



Our aims & objectives vision



Our main Aim is to:-

- Relieve poverty and distress by providing good quality re-used household goods to people in need living in Stockport, helping them to establish a more stable, healthy and independent lifestyle.

We also aim to:-

- Provide training opportunities and work placements to enable local unemployed or disadvantaged people to re-enter the labour market and regain self worth in the process.
- Make a contribution to national/local efforts to reduce environmental pollution by collecting and re-using many items that might otherwise have ended up in landfill.
- Encourage the general public to donate unwanted household items, ensuring they help both their neighbours and the environment.
- Treat everyone fairly and equally, without bias or preconceived ideas.

We will achieve this by:-

- Collecting furniture and white goods from donors.

- Providing the opportunity for clients to come and select items of furniture from the warehouse and delivering selected items to their homes for a nominal delivery charge.
- Supplying properly cleaned, tested and recorded white goods items (electric cookers will be installed by our engineer).
- Cleaning and renovating white goods items as required and repairing furniture which is in need of repair, in our white goods and furniture workshops.
- Providing opportunities for work placements
- opportunities for volunteers to play a part in the community
- Seeking funding for the provision of new beds, cots and cookers to supplement the supply of re-used items.

Our vision is to:-

- That we shall continue to expand the operation to meet ever increasing demands
- That we will endeavour to broaden the operation to cover other items as both supply and demand permit.



The 'client' picture on the front cover was posed by a volunteer.

Chair's report

2010 has been yet another difficult year for The Furniture Station, with the unfavourable economic circumstances resulting in a reduction in the supply of furniture. With such high demand for these essential items; it is difficult to meet demand for beds and cookers; therefore we will continue to seek funding to purchase these items. Despite this, 2010 saw a group of students from Manchester Business School examine the house clearance market; of which the outcome has been invaluable for the Furniture Station to take on this area of work.

Amongst this a joint project with Stockport Homes has enabled them and their maintenance contractor to contact us when properties are vacated leaving furniture and electrical items; which has helped increase our stock for the Furniture Station to reuse for people in need in the Stockport Community.

We have been very pleased with our on-going relationship we have with local Stockport Company 3 Sheep, who for the past year have enabled us to process furniture appointments via an online referral system; replacing the previous paper booking forms and making the process of appointments more efficient. Referral agencies received training earlier on in the year and we now have more than 40 agencies making furniture appointments through The Furniture Station. We have also benefited from being one of Hazel Grove Rotary Club's chosen charities this year; raising a grand total of £1930 from the Santa float donations around the Hazel Grove area.

The number of emergency deliveries in 2010 increased significantly from 134 in 2009 to 262 in 2010, almost doubling the amount from the previous year. In 2010, we had 1331 referrals, making 1192 deliveries and 2113 collections. Our 22 volunteers have assisted us again with around 3000 hours throughout 2010. Our work placement partner, TNG

Workskills; placed 11 work placements throughout the year; lasting between thirteen and twenty-six weeks. This invaluable support, together with the time put in by the Trustees, Roddy Jones our Honorary Treasurer, who keeps excellent accounts and the small staff team is what makes The Furniture Station work so well to help people in need.

Overall we have received support from 28 charities, trusts, foundations, companies and groups and from 13 individuals in addition to our supporters group of 49 members who make monthly contributions and of course our main partners Stockport Homes, Stockport Council and Hazel Grove Baptist Church.

We have been very fortunate over the past 3 years to receive continuous funding from The Henry Smith Charity and 29 May 1961 fund; who have generously supported essential salaries. The Hilden Charitable fund and the Garfield Weston Foundation have also generously supported our operational costs.

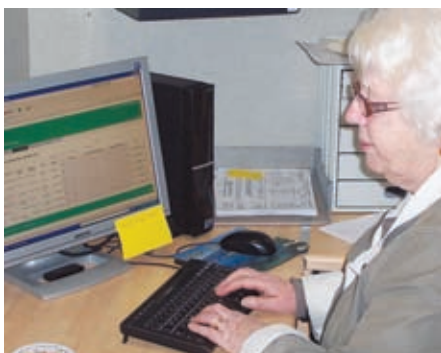
As from 2011; we will be supported by Paul J Getty Jnr Charitable Trust for 3 years towards our running costs. This has been fantastic news to hear from all of the team and has helped ensure the continuation of our service.

In September 2010 The Furniture Station's Fundraiser Mike Atkinson retired after 5 years; being replaced by Joanne Watson. The activities he carried out have been incredibly valued.



With retiring in 2011 myself, I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone involved in this hugely successful project. It has been a privilege over the years to see the project grow and expand and rise to meet each challenge which has presented itself. I trust that the future will continue to be one of growth and development in order to meet the rising demands on our service.

Billy Montgomery



"Overall we have received support from 28 charities, trusts, foundations, companies and groups and from 13 individuals in addition to our supporters group of 49 members"



Our achievements

We said the outcomes of our activities in 2010 would be as follows

Improved wellbeing of Stockport residents through the provision of services and equipment that help them to maintain independence.

More people will be enabled to be healthy and choose to have a healthier lifestyle as individuals and families will be able to sleep better, particularly through the provision of beds and to eat better as provision of cookers and fridges allow improved storage and cooking of food and better choice of diet.

In 2010 We delivered 384 beds, 17 cots (22 % increase from 2009), 74 cookers, 119 Fridge/freezers (9% increase from 2009), 29 microwave ovens and 28 vacuum cleaners. Most of these clients would not have had these facilities without the Furniture Station.

People will have more choice, independence and a better quality of life as the provision of furniture and household items will enable them to sit and sleep in comfort, store their possessions and to cook and store food.

In 2010 We delivered a total of 3910 items of furniture; these items went to 1192 households.

Volunteering provides the opportunity for older people to continue to take an active part in the community.

In 2010 22 Volunteers supported us in 2010 and 19 of these were over 50 years of age.

Increase in the number of vulnerable people and their families supported to remain in their own homes.

The provision of basic furniture and white goods gives an increased chance of people being able to accept and maintain their tenancies.

In 2010 Information from Stockport Homes Resettlement Team indicates that of the 208 customers in full resettlement during January 2010 to January 2011, almost 100% had a FS appointment, with 190 maintaining tenancies for 6 months or over (91%).

Reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill sites through the re-using and recycling of goods.

The collection and re-use of household items of furniture and whitegoods that people no longer want means they will have their useful life extended and will be saved from going to landfill sites.

In 2010 We made 2113 collection trips, picking up 4191 items re-using 3910 items with a calculated weight of 117 Tonnes (10 more than 2009), providing an estimated saving to SMBC of £7,605.00

(based on average weights provided by FRN and costs provided by SMBC).

Local unemployed people, particularly those from Stockport's priority wards gaining employment skills.

The provision of training opportunities and approximately six work placements each year enables local unemployed or disadvantaged people the opportunity to re-enter the labour market and to regain self-worth in the process.

In 2010 There were 11 placements with 1 of these coming from Stockport Priority Areas.

We also said we would;

Work with the landlords of the warehouse on the way forward with the warehouse renovation/ redevelopment using the plans provided by JBH Property Consulting.

In 2010 JBH Property Consulting has been consulting The Furniture Station regularly in moving the warehouse forward in their plans to repair and redevelop the warehouse. It is expected in 2011 to move forward with construction.

Evaluate the 'Trainee' position and future funding for this role.

In 2010 As a former work placement, we employed a part-time trainee in 2009. In 2010, the trainee became a full time essential driver. The role of trainee is on hold depending on any future funding in 2011.

Seek operational funding to replace the three year funding from three organisations that expires this year.

In 2010 J Paul Getty Jnr have generously supported the Furniture Station over the next 3 years in funding £75,000 towards operational core costs until 2013. This has been a delight in securing such contribution for our core expenditure.

Review the role of fundraiser/administrator to establishing the way forward as the current post holder is retiring in September

In 2010 Joanne Watson took over as lead fundraiser in September 2010 when Mike Atkinson retired; after a 5 year commitment to the project.

Hold a forum for referral agencies to assist with forward planning and service development.

In 2010 A forum was held in 2010 to inform our referral agencies with the progression of the online appointment system and to discuss further planning. This was very useful in encouraging development and improving service we provide. We expect to hold a similar forum on an annual basis.

CASE STUDY



Steve found himself homeless; last year he managed to get a flat. Hearing from us through resettlement services; Steve came to The Furniture Station and picked out a three piece suite, a bed, a dining table and a TV cabinet. He was over the moon that these items were available and had no idea about the services in which The Furniture Station provided to people in his position. He was so happy with the delivery and the kindness from the van men that he sent a personal thank you to all of the team.

CASE STUDY



On one delivery Sarah was found sitting on the floor with a young baby in her arms, her possessions consisted of one suitcase and a plastic bag full of clothes – no furniture, cooker, beds, carpet or curtains. Broken windows were being replaced as the Furniture Station van arrived. Once the furniture was delivered the team went back to The Furniture Station to find some carpet, bedding and curtains. Sarah said until the Furniture Station van arrived that she thought nobody cared about her.

Looking forward

In 2011 we will seek to achieve the same main outcomes

- Improved wellbeing of Stockport residents through the provision of services and equipment that help them to maintain independence.
- Increase in the number of vulnerable people and their families supported to remain in their own homes.
- Reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill sites through the re-using and recycling of goods.
- Local unemployed people, particularly those from Stockport's priority wards gaining employment skills.

We will also

- Look into new revenue streams in generating income for ensuring our services are continued.
- Utilise the knowledge and strategy from both MBS and Stockport Homes by taking on areas of work within the house clearance market and vacant properties to increase collected items of reusable furniture and electrical items
- Provide an open day to bring together referral agencies, supporters and funders and generate the knowledge of the Furniture Station amongst our local community; enabling a tour and to meet the staff and volunteers.
- Work with the landlords to repair and refurbish the warehouse.

Treasurer's report

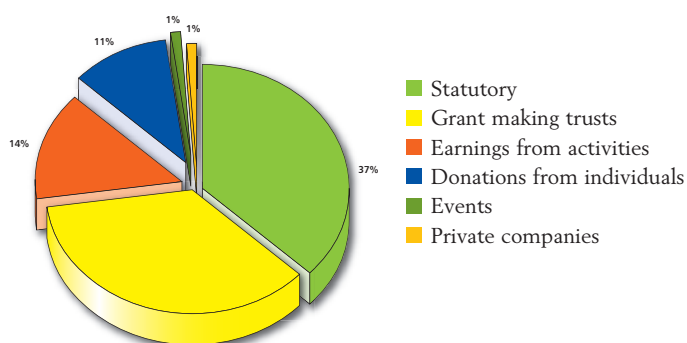
The accounts for 2010 show a decrease in incoming resources of 10.05% and an increase in resources expended of 8.52%. This has resulted in a deficit for 2010 of £24,038 (2009 showed a small surplus of £3,015)

On unrestricted activities there was a deficit of £13,717 which reduced the unrestricted reserves down to £37,337. However, the recent good news has been the receipt of substantial monies from J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust towards core costs for the three years to end of 2013 and this will be a welcome boost towards maintaining a healthy reserves position. While we received no significant new funding awards during the year towards staffing costs, 2010 was the third year of funding agreements with The Henry Smith Charity, The Sobell Foundation and The 29 May 1961 Charitable Trust. The replacement of this funding must be a priority for 2011 and beyond. As staffing costs is our major area of expenditure, these grants were very welcome for 2010 and means that 36.39% was funded directly for employment costs.

Stockport Council provided funding for the second year of a three year agreement towards general costs. We have also just received the first half of the third year funding from the Council for 2011. Other fundraising applications and activity provided both restricted and unrestricted funding including over £17,847 towards the purchase of beds, cots and cookers. Stockport Homes funding per referral was maintained at a similar level to 2009 as was the delivery income. However, it is three years since the last increase in the delivery charges and a review is taking place with the result being that an increase is more than likely for 2011.

Supporters Group income fell by £1,100 as compared to 2009 and is some what disappointing that this area has not improved over the last two years

Funding is the fundamental priority in maintaining our reserves and must always be at the forefront.



Statement of Financial Activities Year Ended December 2010

	2010	2009
Incoming Resources		
Grants receivable	113,641	128,364
Trading activities	17,914	18,632
Interest receivable	225	68
Other income	502	0
Total Incoming Resources	132,282	147,064
Resources Expended		
Fundraising & publicity	2,788	1,633
Employment costs	91,715	85,308
Office & other charitable activities	56,836	49,876
Governance costs	4,981	7,232
Total Resources Expended	156,320	144,049
Surplus on sale of assets	0	0
Net Income (Expenditure)		
Net Movement in Funds	(24,038)	3,015
Total Funds brought forward	133,599	130,584
Total Funds carried forward	109,561	133,599

Balance Sheet 31st December 2010

Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	11,747	20,244
Current Assets		
Debtors & Prepayments	7,784	7,138
Cash at bank & in hand	96,648	128,265
Creditors due within 1 year	(6,618)	(22,048)
Net Current Assets	97,814	113,355
Net Assets	109,561	133,599
Accumulated Funds		
Restricted	72,224	82,545
Unrestricted	37,337	51,054
TOTAL FUNDS	109,561	133,599

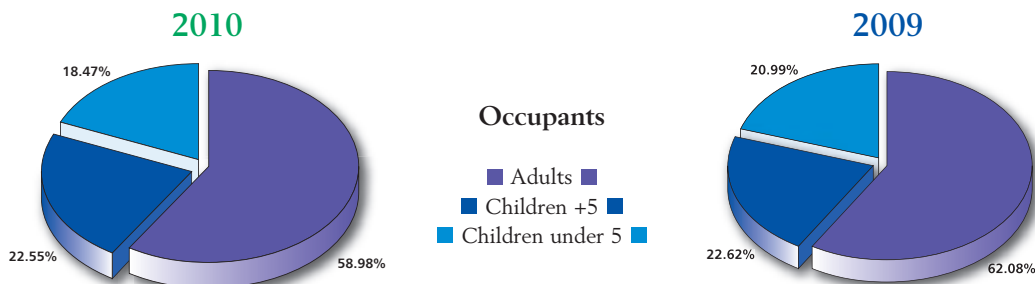
SERVICE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

All clients coming for appointments to choose items are asked to complete a questionnaire. 495 clients did so with the following outcomes. The results are shown with a comparison to 2009 to indicate changes.

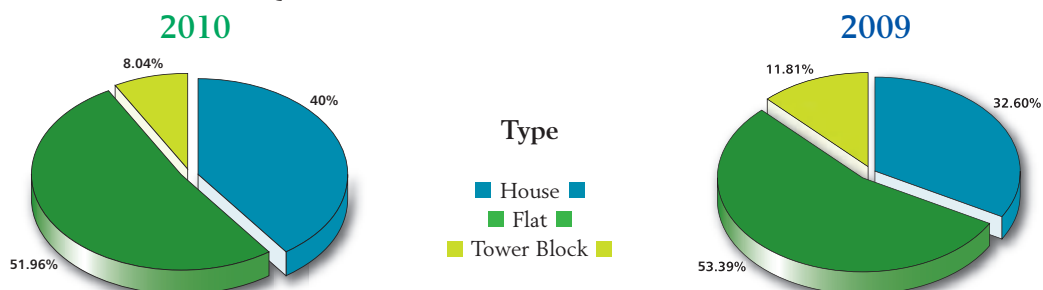
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS RE SERVICE



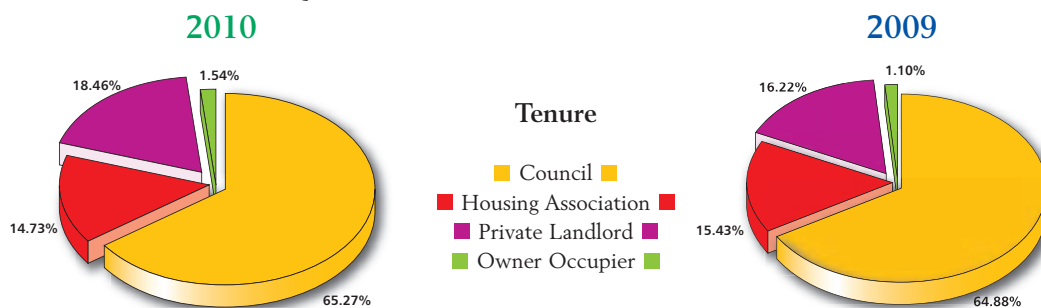
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS RE PROPERTY



QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS RE PROPERTY



QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS RE PROPERTY



QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS RE ETHNICITY

	2010	2009
White British/Irish and Other	93.45%	92.7%
Mixed	2.18%	2.0%
Asian or Asian British	0.65%	1.5%
Black or Black British	3.28%	2.0%
Chinese/Other ethnic	0.44%	1.8%

SUPPORTERS

Financial and in-kind

The Souter Charitable Trust
John Lewis Cheadle and
Trafford Charity Committee
Sir Cliff Richard Charitable Trust
The Clara E Burgess Charity
The Zochonis Charitable Trust
Barnabas Charitable Trust
AA
Croftons Solicitors
Cheadle Hulme School
Pennycress Trust
Oglesby Charitable Trust
The Henry Smith Charity
The Stockport Fund
The 29 May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Sydney Black Charitable Trust
Waitrose Community Matters
Help The Homeless
Marsh Christian Trust
The Hilden Charitable Fund
Garfield Western Foundation
Beatrice Laing Trust
The Rising Sun, Hazel Grove
Hazel Grove Rotary Club
Sovereign Creative Marketing
Parfetts Cash and Carry
Nevil Road School
Three Sheep Limited
The Members of the Supporters Groups
and many other individual donors

VOLUNTEERS

Amanda Jennings
Dorothy Sandham
Glynis Winton
Marjorie Stevenson
Dave Christy
Peter Smith
Eleanor East
Barbara Bramwell
Paul Stevenson
Brian Dixon
Alec Needham
David Harrop
Majorie Harrison (resigned July 2010)
Irene Leather
Paul Scrivener
Penny Dean (resigned March 2010)
Suzanne Townley (resigned March 2010)
Jo Blackham
Andy Blackham
Mike Bowen
Roddy Jones
Alan Wood
Gwen Robinson
Russell Gamble

Main Partners

Stockport MBC
Hazel Grove Baptist Church
Stockport Homes

Management Committee

Billy Montgomery	Chair, Trustee and Director, Minister H.G.B.C. (retired April 2011)
Amanda Jennings	Trustee and Director, Company Secretary
Simon Horsfield	Trustee and Director (stepped up to Chair, April 2011)
Kath Jones	Trustee and Director, Resettlement Services Team Leader, Stockport Homes
Jeff Palmer	Trustee and Director
Geraldine Johnson	Trustee and Director (Appointed April 2010, resigned April 2011)
Alan Gunnion	Project Manager
Mike Atkinson	Fundraiser / Administrator (retired October 2010)
Joanne Watson	Fundraiser (appointed September 2010)
Phil Edge	White Goods Engineer
Roddy Jones	Treasurer

Staff

Alan Gunnion	Project Manager (Full-time)
Phil Edge	Service Engineer White Goods Project (part-time 28 hours)
David Newman	Driver (Part-time 30 hours; resigned in Nov 2010)
Ashley	Driver (Full Time)
Gary Brown	Driver (Part Time, 30 Hours)
Mike Atkinson	Fundraiser (part-time 10 hours; retired in October 2010)
Joanne Watson	Fundraiser (part-time 20 hours; employed in September 2010)



The Furniture Station

Hazel Grove Baptist Church, Station Street, Hazel
Grove, Stockport, SK7 4EX

Tel: Office 0161 456 0717 Fundraiser 0161 483 9010
Fax: 0161 483 9420
Project Manager: alan@furniturestation.org.uk
Fundraiser: joanne.watson@furniturestation.org.uk
Website: www.furniturestation.org.uk

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