

Charity number SC042861

HOPE COUNSELLING (SCIO)
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JANUARY 2026

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	February	2025		31	January	2026

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	22,345				22,345	7,939
Legacies					-	
Grants	1,500	17,949			19,449	11,150
Receipts from fundraising activities	5,462				5,462	2,386
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	31,128				31,128	24,830
					-	
A1 Sub total	60,435	17,949	-	-	78,384	46,305
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	60,435	17,949	-	-	78,384	46,305
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	74				74	524
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	45,007	14,335			59,342	49,793
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination	200				200	300
Preparation of annual accounts	300				300	200
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	45,581	14,335	-	-	59,916	50,817
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	560
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	560
Total payments	45,581	14,335	-	-	59,916	51,377
Net receipts / (payments)	14,854	3,614	-	-	18,468	(5,072)
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	14,854	3,614	-	-	18,468	(5,072)

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	34,761	7,735			42,496	47,568
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	14,854	3,614			18,468	(5,072)
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	49,615	11,349	-	-	60,964	42,496
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))						

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets	Website development cost	Corra/Bailie Gifford	2,508	-	627
	Computer equipment 2023	General	859	-	215
	Badentoy Fixtures and fittings 2023	General	1,873	-	468
	Bridge Fixtures and fittings 2025	General	560	336	448
		Total	5,800	336	1,758

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of
approval

	NICOLA MCKIBBEN	7/5/26

APPENDIX 1

OSCr

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date				Period end date			
From	Day	Month	Year	To	Day	Month	Year
	01	Feb	2025		31	Jan	2026

Reference and administration details

Charity name
Other names charity is known by
Registered charity number
Charity's principal address

Hope Counselling
SC042861
The Bridge 3 rd Floor
King's Way
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
Postcode: AB23 8BL

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Ms. N. McKibben	Convenor		
2	Mrs. J. Leys	Director/Treasurer		
3	Rev. I. Daramola	Secretary		
4	Dr. H. Cundill		Appointed 26/02/26	
5	Ms. D. Kriel		Appointed 26/02/26	
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Ms. D. Samulewicz	Until 30/11/25

APPENDIX 1

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution dated 14/06/2021

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are appointed following acceptance of an application by the Board. All Trustees resign and are eligible for re-appointment at each AGM of the charity.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The organisation is established for charitable purposes only to advance health and relieve the needs of persons in emotional distress in the north east of Scotland within a Christian ethos.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Hope counselling continues to provide a high quality affordable general counselling service for Aberdeen and surrounding areas. We use an Integrative method of counselling which combines Person-centred and Psychodynamic approaches with CBT (cognitive behaviour therapy), and we offer to discuss spiritual issues from the perspective of Christianity for those who specifically request it.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Main Achievements

We have entered our 15th year in business with one founder member remaining as a counsellor, Trustee and Service Director and we have appointed an assistant director for succession planning. We continue to have an excellent reputation within the local community and the north east of Scotland. Our referrals come from web search engines, GP's, and local community groups and a large number come via personal recommendation. Referrals have increased this year, as has client and counsellor diversity.

Our service is continually under review and development aligning with the needs of the community. We are planning to double room capacity in the next few months, which will allow us to provide more counselling hours and accommodate a new intake of students on placement.

This accounting year has been challenging for clients and funding applications as we continue to manage the current financial climate.

We continue to provide a blend of online and face to face counselling. Most students on placement have now achieved their counselling hours and work as trained counsellors within the service increasing our number to 14 this includes 3 students in training and we expect 4 applications this year, students are all supported well by internal mentors.

We offer a bespoke service based on client's needs with our highly quality and effective integrative model which includes CBT. We are an evidence based service which is helpful for development of the service and funders. Clients continue to present with more challenging mental health issues often whilst waiting for NHS mental health services, and counselling is based on the individual client's needs.

Personnel and organisation

We have 5 trustees one of whom is the service director, and we have appointed an assistant director for succession planning. Counsellors continue to benefit from paid supervision ensuring compliance with BACP requirements. Regular continuous professional development is provided internally with a variety of relevant topics. We have 14 counsellors and 2 students on placement with 4 more student applications expected for this year.

APPENDIX 1

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Affiliations

We are members of Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) and Aberdeen Charities Voluntary organisation (ACVO). We are also members of Scottish Charities Voluntary organisation (SCVO), which brings a great array of resource tools for charities such as ourselves. We also have close links with some GP practices in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

Financial

Hope has a sound financial position, with an operating balance of **£60,964**, an increase of £18,468 over the accounting year. The fundraising team was successful in securing **£19,449** in grants (25% of income). We received **£22,345** (28% of income) in donations, including £18,000 received from Hope Dundee which was forced to wind up during the year, and fundraising activities generated **£5,462** (7% of income). BACP have warned of the challenges ahead in relation to grant application success rates for small mental health charities so other fundraising activities have been carried out. We are seeing the impact of the cost of living increase, emphasising the necessity to seek funding for provision of our subsidised counselling service.

Focus on funding remains so we can continue to counsel vulnerable people in hardship, whilst also maintaining training, supervision, and remuneration of staff. Income from client fees was **£31,128**, which is unrestricted funds and represents 40% of income. In 2025 we made 22 funding applications and funds were received from 5 organisations.

We have an unrestricted reserves policy of maintaining at least £8,000 and a minimum allowable operating balance of £15,000. This is enough to cover 4 months with no income. The approved budget for 2025 is **£114,000 with 55%** coming from grants, so funding applications are critical to the organisation.

Training and Development

We support counsellors with paid external supervision and internal and external speakers at CPD sessions on relevant and current topics. We also support each other with tool sharing to develop our counselling work, ensuring compliance with BACP code of ethics, and encourages teambuilding. We financially subsidise training for staff with particular interests beneficial to Hope and our client's needs.

APPENDIX 1

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted reserves of at least £8,000 and a minimum operating balance of £15,000. The current general fund bank balance of £49,615 provides the working capital for the ongoing activities. At current activity levels this would finance around 7.5 months of continued activity without further income. There is also a restricted fund balance of £11,349 representing funds received through awards in 2024 and 2025 to be applied to the activities of the charity in 2026 and beyond.
Details of any deficit	There are no funds in deficit.
Donated facilities and services (if any)	Counselling staff engaged in the provision of the service donate their time freely to the delivery of the purposes of the charity in order to increase the amount of counselling time which can be made available to clients.

Other optional information

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature(s)	<i>Nicki McKibben</i>	
Full name(s)	Nicki McKibben	
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chair & Trustee	
Date	7/5/26	

Hope Counselling

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Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Aberdeen Christian Fellowship	2,400				2,400	1,600
Golden Giving	1,007				1,007	105
Hope Dundee	18,000				18,000	-
Kings Church					-	3,000
Other donations	938				938	3,234
					-	
Total	22,345	-	-	-	22,345	7,939

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Foyle Foundation Foundation			-	6,000
Stafford Charitable Trust			-	3,750
Albert Hunt Trust		5,000	5,000	-
AVA MHWB		9,949	9,949	-
Anderson, Anderson & Brown			-	1,400
Violet Lessels Trust	1,000		1,000	
Soutar Charitable Trust		3,000	3,000	
Harper MacLeod	500		500	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Total	1,500	17,949	19,449	11,150

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Client contributions	30,588				30,588	24,650
Courses	240				240	180
Supervision					-	
Other	300				300	
					-	
Total	31,128	-	-	-	31,128	24,830

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Rent	6,383				6,383	4,783
Staff payments	23,859	4,000			27,859	22,681
Counselling supervision	437	3,638			4,075	3,570
Training		597			597	845
Travel	2,589	300			2,889	1,753
Counselling costs	4,931	5,800			10,731	10,349
Support costs	6,808				6,808	5,812
Equipment					-	-
Running courses					-	-
Total	45,007	14,335	-	-	59,342	49,793

Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below General Fund	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations	22,345				22,345	4,939
Legacies					-	-
Grants	1,500				1,500	6,000
Receipts from fundraising activities	5,462				5,462	2,386
Gross trading receipts					-	-
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	-
Rents from land & buildings					-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	31,128				31,128	24,830
Sub total	60,435	-	-	-	60,435	38,155
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	60,435	-	-	-	60,435	38,155
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	74				74	524
Gross trading payments					-	-
Investment management costs					-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	45,007				45,007	33,378
Grants and donations					-	-
Governance costs:					-	-
Audit / independent examination	200				200	300
Preparation of annual accounts	300				300	200
Legal costs					-	-
					-	-
Sub total	45,581	-	-	-	45,581	34,402
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	560
Purchase of investments					-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	560
Total payments	45,581	-	-	-	45,581	34,962
Net receipts / (payments)	14,854	-	-	-	14,854	3,193
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	14,854	-	-	-	14,854	3,193

Nature and purpose of funds

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Hope Counselling

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Additional analysis (3)

6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
	Counsellor Sup & Training (Stafford Trust)	Subsidised Counselling (Soutar Char Trust)	Marketing & Advertising (AAB LLP)	Other funds from Add notes 4		
Receipts						
Donations				-	-	3,000
Legacies				-	-	
Grants		3,000		14,949	17,949	5,150
Receipts from fundraising activities				-	-	
Gross trading receipts				-	-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings				-	-	
Rents from land & buildings				-	-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities				-	-	
Sub total	-	3,000	-	14,949	17,949	8,150
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets				-	-	
Proceeds from sale of investments				-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	3,000	-	14,949	17,949	8,150
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities				-	-	
Gross trading payments				-	-	
Investment management costs				-	-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	2,435	3,000	-	8,900	14,335	16,415
Grants and donations				-	-	
Governance costs:				-	-	
Audit / independent examination				-	-	
Preparation of annual accounts				-	-	
Legal costs				-	-	
				-	-	
				-	-	
Sub total	2,435	3,000	-	8,900	14,335	16,415
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets				-	-	-
Purchase of investments				-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,435	3,000	-	8,900	14,335	16,415
Net receipts / (payments)	(2,435)	-	-	6,049	3,614	(8,265)
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(2,435)	-	-	6,049	3,614	(8,265)

Nature and purpose of funds

Stafford Trust: counsellor supervision and training - balance remaining £0
 Soutar Char Trust: subsidised counselling - balance remaining £0
 Anderson, Anderson & Brown: marketing and advertising - balance remaining £1,400

Additional analysis (4)

6 Breakdown of restricted funds (contd)

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 5 - enter name of fund below	Total carried forward to Add notes 3
	Training, mileage, counselling (AVA MHWBF)	Counselling Costs (Kings Church)	Subsidised Counselling (Albert Hunt)			
Receipts						
Donations						-
Legacies						-
Grants	9,949		5,000			14,949
Receipts from fundraising activities						-
Gross trading receipts						-
Income from investments other than land and buildings						-
Rents from land & buildings						-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities						-
Sub total	9,949	-	5,000	-	-	14,949
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets						-
Proceeds from sale of investments						-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,949	-	5,000	-	-	14,949
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities						-
Gross trading payments						-
Investment management costs						-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	900	3,000	5,000			8,900
Grants and donations						-
Governance costs:						-
Audit / independent examination						-
Preparation of annual accounts						-
Legal costs						-
						-
Sub total	900	3,000	5,000	-	-	8,900
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets						-
Purchase of investments						-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	900	3,000	5,000	-	-	8,900
Net receipts / (payments)	9,049	(3,000)	-	-	-	6,049
Transfers to / (from) funds						-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	9,049	(3,000)	-	-	-	6,049

Nature and purpose of funds

AVA MHWBF: counselling, mileage, training - balance remaining £9,949

Kings Church: counselling costs - balance remaining £0

Albert Hunt: subsidised counselling - balance remaining £0

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2						
Report to the trustees/members of		Charity name Hope Counselling						
Registered charity number		SC042861						
On the accounts of the charity for the period		Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
		01	February	2025	to	31	January	2026
Set out on pages		OSCR Receipts & Payments Template						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner		The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.						
Basis of independent examiner's statement		My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.						
Independent examiner's statement		In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention - which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.						
Signed:						Date:	29 May 2026	
Name:		Ian Gourlay						
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:		n/a						
Address:		43 Gordon Place						
		Bridge of Don						
		Aberdeen						
		AB23 8RB						

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.