



ANNUAL REVIEW 2024/25

Sew Positive is a unique UK charity helping socially excluded people mend, repair, upcycle and repurpose textiles to calm the mind, improve mental health and wellbeing, and help our planet.



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ABOUT SEW POSITIVE

Charity Registration Number
1192682

Company Registration Number
CE022958

Registered Address
1 Fountain Lane, Haslingfield
Cambridgeshire CB23 1LT

Independent Examiner
Lisa King
Burdett King Accountancy Limited
8 The Hamiltans, Newmarket, CB8 0NF

CEO
Melissa Santiago-Val

Governance structure
Sew Positive is a Registered Charity
(No:1192682) and a Charitable
Incorporated Organisation (CIO),
registered in England (CEO22958)

Trustees

Jane Webber (Chair)
Joseph Barker-Sherry (Treasurer)
Alison Heron
Judi Coe
Karin Read
Sarah McManus (Outgoing Chair)
Alex Collis (Outgoing Co-Deputy Chair)



SEWING FOR MENTAL HEALTH

BUILDING MINDFULNESS, CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNITY



Sew Positive's mission is to provide opportunities for socially excluded people in Cambridge and surrounding areas to nurture their mental health through free sewing workshops and courses.

We help people who experience health inequalities – intensified by poverty, trauma, mental illness, neurodivergence, or cultural barriers. We create welcoming, creative spaces that are accessible, non-clinical, and designed for those who feel excluded from traditional forms of care.

Most people we support have fallen through the gaps in the health system. We help them to learn new skills and feel part of a community, reducing the feeling of social exclusion. Rebuilding trust helps participants to integrate into society and invest in their own wellbeing.



WELCOME FROM OUR CEO

This 2024/25 Annual Review, which includes summarised financial figures, celebrates our fourth year as a charity, supporting people facing social isolation through sewing to support mental health and wellbeing.

This year our income has risen by almost 60% despite a challenging landscape for small charities. Services and partnerships have continued to grow, in particular with CPSL Mind (Ashley Bunn CEO is pictured with me below) which is funding our pilot Men's Hems service through its Good Life Fund Plus.

We formed collaborations through the Influence and Participation Panel (pictured at the project celebration opposite), bringing together charities, the NHS and local councils to make health and care more accessible for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents.



Our collaboration with CPSL Mind would not have been possible without participation at this level and has allowed us to access funding from them using original funding via Cambridgeshire County Council.

Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS) – soon to become Support Cambridgeshire – offers excellent support and training, helping us recruit more volunteers through 'Volunteer Cambs'. Being members of the Small Charity Leaders Club and The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) this year saw me able to access pro bono coaching via the Level 7 training programme at Cranfield University.





The ripple effect of our services has been seen both volunteers and participants create exciting initiatives to support local people. For example, Adam (pictured below), one of our Men's Hems participants, is launching K2Tog – Knit 2 Together, a peer support volunteer-led knitting group. With 50,000 social media followers, Adam is helping us reach a much wider audience, both for funding and for connecting with those in need. As a small grassroots charity, this co-production approach ensures our work is informed by real experiences, improves our outcomes and keeps us firmly led by the community we serve.

Collaborations with businesses are increasingly vital.

Cambridge Design Rooms (Janet and David Scotcher pictured below) is a socially focused business offering a safe community space that sparks creativity, focuses on sustainability and delivers social experiences for everyone.



We've been partnering with them as a venue for some time, but it's so much more than that. We are able to store our equipment, sewing machines and materials there for free. More importantly, we have similar ethos, values and goals.

A major change this year has been the growing role of our volunteers, many with lived experience of our services, in shaping and supporting the charity. From organising volunteer engagement events and contributing to funding applications, to washing donated curtains, our volunteers are now involved in far more than sewing.

Our first Volunteer Engagement Day was facilitated by a volunteer, Hilary (pictured opposite at the event), who has considerable experience with this work in the charity sector.

I am delighted that our volunteers have been nominated for a King's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest honour a charity can achieve. With our trustees, they provide incredible direction, support and inspiration not just to me but to our participants and governance structure. I thank them all for their invaluable support and contributions.

Melissa

Melissa Santiago Val

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & TREASURER'S REPORT

Our income has increased by 60% this financial year from £40,442 in 2023/24 to over £70,000 in 2024/25. This is a significant increase at a time of crisis in funding in our sector and reflects much hard work in applying for funding as well as the increased need for our services.

We have secured two-year funding through the new National Lottery Awards for All – increasing from £10,000 for one year to £20,000 over two years – ensuring our Sewcialise service is funded until March 2027.

As a major national funder, we value their recognition of the importance of supporting core costs. This kind of funding, alongside unrestricted income, enables small charities to stay resilient and avoid over-reliance on short-term project grants.



Cambridge City Council's United with Ukraine grant has been expanded to the Cambridge Resettlement Fund – allowing us to reach other refugees – and to South Cambridgeshire, overcoming the previous geographical barrier.

We've also increased our community fundraising income to over £4000. This came from the Cambridge University Fashion Show 2025, raising £1181.44, the Lush Charity Pot scheme in Cambridge which raised £476.77, along with a brilliant team of five Cambridge Half Marathon runners raising £2082.44 (Gabi is pictured at the finish line above), and several festive craft fairs.

See our full Report and Accounts on the Charity Commission website.

Looking ahead, we have been awarded two charity places per year for the London Marathon 2026 – 2029, which we hope will raise £2500 per runner per year too.

In the past financial year we featured on the cover of Fair Collective's report 'Breaking Point', highlighting the pressures the sector faces: sadly three vital creative health charities in our area have closed their doors.



If this trend continues, the safety net for our most marginalised communities will disappear. These closures aren't isolated; they reflect a national emergency. As highlighted in The Centre for Social Justice's 'Underfunded and Overlooked' report, 97% of charities shutting down across the UK are small charities like ours. There has also been a £4.6 billion reduction in the support available, severely limiting opportunities for funding applications.

It's therefore vital to prioritise diversifying our income streams, developing corporate partnerships and fundraising. This combination will provide an unrestricted income stream to give our charity resilience and sustainability.

Last year brought changes to our trustee board. Sarah McManus and Alex Collis stepped down and Jane Webber took on the role of Chair for the first time. We are fortunate to have a trustee team which truly understands our organisation. Our Treasurer Joseph is fundraising for the London Marathon 2026 (pictured below with one of our Half Marathon runners, Helen) and trustee Karin has also raised funds for us running the Manchester Marathon, as well as attending services to understand our participants' needs.



Our recent trustee Strategy Day, facilitated by Flóra Raffai from Fair Collective, found us taking a pragmatic approach and looking at data to improve our systems. As a small, committed team, our trustees are not distant decision makers. They are actively involved in our work, helping to steer strategy and support delivery.

During the next year we will be recruiting new trustees. We're looking for people who can make a significant hands-on impact in shaping our charity's future, with a particular focus on strong marketing and communications expertise, financial skills and corporate connections.

Sew Positive is already delivering positive outcomes for people who feel let down or re-traumatised by statutory systems. We offer an alternative route to tackle health inequalities through creativity, connection and co-production, resulting in a service culture built on authenticity, flexibility and trust.



OUR IMPACT 2025



2090
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



DONATED
BY 36
VOLUNTEERS



ACROSS
27 VENUES



120 SESSIONS
AND EVENTS



1037 PEOPLE
ENGAGED



864
INDIVIDUALS



TOTAL
INCOME OF
£70,019.62



17 FUNDERS &
SUPPORTERS



6 HALF
MARATHON
RUNNERS



14 SEWING
MACHINES
SAVED FROM
LANDFILL

OUR FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS



82%

feel more socially connected and less isolated doing activities with Sew Positive*

100%

are interested in taking part in more Sew Positive services to support wellbeing*

87%

feel doing sessions using sewing, creativity, stitching and nature, have had a positive impact on overall wellbeing*

77%

report taking part in our services makes them feel more in control of managing health and wellbeing. They say Social Prescribing enables them to support themselves*

80%

gained skills to inspire and think about how we reuse textiles, having an impact on personal ownership of reducing textile waste*

93%

were very happy with tutors, volunteers and staff supporting them*

20%

of our work in 2024/2025 was with displaced Ukrainian refugees

8

volunteers supported four services or more across the year, from one-off events to longer courses**

7

volunteers have been donating time to our charity for over two years**

*71 responses across 13 different services in 2024/25
** Volunteer survey responses of 28 volunteers in 2024

THE ISSUES WE ARE FACING - 2025

HEALTH INEQUALITIES, MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL ISOLATION



Cambridge is the UK's most unequal city, with the disparity of wealth affecting health & life expectancy by 10 years. ⁽¹⁾

Inequalities in UK hospital admissions alone have an estimated cost of £4.8 billion year. ⁽²⁾

More than 3.58 million people use mental health services in the UK. ⁽³⁾

Loneliness and social isolation can be as bad for patients as chronic health conditions, putting people at a 50% increased risk of early death. ⁽⁴⁾

Mind research has identified that 40% of GP appointments feature a mental health concern. ⁽⁵⁾

Participants who engage in creative practices like traditional crafts report feeling less anxious and more emotionally balanced. These activities were not focused on finishing a task, but rather about being present in the process. ⁽⁶⁾

Frequent knitters report feeling calmer, less stressed and more uplifted. Knitting promotes mindfulness, sparks creativity and even encourages social connection — whether through community groups or online forums. ⁽⁷⁾

54% of Ukrainians (including refugees) have PTSD. ⁽⁸⁾

TEXTILE WASTE & THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Repairing a hole in a wool jumper saves you 16kg CO2e of emissions — the equivalent of leaving a lightbulb on for 50 years. ⁽⁹⁾

An estimated 336,000 tonnes of used clothing is discarded each year in the UK. ⁽¹⁰⁾

Repairing a rip in a waterproof jacket saves 45kg CO2e of emissions — the equivalent of 300 washing cycles. ⁽¹¹⁾

Buying your next pair of jeans and t-shirt secondhand could help save the equivalent of 20,000 standard bottles of water. ⁽¹²⁾

Keeping your clothes for an extra nine months can reduce their carbon footprint by 20-30%. ⁽¹³⁾

Less than 1% of clothing gets made into new clothing. ⁽¹⁴⁾



References: (1)[Centre for Cities](#) (2)[Cambridge Public Health](#) (3)[NHS](#) (4)[The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services](#) (5)[Mind](#) (6)[Science Direct](#) (7)[The Royal College of Occupational Therapists](#) (8)[The Lancet](#) (9)[Wrap and Sojo](#) (11)[Less Waste](#) (12)[Green Retail World \(WRAP\)](#) [Charity](#) (13)[Oxfam](#) (14)[Wrap](#)



IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN SEWING

Volunteering at Sew Positive is more than giving time; it's a fulfilling, two-way exchange of skills, care and support. Volunteers tell us it is also about boosting their own wellbeing as much as the people they support. From sharing a new stitch to seeing the direct impact of fundraising, our volunteers take pride in knowing their efforts make a real difference for people and the planet.

Our volunteers and tutors are central to everything we do – we can only deliver our services thanks to their support, expertise, and dedication. This year they have donated 2090 hours of time to support our services.

We've introduced an Annual Volunteering Survey, have regular training days with sewing, a WhatsApp group and – as part of our new Volunteer Engagement process – we are introducing a 'buddy system' and other ways to improve volunteering with us. Part of our work means ensuring our volunteers have the references, DBS checks, training, logistics, management and supervision they need to thrive in our hive.

"Sew Positive is so much more than sewing. What they do is amazing; they are amazing. We want to celebrate them."

"Coming in as a new volunteer, the warmth with which I've been onboarded by other volunteers, staff and group members alike has been really beautiful."



FEEDBACK FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS

"I am very grateful to my social prescriber for referring me to Sew Positive. I really feel it has helped my health. I'm no longer seeing a counsellor and I'm coping. I have seen the GP less since I've been on the course. My health issues won't go away but I feel like I'm coping and managing better with support of Sew Positive."

"I have been encouraged in such a compassionate way that I did not come across in over a decade of NHS mental health support in Cambridge... Sew Positive has been one of those rare places that I have been able to experiment with who I am... then take this to therapy and discuss it further."

"I feel I can be my neurodivergent self in these groups. I'm accepted, welcomed and encouraged. For the first time in my 51 years I can be myself within this group."

"I came through a mental health self-referral at my surgery... Therapy-wise I have since done two CBT courses, and they helped a bit, but I made a lot more progress when I was doing the Sew Positive sessions alongside therapy."

"Life can be incredibly tough at times. I've always considered myself a strong-willed and confident person – mentally one of the strongest in my circle. But recently, life has tested me in ways I didn't expect. From supporting my son through serious mental health struggles, and dealing with family members living with cancer at home – it's been overwhelming."

"Sew Positive has become my sanctuary – my mental escape and a place of healing. It's reminded me of who I truly am, and reconnected me to a special part of my identity: a tailor's daughter. Being here has brought back cherished memories of watching my father at his sewing machine, working hard and caring for me as a devoted single parent."

"I've been terrified of groups. This is the first place I felt like I belonged."

"Thank you, Sew Positive, and to all the incredible staff and volunteers. You've helped bring the zest back into my days. Your kindness, dedication and genuine passion go far beyond what's expected. The fact that you're volunteers speaks volumes about your heart and commitment. You've made such a difference."



ROUTES IN

Social Prescribing or GP



Other Charity



Support Worker



Carer



Mental Health Worker



Housing Association



Occupational Health



Website



REASONS FOR JOINING

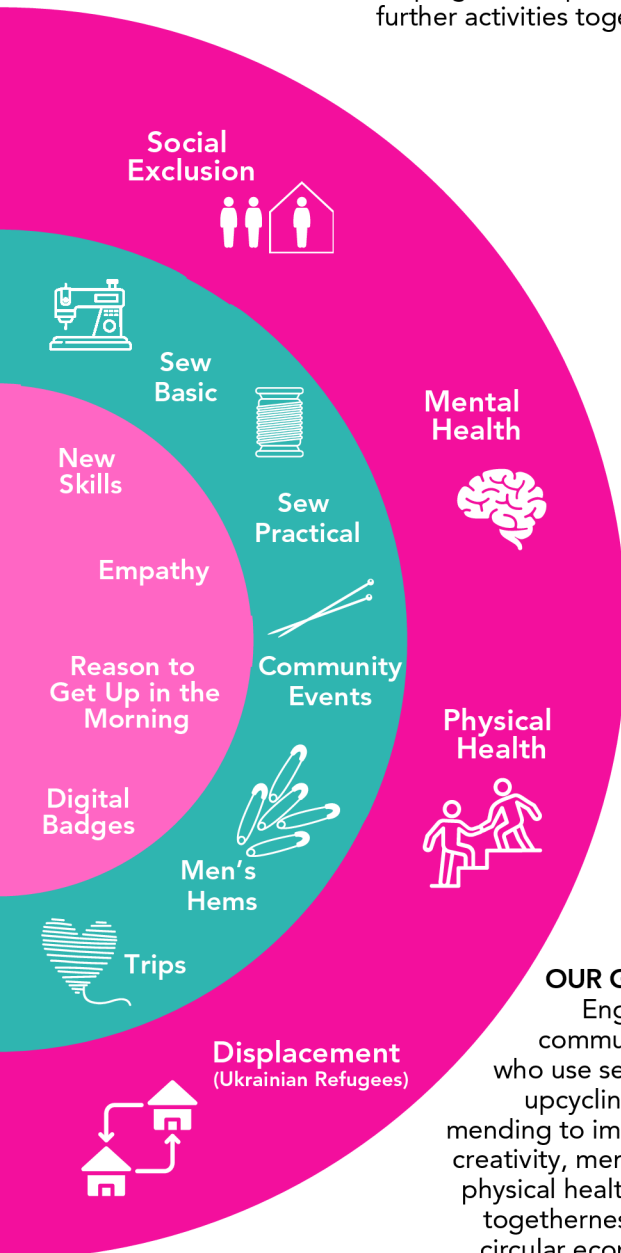
OUR SERVICES

OUTCOMES



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

We continue to discover the wide impact of our services on participants and volunteers alike, developing and co-producing further activities together.



OUR GOAL:

Engaged communities who use sewing, upcycling and mending to improve creativity, mental or physical health and togetherness in a circular economy.

IMPACT

Reduced Pressure on the NHS



Reduced Health Inequalities



Increased Volunteering



Move Towards a Circular Economy



Reduced Textile Waste



Increased Self-Management of Health



Recognition of Soft Skills & Sewing Skills



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

SEWCIALISE

Our flagship weekly service focuses on starting the week with mindful mending, hand sewing, upcycling or repairs for participants who are finding it difficult to engage and leave the house due to issues such as their health. The service was funded for three months in 2025 by Cambridge City Council Community Fund and PEM to ensure continuity of service while we re-applied to National Lottery AWA, which we have now been awarded to March 2027. Although the group is funded term-time only, volunteers take extra sessions over holidays at Cambridge University Botanic Garden using our free Community Group access membership to prevent further isolation.

The service has had such an impact on participants that we've been nominated for a King's Award for Voluntary Services by one of our funders, CambsCuisine, and three of our participants. The quotes on the right were given in response to Sewcialise and the nomination letter that these participants wrote together.



Oliver Thain, CEO of CambsCuisine wrote in his nominating letter:

"The ties between our fund and Sew Positive are strong. Mental health is becoming such an issue in our sector (hospitality) that we jumped at the opportunity to help."

Our participants say:

"Sewcialise has not only given me new skills in sewing, but I feel I have gained a new set of very supportive, lovely friends. After suffering from depression these groups have really helped my mental health. I feel uplifted now at the thought of starting new sewing projects."

"Sewcialise isn't just something to do for a couple of hours a week. It is a two-way community where volunteers have created through providing practical and emotional support so we can all take part. They are a calm, patient and empathetic presence in every group, listening, helping and easing social insecurities. They are as happy to teach us how to do a French Knot as to listen to our worries. They support us to develop creative ideas whilst 'embracing imperfection' in both sewing and ourselves."

"Through volunteers, Sew Positive listens and hears us, so we can contribute and feel respected."

"I've spent a lot of time alone due to health issues and this activity is a brilliant way to get out and feel part of a community, being supported and supporting others."





STITCHING WELLBEING INTO THE WORKPLACE

We've delivered bespoke workplace wellbeing sessions for a number of organisations. The aim of these sessions is to help thread creativity, calm, and connection into workplace culture.



We offer a mindful, hands-on experience that helps people unwind, reconnect, and thrive – without screens or daily pressures, just stitching and smiles. Through engaging in sewing activities, teams immerse themselves in mindful practice, which has been shown to reduce stress and promote mental clarity.



Sewing fosters a sense of calm and achievement, as participants see tangible results from their efforts. Furthermore, group sessions encourage collaboration, communication and problem-solving, making sewing a powerful tool for team building.



Unlike some wellbeing initiatives, sewing workshops offer something tangible – a finished product to take home. Whether it's a branded tote bag, an upcycled garment, or simple repairs and visible mending, such items serve as lasting reminders of the experience and the value businesses place on their employees' wellbeing.



"We worked with Sew Positive to deliver a slow-stitching sashiko wellbeing workshop for 28 employees. Helping small charities in our city is part of our policy to support local vulnerable communities. It was brilliant for employees to have a relaxing lunchtime activity, and to see our branded tote bags come to colourful life using mindful stitching"

Sarah Adams, Events and Hospitality Manager, Mills and Reeve LLP.



UKRAINE PROJECTS

Our Crewelwork project brought different communities together to share heritage, cultures and increase social connection.

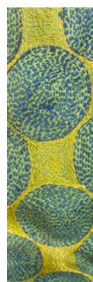
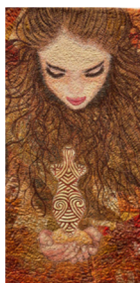
We delivered an eight week Saturday course combining in-person delivery, video on demand and support by Zoom. This was funded by three separate grants plus corporate donations from both Appleton's Wool and The Crewelwork Embroidery Company.

The programme included 'Culture hours' integrated into sessions around 'Books,' 'Crafts' and finally 'Food'. We included a community lunch with shared food, by explaining traditions and origins of dishes.

"It helped me to understand more local culture and feel more comfortable here, given that it is my second year in this country. The atmosphere during the classes was very friendly. It's fascinating how people can open up and connect when they are embroidering something together. Some conversations I had and stories I've heard melted my heart."

With Ukrainian refugees still facing uncertain futures in the UK, we are starting to integrate our services together with other participants through matched funding, to improve opportunities for cultural exchange, improve English in a social setting, and give different participants the opportunity to offer peer support for what continues to be a group facing much trauma.





In August 2024, we took participants – including Ukrainian refugees – to the Festival of Quilts at the Birmingham NEC for a day trip to see The Ukrainian Quilters' Association's *War. Peace. Future.* exhibition. It offered a moving, first-hand window into the realities of displacement and the hope for peace.

With combined funding from Cambridge City Council and CambsCuisine, we removed barriers of cost and access for families taking a trip for the first time, bringing together people from different cultures to share stories, build understanding and connect through the universal language of textiles.

"It was the way to connect to my homeland, to share something about Ukraine with the rest of the group and to see how they could connect with Ukraine and Ukrainian works just from looking at them."

"I have so much more understanding of what the feelings and emotions must be to be displaced by war now. And it's not something I have experienced or ever met people, until now, who have lived with this either. It was so moving. I had actual goosebumps. We were close to tears reading the stories and beautiful stitching. The work was outstanding...it was very powerful indeed."

"The Ukrainian quilt with the woman looking at the plane above her head was very touching. It was about dreaming and hoping for the best in the hardest moments of your life, and not giving up."

"I enjoyed the trip to the Birmingham Quilt Festival 2024 very much. I made some new friends and learned much about British culture."

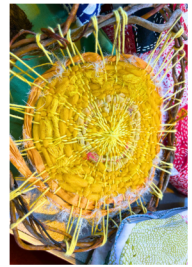
ASSURA - ROSS STREET

Working with six different NHS GP practices, this service improved access to health services through combining therapeutic sewing and creative inspiration from outside spaces using the Botanic Garden. We worked with NHS Social Prescribers to tackle health inequalities faced across our city.

These sessions embedded co-production into our services, working with communities who find it difficult to engage with health services, and asking them to input their experiences of health engagement and creativity.

"Sew Positive has been one of those rare places that I have been able to experiment with who I am, what triggers emotions and what overwhelms me. The volunteers have been there to just be with me, walk next to me, just allow me space and engage in things that are important to me."

"I have subsequently been able to access other Sew Positive services after this course, including a Saturday Sewing Cafe (an all day event), and joining an eight week basic sewing skills course which meant working in a large group of 25 participants of mixed needs, cultures and nationalities, which I wouldn't have been able to do before."



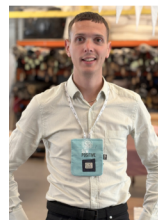
MEN'S HEMS

In January 2025, we launched Men's Hems – a free weekly creative group for men facing mental health challenges. The group offers a welcoming space for men to learn mending, simple repairs and creative upcycling.

Funded through CPSL Mind's Good Life Fund Plus, this has greatly strengthened our collaboration with the charity. Men's Hems combines creativity, connection, and skill-sharing to support the Five Ways to Wellbeing. Participants may face isolation, family breakdowns or low mood, and the group offers both practical skills and a mindful, hands-on way to boost wellbeing.

The project challenges stereotypes – showing sewing is for everyone, while tackling textile waste, one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions. Our launch was supported on social media by former Sewing Bee S6 Quarter Finalist Mark Francis and his partners with the hashtags #WeSewToo and #BoysSewToo at the Stitch Festival. Our group is only funded to December 2025 as a pilot and we are looking to secure wider funding to meet the ongoing need for a service like this.

The impact is clear: Adam is launching K2Tog – Knit 2 Together, a peer-support group using knitting and crochet to connect communities, and has trained as a Mental Health First Aider. Another Men's Hems participant has completed Men's Health Champion training – showing how participants are leading change, challenging stigma and building mental health awareness.



"I had been through a long period of poor mental health when I started Men's Hems, and had been relying on un:healthy coping strategies.

"I'd cut off from family and friends and found the world a lonely and miserable place. Being able to go into a safe, considerate space where I could tentatively begin to socialise again while learning new skills has improved my wellbeing.

"The technical and creative sewing skills I have been learning have allowed me to not focus on the past, and find a sense of confidence and self worth. Thank you Sew Positive!"

COLLABORATIONS & NETWORKS

Partnership working is central to our delivery. We collaborate with CPSL Mind, the NHS, Red Hen Project, Romsey Mill, Cambridge United Foundation, Sun Network, TEOM and many others. With CPSL Mind, we deliver Men's Hems and hope to expand Sewcialise, our flagship support group, which is at double capacity. CPSL Mind brings experience and funding through their 'Good Mood Cafés', while we provide a creative, grassroots route to under-represented communities. There is no duplication – only synergy and supporting each other to improve the lives of our communities.

Our CEO sat on a Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Partnership Panel of the local ICS (Integrated Care Systems in the NHS), as well as attending the Voluntary Sector Network Group, Men's Health Forum, the Cambridge Mental Health Network and With Purpose Network. We have given talks and presentations at events, including Metro Bank and the Voluntary Services Network. These networks enable us to connect community insight directly to system-level conversations and NHS strategy – building bridges between the statutory, charity and corporate sectors.

With CPSL Mind, we have supported press and media events for Mental Health Awareness Week and developed joint messaging around preventative wellbeing and creative health.



Together we developed a strong, values-based relationship enabling strategic growth. CPSL Mind provides federation infrastructure, safeguarding systems and peer support, allowing us to scale responsibly without overstretching our core team. For a small charity like us, it's also a highly cost-effective way to expand reach and resilience.

In a city where inequality is stark and services have disappeared, Sew Positive is a vital thread holding creative health support together. Our community knows us, trusts us and turns to us when other options run out. We are deeply embedded, widely connected and uniquely equipped to take this forward.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

We've been out and about spreading the word about our charity to engage with people who may need to access our services, to raise funds and to understand the communities in which we live and work.

The Grand Arcade's 'Let's Go Circular' Festival enables local companies and charities to highlight issues around textile waste and move towards a circular economy and we are delighted photographs of our workshops headlined the 2024 campaign materials. The festival won the Green Award in the Cambridge Independent Business Awards 2024.

In South Cambridgeshire, we had a festive stand at the Local Climate Action Fair to highlight textile waste, with our popular badge making activity using upcycled scraps to make into badges.

Our 'Charity Pot' event at Lush in Cambridge raised £476.77 and sold out of Charity Pots entirely.

We also take part in twice-yearly events from Cambridge City Council's Community Engagement team to unite voices and focus action. Themes have included impact measurement, event planning and tackling health inequalities, and we have attended with both volunteers and participants to help embed our co-production and participant-led approach.

Our festive sales came from village fairs in Haslingfield, Little Eversden and the Craft Fair at Phoenix Trust in Milton. We are looking for volunteers who are happy to take our stand to these weekend events on our behalf.

Our fundraising events have been a huge effort from our participants, fundraisers and volunteers. Together, they've packed cars, made items to sell and given support at weekends, raising over £4000 in unrestricted funding. This means we can deliver some one-off services or events, and also enables us to cover some of our core costs.

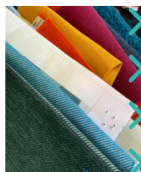


FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

With more people turning to us as other services close, and with participants facing increasingly complex needs, we urgently need more funding to deliver our work.

Much of our income comes from the grants for which we must apply, but we are increasingly looking for partnerships with corporate organisations, for example becoming Charity Of The Year for a local business. We also welcome the opportunity to offer wellbeing services to companies which want to improve creativity and mental health in their teams.

Individuals are also encouraged to help us raise money. With sponsored running in the London Marathon over the next four years, we're hoping to raise significant funds. Please help to motivate our runners by making a contribution via our Just Giving page – or apply to run for us yourself!



Alongside financial help, Sew Positive is happy to consider offers of fabric and sewing machines to support our services, especially as we move towards measuring the CO2e impact we're making.

The amount of textiles we're offered can be overwhelming and it takes a lot of work to transform a pile of textiles into usable fabrics. We have to travel, collect, wash, dry, unpick and then store materials before we can even think about making them into something new. We don't generally need smaller fabric scraps or furnishing weight fabrics as we currently have plenty, but we do call outs on social media for what we need. Please follow us and use our website form for inquiries.

As for sewing machines, we can only accept nearly new Janome/John Lewis machines in good working order, preferably with accessories. We are also currently looking for a working Juki (or similar) industrial machine that can be delivered to Cambridge.

We are grateful to everyone who has helped support us through donations.

KEY FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



We are hugely grateful for the financial support of our grant funding and business, collaboration and media partners, including those which have provided discounted or free venues to enable us to run our services. These allow us to carry out the work detailed in this report.

Sew Positive and the work we do would not exist without your help.

- Arnold Clark Community Fund
- BBC Radio Cambridgeshire
- Bermuda Community Rooms
- Cambridge Central Library
- Cambridge City Council
- Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS/Support Cambridgeshire)
- Cambridge Design Rooms
- Cambridge Radio
- Cambridge United Foundation
- Cambridge University Botanic Garden
- Cambridge University Fashion Show (CUFS)
- Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF)
- CambsCuisine
- CPSL Mind
- Fair Collective
- Find Your Wild
- Grand Arcade Cambridge
- John Lewis Cambridge
- Metro Bank
- Mills & Reeve LLP
- NatWest Bank community rooms
- PEM
- Phoenix Trust
- Romsey Mill
- South Cambs District Council
- The Sun Network
- TEOM (The Expert on Ourselves)
- The Cole Trust
- The Crewelwork Embroidery Company
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Red Hen Project
- Trumpington Stitches





sewpositive.org 

SewPositiveCharity 

@SewPositiveCharity 

info@sewpositive.org 

Our full Annual Report and Accounts
2024/25 can be downloaded from the
Charity Commission website.

Sew Positive is a Registered Charity
(No:1192682) and a Charitable
Incorporated Organisation (CIO),
registered in England (CEO22958)

Registered Office: 1 Fountain Lane,
Haslingfield, Cambridge, CB23 1LT

