board.

2. Reserves

The Directors are mindful of the need to retain general unrestricted funds whenever possible. Reserves will be available for future unexpected needs, such as meeting unfunded project overspends, or to pursue an opportunity in line with the organisation's mission. Although this is not an immediate risk, reserves also protect employees from risk should the organisation cease trading and to allow us to fulfil our redundancy obligations.

Our free reserves in 2024/5 represent approximately 4% of our core expenditure (salaries and overheads). CHWA's aim is to reach a level of free, unrestricted reserves of or around 10% of our core expenditure.

3. Investment

Any funds that are surplus to the immediate needs of the organisation are currently held in our Business Account with the Cooperative Bank. The Bank was chosen in line with our Procurement Policy to ensure we are investing ethically.

Any future investment will be governed by the following ethical framework, which echoes our fundraising and procurement policies:

- The organisations invested in do not act in conflict with CHWA's values
- The Executive Director and Board of Directors are satisfied that no adverse publicity will result from accepting such support

Avoidance Criteria

CHWA will not invest in companies directly involved in activities that run contrary to its overall charitable objectives, vision or charitable aims. In particular it will not invest in organisations involved with any of the following activities: Animal testing; genetic engineering; human rights abuses; intensive farming; manufacture of environmentally hazardous products or chemicals; military contracts; fossil fuel industries including mining; nuclear power; low-and-middle-income countries' debt and/or marketing; the manufacture of tobacco; water pollution; and food industries involved with products known to be damaging to health, including alcohol, high-sugar and highly processed foods or drinks.

Acceptance Criteria

When deciding whether to invest, the Executive Director and Board of Directors have a duty not to compromise CHWA's ethical position, harm its reputation or put future funding at risk. CHWA complies with all relevant legislation, including money laundering rules, the Bribery Act and Charity Commission guidance, including terrorism and political activity. CHWA will therefore not invest in organisations that:

- Are known to be associated with criminal sources and/or illegal activity
- Would lead to a possible decline in support for CHWA, and so risk a fall in the resources available to fund its work or damage its longer-term fundraising prospects
- Would otherwise impact adversely on CHWA's reputation
- Act in a way inconsistent with Government policy

7. Review and maintenance of this policy

CHWA shall review this policy, its implementation and effectiveness every **two years**. The views of all employees and volunteers may be sought and reflected in the review process.

Any new or updated legislation will be considered and reflected in future versions.

This policy was approved and agreed by the Board of Directors on the date shown below.

Signed:	
Name (please print):	Matt Walsh
Position:	Co-Chair of Board of Directors
Date:	23 September 2025
Review dates:	Every two years from the date above
Organisation name:	Culture, Health & Wellbeing Alliance CIC
Company Number:	12359172