Child Poverty Action Group

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2026

Company Registration number 1993854



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The charity's aims

Objects of the charity

The objects of the charity are to prevent poverty among children and families with children and to promote action for the relief directly or indirectly of such poverty, in the UK.

Our vision

Our vision is of a society free from child poverty, where all children can enjoy a childhood without financial hardship and have a fair chance in life to reach their full potential.

Our theory of change:

By promoting our values, we advance the public and political will for a society free of child poverty

By developing evidence-based solutions, we encourage policymakers and practitioners to act to prevent and end child poverty

By campaigning, we work towards social and political change that will keep families from poverty

By developing and sharing our social security expertise, we help maximise families' resources, inform our evidence for change and, through our social enterprise, sustain our income

Our strategic objectives are:

Objective 1 – strengthen public commitment to end child poverty

Objective 2 – ensure government adoption of evidence-based policy solutions to child poverty

Objective 3 – use our expertise to maximise family incomes and reduce child poverty

Objective 4 – continue to be a sustainable charity

Objective 5 – be a great place to work

Key activities, achievements and performance in 2025-2026

Delivering public benefit

The charity's Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission and OSCR guidance in relation to delivering public benefit, and particularly in relation to benefiting a section of the public and to fee charging activities. CPAG's work is specifically aimed at benefiting the 4 million children in the UK growing up in poverty, and their families. Some of the second-tier support we provide through publications, subscriptions and training to frontline advisers is charged for with different levels of charge levied depending on the nature of the organisation. In addition, some published material is provided on a heavily subsidised basis to individuals in receipt of state benefits.

Child poverty in the UK in 2025

Child poverty in 2024/25 stood at 4 million. Thanks to policy changes achieved this year, this number will start to come down. Child poverty is already falling in Scotland because of Scottish government interventions that CPAG has been instrumental in securing.

Positive changes for children and families this year

- Two-child limit scrapped for all children from April 2026.
- Free school meals to be expanded to all children in families receiving universal credit in England from September 2026.
- These significant changes were the biggest policies in the new UK-wide child poverty strategy – the first in nearly a decade.



Spotlight on policy change

The first UK-wide child poverty strategy in nearly a decade was published in December 2025. It contains two key policies that CPAG played a significant role in securing.

The abolition of the two-child limit
Much of our work this year focused on pushing for the full scrapping of the two-child limit, which the UK government announced it would do in November 2025.

Investment in our social security system is the key to lifting children out of poverty, and we used our analysis, parents' voices, behind the scenes influencing, and public campaigning to relentlessly make the case that any credible child poverty strategy needed to include the full scrapping of the two-child limit.

Our substantial analysis over the year showed that:

- Abolishing the two-child limit would be, by far, the most cost-effective intervention government could make. Anything less than full abolition would be throwing away the chance to make the most efficient intervention, pound for pound.
- There was little prospect of reducing child poverty unless the two-child limit was abolished, because it continued to push children into poverty (at a rate of 109 a day). This projection was used widely.
- The policy fell hardest on already disadvantaged groups.
- The number of children in working families affected by the policy reached one million. A couple with three children, one parent working full time and one part time on the minimum wage, was £2,000 below the poverty line because of the two-child limit. Without the limit, they are £1,500 above. Many affected families are unable to work, the vast majority because they have very young children, or are ill or disabled.
- There are no notable economies of scale for families: while the first child in a family comes with more associated costs, our Cost of a Child research evidence showed that children after that cost the same. Families might make the odd saving from a hand-me-down coat, but significant costs like childcare must be paid for each child, and the system of support needs to reflect this.
- There is a growing gap between school-related costs and family incomes, and this is making it harder for children to attend and make the most of time at school.
- The public overwhelmingly wants to see action on child poverty.

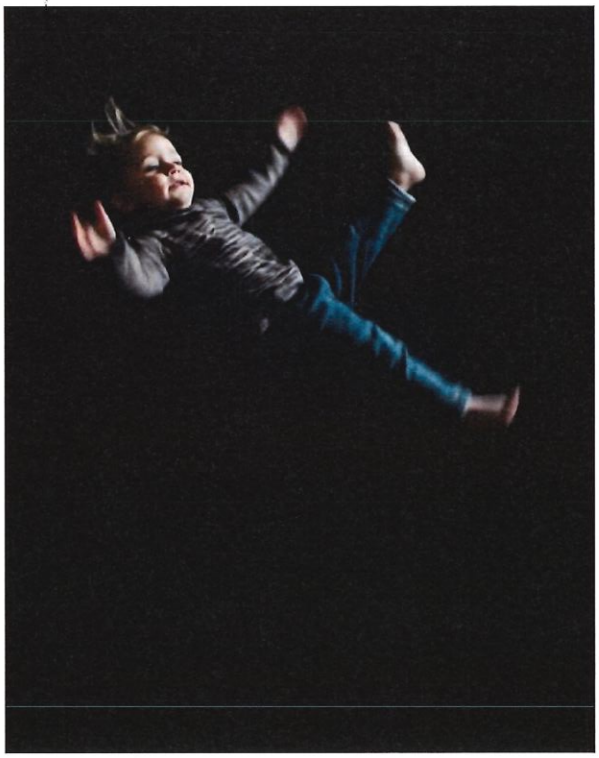
We also worked jointly with those who work directly with children to draw out the impact of child poverty and why investment in the social security system is so important in tackling it.

We worked with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to show how rising levels of child poverty are affecting professionals working on the front line of children's health. 99 per cent of the paediatricians we surveyed reported that poverty is contributing to ill-health among the children they treat. 78 per cent said that the number of children they are seeing with poverty-related ill health has increased in the last two years and a similar percentage said that the impact poverty is having on the health of children is becoming more severe. This helped us show that as well as being bad for children's health, poverty is placing a healthcare system already stretched thin under much more considerable strain. Tackling child poverty therefore would reduce pressure on the NHS.

We also worked with school staff to demonstrate why action was needed. Our poll of English primary and secondary teachers, conducted by the National Education Union (NEU), showed the toll that child poverty is taking: 86 per cent of teachers said child poverty is limiting opportunity for their pupils to some extent. Two in five said it is limiting pupil opportunity greatly. The vast majority of teachers (86 per cent) said the government could be doing more to help lower-income families and children. Teachers reported seeing signs of poverty in their classrooms, including hunger and malnourishment; lack of equipment or clean uniform; pupils feeling shame in front of peers; pupils unable to afford trips; and pupils lacking access to outdoor spaces, books, space and technology for homework, and even beds.

> *'Children attending* [school] *without having breakfast, not able to go on trips, especially residential. Children not bringing money for charity days. Children not being able to relate* [what they read in stories] *to places they've been such as the seaside because they don't go on outings, not able to swim or go to outside clubs or after school clubs that aren't free.'* – Teacher

As well as getting media attention for our evidence, we shared it in numerous meetings with politicians, civil servants and advisers to make the case for this investment. We warned that this could be the first Labour government in recent years to preside over increasing levels of child poverty if the two-child limit were not scrapped. We showed MPs what the impact was in their own constituencies. We spoke in terms of the government's priorities: its aims to see all children have the best start in life (through its opportunity mission), to improve school readiness (heavily influenced by poverty) and to improve living standards.



Still from CPAG digital advert showing a child falling, to draw attention to children continuing to fall into poverty because of the two-child limit.

We also worked with diverse organisations to call for the policy to be scrapped in full. We continue to host the End Child Poverty coalition, which kept 140+ organisations together behind the call to end the policy and led multiple actions to apply pressure.

We briefed MPs and peers as the Bill to scrap the policy went through parliament, highlighting the benefits it would have.

In the meantime, we brought our policy and rights expertise together to inform the approach the Scottish government was taking to deliver on the previously secured commitment to mitigate the two-child limit in Scotland from April 2026 through a Social Security Scotland two-child limit payment. Thankfully abolition at UK level meant this payment was not in the end required.

Two-child limit legal case
We supported two mothers in a legal challenge to the rules on the two-child limit non-consensual conception exemption, or 'the rape clause'. The mothers each conceived two or more children non-consensually while in abusive relationships that started when they were teenagers. One of the mothers later had two more children consensually in a long-term relationship, while the other struggled to manage on universal credit support for only two of three children living with her after an older child was returned to her from local authority care. The mothers weren't able to rely on the non-consensual conception exception to the two-child limit because this exception only applied for third or subsequent children.

One judge described the histories of our clients as 'chilling accounts of appalling domestic abuse' but considered that the two-child limit and the exemptions constituted a 'deliberate policy choice' made by parliament. The judge added that 'the limitation of the exemptions is part of the definition of the two-child limit'. The judge concluded that the issue of the two-child limit must be resolved 'in the political arena'.

As part of CPAG's legal work and wider work on this policy, we were in contact with a number of women who were denied access to support because they were not eligible, or who experienced difficulties accessing support even where they were eligible. We shared one woman's very traumatic experience of getting support she needed for her children with MPs, provoking a significant number of responses.

The expansion of free school meals in England
We have campaigned for many years for an expansion of who is eligible for free school meals. We have repeatedly calculated and reported on the number of children in poverty who miss out on means-tested free school meals, a figure which gets a lot of traction. We were therefore delighted when the government announced that all children in families receiving universal credit in England would be eligible for free school meals from September 2026, meaning free school meals will now reach nearly all children in poverty in England.

In addition to research on the numbers of children who currently miss out on free school meals, we published a report called *Priced out of School* which highlighted how lack of money at home plays a role in school attendance. We polled young people across the UK aged 11-18 and the findings show that secondary aged pupils are missing school because they don't have what they need including money for meals (as well as the right uniform and money for transport). 16 per cent of all 11-18-year-olds said they had missed school because they didn't have something they needed. Of pupils who had missed school, 23 per cent said they didn't attend because they didn't have the money to pay for school meals, while 20 per cent said difficulty affording a packed lunch had kept them off. Children in receipt of free school meals told us they are sometimes lending their free school meal allowances to friends who need food. We also updated our analysis on the minimum cost of education, which highlighted that food during the school day is now the biggest essential cost that families face.

The expansion will provide much needed relief to many families but there is also work to be done to ensure all children who become newly eligible will benefit from the policy. The expansion is also an important step towards our long-term vision of all children being able to access universal free school meals in every UK nation.

The wider child poverty strategy

> *'I also thank the many campaigners, charities and others that have shaped this strategy by working with us to develop the best case for lifting children out of poverty. I particularly pay tribute to the* Child Poverty Action Group *and Save the Children, which have provided enormous support in making the case that this is not just necessary for children's life chances but essential for our society.'* – Bridget Phillipson, then Secretary of State for Education, House of Commons, 8 December 2025

As well as focusing on two specific policy changes, we worked to ensure the overall strategy was as strong as possible. This ranged from giving evidence to the Treasury Select Committee and the joint inquiry by the Education and Work and Pensions Select Committees, to working with children and young people to write letters to the Prime Minister about their hopes. We also worked with the National Education Union (NEU) to set out from an education perspective what is needed to reduce child poverty, and with colleagues across the sector to push for the strategy to be as ambitious as possible.

> *'Our involvement in this strategy has strengthened our belief that lasting solutions come when policies are shaped with people, not just for them. We are proud to have contributed and we remain hopeful that through sharing our experiences, we will help create a better future for all children.'* – Extract from Changing Realities parents' foreword to the child poverty strategy

We continue to support Changing Realities, which had structured engagement with the government during the development of the strategy. This engagement included meetings with ministers; answering 'Big questions' asked by officials and ministers about various aspects of the strategy; informing the narrative framing of the strategy; contributing a foreword to the strategy; and being involved in launch events with the PM and other ministers. Changing Realities also published a comprehensive report with IPPR on parents' priorities for the strategy. As always, Changing Realities advocated for people with lived experience to be part of the policy making process *and* for policies that people with lived experience want to see.

> *'I put on the record my particular thanks to* Changing Realities*, which worked with us to ensure that the views of parents and children living in poverty were heard during the development of the strategy. I am very grateful for all the support that it gave so that those at the sharp end of poverty were able to influence Government decision making and shape the strategy.'* – Bridget Phillipson, then Secretary of State for Education, House of Commons, 8 December 2025

Delivering our objectives

Objective 1 – strengthen public commitment to end child poverty



CPAG Youth Panel member Brooke outside No 11 Downing Street.

Working with young people and those with lived experience
Our work with young people continued to develop this year. We held our first Cost of the School Day Young People's Summit in Glasgow, with young people from across Scotland coming together to set out how they think the Scottish government should tackle poverty in schools in the coming years. The young people spoke directly to First Minister John Swinney about the need to ensure no one is left out at school because of family income. The First Minister then met young people at Bute House. Ahead of the Scottish election, children and young people also took part in an event at Holyrood.

In South Wales, we held a youth voice event, bringing together children and young people who had worked with CPAG to carry out research on poverty in their schools. Children shared their findings and recommendations on how to bring down the cost of the school day with schools, local authorities, stakeholders and civil servants from Welsh government.

Members of our London Youth Panel made a submission to the UK government's Curriculum and Assessment Review and informed our response to the Milburn review on youth employment. They co-chaired a Youth Town Hall event at the Labour Party Conference, attended an event at No.11 hosted by Rachel Reeves, and a Youth Panel member was interviewed by Amol Rajan at CPAG's 60th anniversary event.

In addition to Changing Realities' work on the child poverty strategy, the project undertook work on childcare and support for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Participants met with the Scottish First Minister, with the Minister for Social Security on the universal credit review, with the then Secretary of State for Education to discuss SEND reforms, and also input into the children's mental health inquiry from the Education and Health select committees.

Manifestos for devolved elections
With elections in Scotland and Wales this year, we published and supported the publication of several manifestos for change. Our own CPAG in Scotland manifesto urged all political parties to set out clear and credible plans to deliver year-on-year progress towards the 2030 child poverty targets, so that every child in Scotland can have the best possible start in life.

The Young People's Poverty and Education Manifesto, *School Shouldn't Cost*, brought together views from thousands of young people in Scotland about what should happen to remove barriers and make school better for children and young people on low incomes. Changing Realties parents in Scotland set out their priorities for change, as did the End Child Poverty coalition in Scotland.

In Wales, our Youth Voice Champions researched the impact of school costs on teenagers and developed the *Cost of the School Day Manifesto* for Wales, calling on the new Welsh government to

make school more affordable and ensure everyone has the food, resources and opportunities to make the most of their education.

Objective 2 – ensure government adoption of evidence-based policy solutions to child poverty

Fixing universal credit for families
With our expertise on the social security system, and evidence from frontline advisers (discussed below), we continue to advocate for improvements to universal credit so it works better for children and families. We responded to the UK government's universal credit review this year, highlighting how a combination of improvements to adequacy in the system and technical changes would tackle poverty, improve work incentives and maximise the system's potential.

There was a positive development with the announcement that the standard allowance of universal credit would be increased by more than inflation in April 2026, but it does remain inadequate. This also came alongside a cut to the health element of universal credit, discussed below.

We published research on the issues that remain for claimants moving from older benefits to universal credit through 'managed migration'. This highlighted significant difficulties for claimants, with the result that many lose out on income and face potential hardship.

Benefit cap
We repeatedly called for the benefit cap to be scrapped as part of the child poverty strategy, but it remains in place (with mitigations in Scotland and Northern Ireland). We published new research showing that families with children, particularly those living in high rent areas, are disproportionately affected by the cap. A lone parent family with three children can now expect to be capped across 95 per cent of England and Wales, compared to 60 per cent in 2023. The cap leaves all affected families with very little to live on once housing costs are accounted for. In inner London, a lone parent family with three children can be left with just £3 a week to live on after paying rent. In Brighton, a similar family would be left with just £89 a week to live on after rent. We will continue to campaign for this policy to be addressed.

Evidence from the Benefit Changes and Larger Families project, which we are part of, showed the importance of social security for children in larger families (which are disproportionately affected by the benefit cap). The research showed how employment alone will not turn the tide on child poverty due to both parents facing significant barriers to work and wages not meeting the full costs of children. The project also added vital evidence to the case for scrapping the two-child limit.

Defence of disability benefits
Disability benefits continue to be widely debated, and we contributed to opposition to cuts over this period. We demonstrated the impact of cuts on child poverty, and how they undermine government's ambitions to reduce it, which got traction among some MPs. Despite changes to personal independence payment being dropped from the legislation passed this year, our analysis showed that the cut to the health element of universal credit was the biggest cut to sickness and disability benefits in a generation. We estimate that the long-term impact is an additional £5 billion cut, pushing 100,000 more children into poverty.

We have contributed to the Timms review which is looking at the future of personal independence payment, using our expertise about how best to support sick and disabled people in their lives and at

work. We have also been pointing out that social security spending is forecast to remain flat as a share of GDP.

Social security projects
CPAG is a key project partner on Safety Nets, which explores the extent of the devolution of social security within the UK and the realities, risks and opportunities this poses for families with children. We created an interactive dataset highlighting local variation in social security provision, and made sure project findings reached policymakers, most notably through the five Annual Policymaker Reports.

We also acted as the policy partner in the Family Finances project which compared families' experiences in Scotland and England to understand the impact additional cash support in Scotland has had. The key findings that emerged – that over 70,000 fewer Scottish children are living in either material deprivation or food insecurity than would have been the case without the Scottish child payment and that concerns that the payment weakens work disincentives are 'overplayed' – were used to campaign for further increases to it. The Scottish government committed to an increase in the payment to the £40 a week that CPAG and partners have been calling for, but only for babies under one.

We published the final report of our Strengthening Scottish Social Security project funded by The Robertson Trust. This project brought together the expertise of parents, carers, frontline advisers and welfare rights workers in Scotland to explore why some families on a low income are excluded from or not benefiting fully from Scottish child payment and other Scottish family payments. We used creative participatory methods to bring parents and carers together to share their lived experiences of struggling to access benefits and develop policy recommendations for the Scottish government. We published Postcards to the Powerful to showcases the messages and stories that participants wanted to share with decision makers, and a comic format to tell participants' stories of navigating the benefit system and missing out on payments for their children due to incorrect advice or policy gaps. Key recommendations included that Scottish child payment should be extended to 16- and 17-year-olds and a 'run on' of Scottish child payment should be introduced to support working parents when they lose entitlement to universal credit – whether as a result of temporary disruption in their entitlement or due to more permanent increases in their earned income. These findings were shared with key politicians and officials and will be at the heart of our Scotland influencing work in 2026/27.

We responded to the UK government's consultation on earned settlement (the proposed reform of Indefinite Leave to Remain). Among our arguments was that people's immigration status should not be affected by whether they have needed to claim public funds. The cornerstone of our social security system is that is there for everyone based on their needs.

Work in education
We continue to make the case that household income is critical when it comes to educational outcomes, with money at home being the strongest predictor of how well a child will do at school. Our education work enables us to both push for change within the education system to support children from poorer backgrounds, and to push for action on family incomes outside the school gates.

In addition to needing free school meals for more children, we have built our evidence base on the other costs that need addressing for children and young people to be able to fully participate at school. Our *Minimum Cost of Education* research showed a growing gap between costs and income is making it harder for children from lower-income families to make the most of their time at school. Our research with secondary school pupils found that 23 per cent of those in receipt of free school meals say the cost or worries about the cost of taking a subject has prevented them from choosing a subject to study (compared to 9 per cent among those not eligible for free school meals). Thirty per cent of students

eligible for free school meals say it's difficult to afford what they need for homework, including access to technology and devices.

We continue to make the case for further expansion of free school meals, such as in Wales where our research showed that there has been a fall of 6,000 in the number of children registered for means-tested free school meals. The fall in the number of children registered means that 25,000 children in poverty in secondary schools now miss out on any form of free school meal. As part of its manifesto, Plaid Cymru, now the governing party in Wales, committed to expanding free school meals to all children in secondary schools in households in receipt of universal credit. In Scotland, the young people we work with have continued to make the case for free school meal expansion, particularly in secondary schools. This call was included in their School Shouldn't Cost manifesto. They have been supported to share their views and advocate for expansion with senior politicians and officials throughout the year and this will continue.

Our project work in schools has continued in London, supporting children and young people in 20 schools (during this phase) to explore poverty and make recommendations to school and academy trust leaders about the changes that are needed. Schools have implemented changes including reducing uniform costs through allowing pupils to wear plain black blazers and black trainers, enabling parents to pay for school trips in instalments and inviting students to meet with caterers to provide feedback. In Scotland, we supported young people from the 360 schools in our Cost of the School Day Voice network to come together through online meetings, events and committees to explore poverty, discuss support that works and identify what else needs to change both in their settings and nationally. Evaluation with teachers leading Cost of the School Day groups shows that the Voice network supports young people to be active and lead on anti-poverty action in their schools, and that those who had voiced their views and ideas to decision makers felt that they had been listened to and heard on the poverty and education issues that matter to them.

Meanwhile in Wales Our *Cost of the School Day: Every Voice Heard* project ended this year. An independent evaluation of the project found it had empowered learners to use their voice to influence change in their schools and communities, building their confidence to speak openly about poverty. By sharing their insights with school leaders and wider audiences, they raised awareness, made practical improvements to school life, and developed the skills to become 'ethical, informed citizens'.

We use the evidence we gain from such projects to inform our policy and advocacy work, and in practical ways such as delivering training for teachers on how to reduce financial pressures for families and ensure schools and classrooms are poverty sensitive (working with the National Education Union). In Scotland, ongoing evidence from young people and schools helped to inform our range of well-used resources for teachers and school staff, supporting them to understand poverty, reduce costs, tackle stigma and boost family incomes.

The child poverty strategy and expansion of free school meals policy build on earlier changes introduced in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, which CPAG undertook considerable advocacy work on. Now it has passed, the Act limits school uniform costs and introduces free breakfast clubs in primary schools in England, which began to be rolled out in April 2025. From working closely with children and young people and championing their voices, we know that these changes will make a vital difference to their time at school and family finances.

Objective 3 – use our expertise to maximise family incomes and reduce child poverty

Advice and evidence
We continue to deliver our highly-valued second-tier services for advisers across the UK to help people get the social security support they need. We deliver these for free five days a week. Our advisers responded to 7,155 cases helping an estimated 28,620 people this year.

We run bespoke services for Trussell, and responded to 756 social security advice queries from advisers working in food banks as well as providing training.

In Scotland we continued to ensure our second-tier service covers both the UK and Scottish social security systems and the interactions between them.



The issues advisers raise feed into our Early Warning System (EWS), giving us a better understanding of how changes to social security systems at UK and Scotland level are affecting the lives of children and families. Advisers and claimants can also directly tell the EWS about the problems they are experiencing, many of which are systemic. The intelligence from our Early Warning System informs much of our policy, research and campaigns work (see above), and also feeds into the advice we give frontline staff through our training, publications and advice services to ensure we are upskilling advisers about how to best navigate the system for the families they support.

CPAG Welfare Rights provides a range of second-tier advice and support services and materials for advisers. There were 333,815 engaged sessions by users this year. Alongside free-to-access content, we offer subscriptions for handbooks and selected tools and letter generators, with 2,470 current subscribers. Our welfare rights tools, which help advisers establish their client's legal position in complex areas of social security law, and generate documents, notes and letters to help challenge incorrect decisions, have been used 2,496 times over the course of the year. In Scotland we continuously update our online resource on Scottish social security benefits, for example adding content on the new carer additional person payment launched in March 2026.

As well as adding new tools and templates to the website, in August 2025 we added resources to help advisers keep up to date with welfare reform proposals affecting people who are disabled or in ill-health, and their implementation. In January we also launched an online, fully searchable database of the caselaw summaries from our Welfare Rights Bulletin, spanning over a decade's worth of caselaw and regularly updated with summaries of the latest welfare rights cases.

CPAG Welfare Rights also publishes the sector's go-to resource, the *Welfare Benefits Handbook*, alongside other titles such as the *Benefits for Migrants Handbook* and *Debt Advice Handbook*. We publish two handbooks online specifically aimed at advisers in Scotland which explain benefits for students and for care-experienced young people, kinship carers and others.

We produced eight new publications this year, and two benefit rates charts. We sold 12,211 copies, as well as 6,292 books from other publishers.

We have 730 individual members and 324 organisational members.

Legal work
Our judicial review project worker assisted 160 advisers from 124 organisations, providing advice in 200 cases. We advised on 92 Upper Tribunal cases.

CPAG had core participant status in modules 8 and 9 of the Covid Inquiry, which looked at the treatment of children in the pandemic and the government's economic response respectively. We used this to draw attention to the consequences of the poor level of support offered to families through the social security system.

In module 8, we argued that government measures during the pandemic were insufficient to mitigate inadequate levels of social security for families and children. Our head of education policy Kate Anstey told the Inquiry: 'To protect children in a pandemic you have to protect them outside the pandemic... [including] making sure that the social security system is adequate so that families have enough money to support their children and meet their needs.' And Kate highlighted how families on low incomes were not set up for the move to online learning: '... children and families did not have the essential items that they needed, whether that's laptops or other devices... [children] were very stressed about falling behind...'

In module 9, our head of policy Sophie Howes said: 'the best way to ensure that... families on the lowest incomes are protected in a pandemic is to make sure that we have a robust social security system in normal times because that would mean that they're... more financially resilient going into a pandemic and then the system is able to be pulled as an effective policy lever to protect incomes.'

Our trainee solicitor finished her training contract and Justice First Fellowship.

Training
In England, Wales and Northern Ireland we ran 110 in-house training courses to approximately 1,650 attendees; 100 programmed courses to 982 attendees; three webinars to 631 attendees; and two conferences to 299 attendees.

In Scotland, we delivered 92 public programme and in-house training courses and other events to 1,204 participants in more than 200 organisations across every local authority area. We train advisers starting in their career and give them skills to progress. This year we delivered more training on representation skills as advisers began to deal with a growing number of Scottish benefit appeals. We delivered income maximisation sessions to other frontline services, for example supporting intensive family support services.

Our conference in Glasgow was attended by 211 advisers from 107 organisations from all over Scotland. All respondents rated it as excellent or good. They came together to network, gain knowledge for client case work, and share views with government ministers. We also delivered an in-person seminar to 85 advisers.

We delivered 14 eLearning courses at non-specialist level and eight at adviser level, which were completed by 2,498 advisers and support workers. Our non-specialist courses give people tools to tackle stigma and give them confidence in talking about money and benefits.

Objective 4 – continue to be a sustainable charity

Fundraising
In a highly competitive funding environment, CPAG really relies on the passion and generosity of all our supporters to tackle child poverty in the UK. It is only with the support of our funders and donors that we can challenge unfair policies and demand better support for children and young people, and ensure that our trusted and expert information, training and advice to frontline workers helps families get the financial help they need.

Fundraising during the year to end March 2026 raised donations and legacies totalling £1,775,838 (2025: £1,261,770) and restricted grants income of £2,553,635 (2025: £2,421,675).

We would like to thank the following trusts and foundations for core, unrestricted grants: Oak Foundation (£1m over five years); Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (£400,000 over five years); Pears Foundation (£110,000 over two years); Indigo Trust (£82,750 over three years); The Betty Messenger Charitable Foundation (£75,000); Jolanta and Max Neufeld Charitable Trust (£10,000), The Basil Samuel Charitable Trust (£15,000); and Golden Charitable Trust (£1,000).

We would like to thank the Scottish government for continued support of our second-tier welfare rights advice, information and training services, and our Cost of the School Day project, and also the Corra Foundation for funding towards our Early Warning System and associated policy work in Scotland.

Thanks to the following for the significant restricted project grants: Access to Justice Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund through the Improving Lives Through Advice programme; the Legal Education Foundation for our Access to Justice in the Social Security System projects; Impact on Urban Health (for core policy work); National Lottery Community Fund (Cost of the School Day project in Wales and our Young Leaders Project in England); Robertson Trust (Strengthening Social Security in Scotland project); and Trussell for the Food Bank Income Maximisation Service, as well as the Ending the Need for Foodbanks and Better Crisis Support Scottish Welfare Fund project.

We received other restricted grants from a number of trusts to whom we are grateful including: Legal Education Foundation's Justice Fellowship programme (for trainee solicitor); Indigo Trust (for setting up a major donor programme); Digital Freedom Fund (Access to Justice in a Digital Means-Tested Universal Credit System); TUUT Charitable Trust and National Education Union (poverty and education project); the Northwick Trust (for our youth leaders); Paul Hamlyn Foundation (End Child Poverty Coalition Youth Ambassador Scheme); Scottish Children's Lottery Trust and the National Lottery Community Fund (for our Youth-led conference on Tackling Poverty in Education); Universities of York and Glasgow (Changing Realities, Changing Realities Media Boost, Devolved Social Security, Improving Policymaking Processes and Knowledge Bases on Child Poverty, and Family Finances projects); London School of Economics and Political Science (Larger families project); Joseph Rowntree Foundation (for Changing Realities project); Souter Charitable Trust, Gold for Kids, and The Rothley Trust and Edith Murphy Foundation (for our advice line); The Appletree Trust (for our advice line in Scotland) and many others including those who prefer not to be named.

We are grateful to more than 1,610 individuals (2025: 1,811) who, collectively, donated over £250K (2025: £221K) and to 29,918 supporters (2025: 29,501) who contributed to our efforts in other ways to prevent and end child poverty. We would particularly like to thank everyone who generously donated to our Winter Appeal, which raised over £33K.

A huge thanks to the following companies for donations, choosing CPAG as their charity of the year and/or staff fundraising: Equin Ltd, Kohler Mira, Saison Technology, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, Benefix, Gardner Halliday, Open Online Agents, and many more.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP and Norton Rose Fulbright LLP for their significant pro bono legal services during the year. The support from Norton Rose Fulbright was provided as part of their wider strategic partnership with Save the Children, one of our co-core participants in Module 8 of the Covid-19 Inquiry.

We are extremely grateful to all the individuals and organisations who raised over £15K (2025: £22K) through a huge variety of imaginative fundraising challenges and tireless effort including: Anglo European School's Year 8 students who worked on their enterprising skills during Charities Week by planning, organising and running charity stalls; Steven who swam the entire length of Ullswater in the Lake District; Children's Hearings Scotland who took on the Edinburgh Marathon relay race; Seb and Austin who fundraised for their birthday instead of receiving gifts; Jake who took on the Bournemouth Half Marathon; Alison who completed the Altra Brighton Half Marathon and many more. More fundraising heroes can be found on our website.

We would like to remember the following with gratitude, from whose estates we received legacies: the late Colin Goldberg, Peter John Betsworth, Anne Christine Stevenson, Jean Irene Barron, Judith Anne Robinson, Ralph Klaus Blumenau, and Ranabir Chanda. It is gifts in Wills which help us release children from poverty for generations to come. We would also like to thank friends and family who have given in memory of loved ones to support our work.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

CPAG is committed to open, honest and respectful fundraising, and we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising. Registered with the Fundraising Regulator, we are committed to our Fundraising Promise and adherence to the Code of Fundraising Practice. Our fundraising team are members of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising. CPAG's fundraising is monitored regularly by the senior management team and Trustees. CPAG did not employ third party suppliers to raise funds. For those who fundraise on our behalf, we ensure that the correct safeguards are in place including agreements with commercial participators or corporate partners.

At CPAG, we are also committed to data privacy including compliance with the GDPR, which is a positive step in the way people are contacted and vulnerable people protected. Our fundraising activities are designed to ensure we protect privacy, and we have systems in place to enable us to fulfil the wishes of those supporters who do not want to receive appeals. Our website outlines our complaints policy for the public. We updated our Privacy Policy to allow for wealth screening of our donors to help improve the effectiveness of our fundraising. We received six complaints in 2025/26 relating to the reissue of our privacy policy to our donors informing them of planned wealth screening unless they opted out of this research activity.

CPAG is signed up to the Fundraising Preference Service to enable individuals to opt out from receiving fundraising communications from us. We received five such requests from this service last year.

Objective 5 – be a great place to work

Recruiting and supporting our staff
We continued our partnership with the LSE Mitchell Family Internship Programme, recruiting a further two interns who will join CPAG in June 2026. The internship programme provides valuable opportunities for students to gain experience within the charity sector while supporting our policy and research work.

During the year, we also continued to strengthen our people practices by improving recruitment and onboarding processes, supporting managers with recruitment activity and progressing work to develop an electronic staff handbook, making policies and guidance more accessible to colleagues.

Looking ahead, we will begin developing a new People Strategy to support delivery of the organisational strategy, with an initial focus on staff health, wellbeing and creating an inclusive and supportive working environment.

Other key achievements include:

- Continued to support regular staff communications through the monthly staff newsletter, helping colleagues stay informed about organisational developments.
- Continued development of the People Portal as a central location for policies, guidance and staff resources.
- Continued to support staff learning and development through mandatory training, induction and policy guidance.
- Supported colleagues undertaking professional development and qualifications.
- Progressed the review and updating of people policies and maintained the policy review schedule to ensure policies remained current and accessible.
- Continued to oversee office health and safety, facilities management and contractor relationships to provide a safe and welcoming working environment.
- Managed office improvements and ongoing insurance and maintenance work to improve the workplace.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
We have continued to progress our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) work throughout the year. Building on the foundations established through our previous EDI Action Plan, we undertook an organisation-wide consultation to help shape the next phase of our work. Staff, networks and other stakeholders have been invited to share their experiences and priorities, ensuring that our future approach reflects the voices of colleagues across the organisation.

This consultation will inform the development of our next EDI Action Plan, supporting our ongoing commitment to embedding equity, diversity and inclusion into all aspects of our work and organisational culture.

Plans for the future

The Board has approved a programme of work for 2027-2030.

In 2027-30, we have four strategic objectives, specifically we will be:

Objective 1 – the trusted voice on child poverty

Specifically we will:

1.1 Make a powerful case for the next steps needed to make progress through government child poverty strategies.
1.2 Develop evidence-based research showing the impact of child poverty and the most effective solutions.
1.3 Mobilise supporters and collaborate with partners and policy makers cross-party to promote our evidence-based solutions.

Objective 2 – a strong voice for children and families

Specifically we will:

2.1 Focus relentlessly on showing the impact of child poverty on children and families across the UK, including through the voices of children and families and through youth engagement.
2.2 Use our Early Warning System (EWS) to expose weaknesses in social security policy and advocate for change.
2.3 Develop solutions through national and local projects, for example, around education, childcare, housing, health and work and through local and devolved child poverty strategies.

Objective 3 –the experts on social security

Specifically we will:

3.1 Make a compelling case for the strengthening of social security for families.
3.2 Maximise family incomes and encourage take-up through the best welfare rights advice, training and information.
3.3 Continue to win change and fight discrimination through work on appeals and strategic litigation.

Objective 4 – fit for the future

Specifically we will:

4.1 Sustain income, control expenditure and maintain a healthy level of reserves.
4.2 Sustain grant income while investing to grow unrestricted income through regular giving, appeals, supporter-led community fundraising, major donations and gifts in wills.
4.3 Review content and outputs to align with our priorities and audience needs.
4.4 Maximise opportunities presented by AI by positioning our content as trusted, authoritative and up to date, retaining our leadership role within the advice sector.
4.5 Attract, develop and support a highly talented staff team, including through a wellbeing strategy and by embedding a culture of equality, diversity and inclusion.

Structure, governance and management

Status	Child Poverty Action Group ("the CPAG") is a charitable company limited by guarantee.	
Governing document	The charitable company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.	
Company number	1993854	
Charity number	Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales registration number 294841, and with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator registration number SC039339	
Registered office and operational address	30 Micawber Street London N1 7TB	
Email Website	office@cpag.org.uk cpag.org.uk	
Honorary officers	Jane Millar Mark Cooke Mark Cooke Esther Kuku	Chair Treasurer Vice Chair until 18 December 2025 Vice Chair from 18 December 2025
Chief Executive	Alison Garnham	
Company Secretary	Chineze Okonkwo-Onyilo	
Bankers	NatWest Bank plc Islington Angel Branch 2/3 Upper Street London N1 0PH	
Solicitors	Russell-Cooke 2 Putney Hill London SW15 6AB	
Auditors	HaysMac LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG	

Trustees who served during the year and thereafter were as follows:

Alicia Tew	
Ann McVie	
Anne-Marie Canning MBE	
Clarissa Corbisiero	Until 18 December 2025
Esther Kuku	
Jane Millar	
Kitty Stewart	
Mark Cooke	
Mike Brewer	From 19 December 2025
Satwat Rehman	
Simon Thompson	
Stephen Watmough	

Constitution

The charity is a company limited by guarantee without shares and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The guarantee of each member of the company is limited to £1.

Trustees are appointed by the Board for a term of three years and may be re-appointed for up to a maximum of nine years. The mix of skills and experience represented on the Board of Trustees needs to be appropriate to the aims and objectives of the charity, and the current and longer-term challenges it faces, and trustees are selected for appointment with a view to maintaining that balance. Additional trustees may be co-opted by the Board for a period of 12 months and may be re-appointed for a further two 12-month terms.

Membership

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2026 was 730 (2025: 892). The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to the same voting rights as other members. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

CPAG in Scotland

In addition to its main office in London, CPAG maintains an office in Glasgow to enable the charity to maximise its input to Scottish policy makers, its reach to advisers working in Scotland and to ensure devolved experience is fed into UK-wide child poverty activity. Over the year CPAG in Scotland continued to be a key voice on child poverty issues in Scotland, widening its policy influencing activity (working in partnership wherever possible) and developing and growing its second-tier welfare rights services.

Related parties

The charity owns a subsidiary company, CPAG Limited, which is dormant. Other than transactions with Trustees disclosed in note 3 and the remuneration of key management personnel disclosed in note 5, there are no related party transactions requiring disclosure in these accounts.

Training of Trustees

Training of Trustees is supported by an ongoing programme of presentations to the Board on CPAG's policy and rights work, and on charity finance, law and practice. In addition, individual Trustees attend ad hoc external training events as appropriate.

Volunteers

Trustees and other committee members give their time not just in attending meetings, but in contributing their expertise and advice more generally to CPAG's work. We are grateful to those who worked for us in a voluntary capacity and others who, during the year, contributed articles or text to our publications without charging.

Senior staff payment policy

The pay of senior staff comprising the Chief Executive and senior management team is reviewed annually and increased with the same cost of living inflation figure as for all staff. The charity uses a pay scale devised for CPAG after benchmarking against median salaries in the sector.

Organisational structure and the decision making process

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the charity, and for monitoring its performance and effectiveness. They are supported by a number of subcommittees, whose responsibilities are set out by the Board. Committees do not have decision-making powers, except where specifically authorised by the Board in relation to individual decisions, but act in an advisory capacity to staff and to the Board of Trustees.

The operational responsibilities of the charity are delegated via a "Scheme of Delegation" to the Chief Executive, who in turn delegates various duties to senior staff.

Governance

Trustees are responsible for ensuring the highest standards of governance are attained and regularly consider how the Board can be strengthened. In light of this, Trustees are planning to change our governance model, initially to a foundation model and then to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) over a longer period.

Risk statement

During the year, Trustees continued to identify risks potentially affecting all parts of CPAG's activities and assessed them in terms of likelihood and impact using the qualitative analysis methodology. In formulating the strategy, the Board of Trustees continue to give particular attention to potential reputational, financial and operational risks involved in managing the organisation. This formed part of the subject of discussion at Board meetings and measures to address the risks have been identified and steps taken to ensure that these are adequate. As an enterprising and creative organisation, CPAG does not seek to avoid all risks. The Trustees' policy is to understand the risks we are taking and to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to control and mitigate them. A table below lists major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by us, and demonstrates that they have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks alongside strategic priorities. These risks are subject to regular review at the Finance and Resources Committee and at Board meetings.

Strategic priority	Risk	Mitigating actions
Failure to sustain income or sudden unforeseen loss of income. Large or sudden increase in expenditure against approved budget levels.	Our reliance on funders and business income, and pressures facing supporters and customers, creates risk. Any reduction in sales or cancellation of grants may lead to inability to sustain our vital policy and advocacy work. We aim to build unrestricted income which enables us to post a surplus and build reserves to the required levels.	• Sales and income reports generated and regularly reviewed to enable agility and timely corrective action. • Maintain pipeline grant applications and closely monitor grant-funded projects to ensure that funding conditions are met within timescales given. • Improve our CRM (database) and website to enable us to develop fundraising in areas other than trusts and foundations including legacies, individual donations, major donors and corporates. • Continue to develop new creative offerings to our publications, training and membership customers. • Continue to use more effective debt-chasing procedures. • We have sufficient funds in the bank for deferred income.
Loss of reputation or market share over time as leading experts on social security and child poverty for government, media, users and stakeholders or sudden reputational risk.	Given greater media interest in charities and increased exposure to public comment through social media activity of our advocacy and policy work, there is a risk that our reputation, credibility or market share as the leading independent experts on social security and child poverty may be challenged. Other organisations have moved into the poverty and social security fields. They are often better resourced than we are. Nevertheless, we continue to use our limited resources in a targeted and strategic way to maintain our leadership role.	• We comment and focus only where we are expert and have evidence. • We have clear lines of accountability for sign-off of all external documents and designated media spokespeople in place. • We have prioritised funding to employ more expert analysts than before. • Regular horizon-scanning of sector issues and competition. • Policy Committee regularly review positioning. • CPAG has received pro bono advice on the implications of the Lobbying Act and, during regulated periods, ensures a review is undertaken on whether registration is needed, relevant activities are signed off and a log kept of relevant spending. • CPAG continues to maintain a leadership role on child poverty and social security, including hosting End Child Poverty which strengthens this work through regular sector meetings. • We pursue joint working with partners where possible and appropriate.
Failure in organisational governance or regulatory failure.	Law and guidance are constantly developing and we operate in a complex and fast-changing environment.	• Board aware of its governance role, receiving regular updates on charity law. We have an induction pack for new Trustees. • Elected Board means we can fill skills gaps. • Public accountability via annual report. • Regular review of skills set and performance against Charity Commission guidelines. • Regular review of all policies including safeguarding and GDPR.

Recruitment and retention of staff – particularly senior and specialist staff due to better-off competitors.	Recruitment and retention of staff – particularly senior and specialist staff due to better-off competitors.	• Hire the best staff CPAG can attract. • System of development and appraisals means reward can be reviewed and support offered. • Opportunities for development prioritised by managers. • Procedure for proper handover on exits in place. • Continue to conduct regular supervisions and reviews. • Training offered wherever possible.
Failure to manage shrinkage in organisation size when large projects end.	Growth in organisation has stimulated growth in income generating and servicing teams. Given our ambitions to grow our impact there is a risk that, as we expand, we fail to successfully downsize after delivery of large projects.	• Constant monitoring of activities and resources within large projects. • Including the projects as part of our risk assessment process which involves Trustees and the senior management team working together. • Staff leave as contracts end unless additional funding has been found.
Major ICT systems failure due to hardware or software systems crash, viral attack, AI developments or failure to meet business requirements. Failure to stay ahead of IT developments which optimise use of CRM, website and online shop.	Our objective to move towards digital provision and service continues with investment from funding and core where appropriate. We are increasingly reliant on IT systems and need to keep up, and also to keep our data and users' data safe.	• Our new ICT company, Taran, run our support contract and ICT issues are now dealt with much faster than before. Most ICT issues are now resolved within four hours of being raised. • All staff now equipped for home working, with laptops, cloud-hosted VPN and Office 365. Risks of access to VPN and server problems now gone. There is no more use of personal laptops. • Mobile device management (MDM) added to all mobiles and laptops, protecting from data breaches when used at home or out of office. • We have successfully achieved Cyber Essentials Plus certification (CE+) – the most advanced level, suitable for organisations with remote workers. • We have moved to offsite backup facilities and we now have internal ICT support. • We know how to implement a plan to ensure minimal disruption to business as usual with staff all capable of working remotely. • Implemented SharePoint in 2023 which reduces the risk of hardware failure and VPN no longer needed. • Continual improvements to all platforms, including CMS. • We have recruited an AI coordinator on a one year fixed-term contract to lead on internal use of tools, support to staff and embed policies. We are working with CAB and Wyser on development of AI tools, using our content as the foundation. • Cpag.org.uk rebuild was completed in January 2024 with Drupal 10 implemented. • Our Board Digital Committee monitors digital developments.
Loss of reputation due to industrial action and/or	The sector has experienced more pressure on pay and changed working arrangements	• Good working practices and procedures and disciplinary policies in place • Comprehensive Staff Handbook in place.

expensive involvement in employment tribunal.	due to lockdown and the cost-of-living crisis.	• Regular one-to-ones, team and staff meetings and positive working relationship with staff members. • Focussing more attention on staff health and wellbeing and support since Covid. • Continue to review policies and procedures. • SMT receives help on policy development from our employment lawyer and HR consultants.
Another pandemic, natural or local disaster or energy outage where access to office or home working is disrupted.	The senior management team (SMT) and finance and resources committee (FRC) sub-committee of Trustees continue to assess the risk from external factors which might arise and put in place mitigating actions where necessary.	• We know how to implement a plan to ensure minimal disruption to business as usual with staff all capable of working remotely. • More online and digital resources that can meet the need for remote and hybrid working. • Regular risk assessments established during Covid which can be taken up again if necessary. • Staff and Trustees are fully and regularly informed of the situation. • Feedback which supported continuation of online training.

Financial Review

CPAG ended the financial year with a surplus of £132,708 (2025: £48,149) despite anticipating a challenging period due to the difficult environment for fundraising.

Total income for the year increased by £623,372 to £6,261,932 (2025: £5,638,560) compared to the previous year. The increase was largely driven by the value of services donated to the charity during the year, which are included within donations income. Donated consultancy services accounted for £732,765 (2025: £158,337). As a result, total donations income increased by £637,860 to £1,619,532 (2025: £981,672). Legacy income decreased by £123,782 to £156,316 (2025: £280,098).

Total Income from charitable activities remained stable, a modest increase of 2.5 per cent to £4,368,888 (2025: £4,243,151). This reflects the continued financial support from our principal funders, which as in previous years, include trusts and foundations, the Scottish government, and donations. Their support remains fundamental to the success of our vital policy, rights and advocacy work.

Publications income decreased marginally by £9,338 to £1,211,952 (2025: £1,221,290) due to reduction in print sales. Training income decreased by £40,393 to £835,413 (2025: £875,806) due to reduction in sign up to some of the training events. Membership income increased to £96,619 (2025: £90,156).

Total expenditure increased by £539,699 in the year to £6,130,755 (2025: £5,591,056) largely due to the inclusion of £732,765 in consultancy cost related to donated services.

Staff costs remained the biggest single cost, representing 61% (2025: 66%) of total costs at £3,767,154 (2025: £3,708,970). This is an increase of £58,184 mainly due to higher social security cost. A 3% cost of living pay award was partially offset by a pause in recruitment for some vacant roles during the year. Support costs in the year were £1,256,751 compared to £1,246,299 in the previous year.

Ninety-two per cent of our expenditure was directed towards charitable activities. This means that for every £1 spent, 92p was spent on our work in policy, research, communications, campaigns, advocacy and welfare rights activities.

As a result of the surplus generated in the year, charitable funds increased to £5,017,919 (2025: £4,885,211) and are all held in unrestricted reserves at year-end, of which £2,955,480 have been designated by the Trustees.

Designated funds

The operational fixed assets of £1,435,735 and net operating working capital of £580,555 are regarded as designated funds, as they are not available for expenditure. In addition, trustees have agreed as follows:

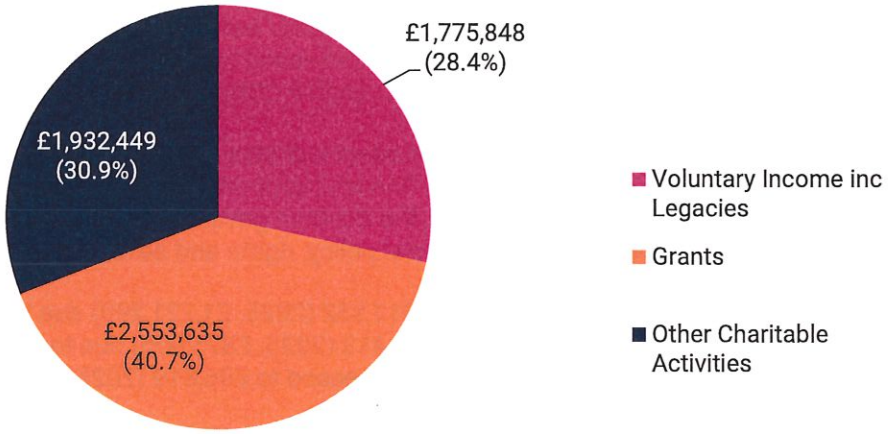
a) Development fund of £627,851 has been designated to fund further identified strategic projects to increase the income of CPAG over the next three-year strategy.
b) Impact fund of £311,339 has been designated to fund additional campaign projects during the period of the strategy.

Total project designated funds are therefore £939,190 as set out in note 13 to the accounts.

Income and Expenditure

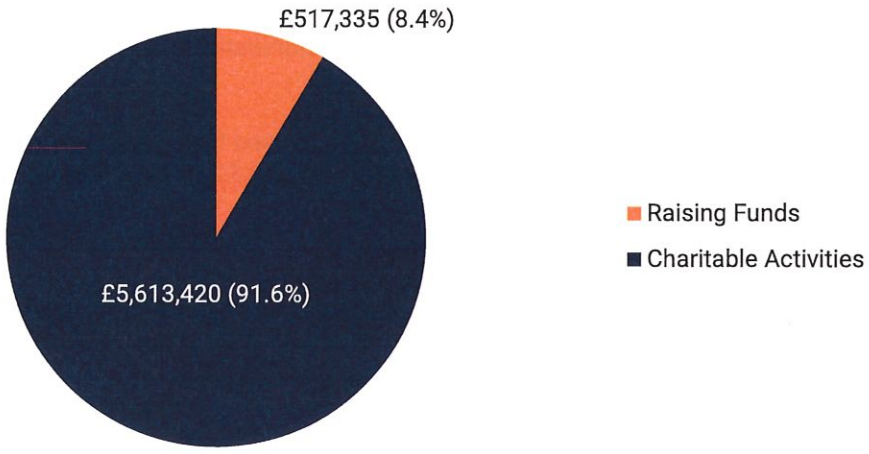
Where Money Comes From

Year Ended 31 March 2026



Where Money Goes

Year Ended 31 March 2026



Thank you to organisations and individuals who choose to support CPAG's work through their time, through their valuable skills, their campaigning and through their regular and one-off donations.
For every £1 of our expenditure in 2025/26, 92p was spent on our charitable activities

Reserves policy and going concern

The reserves policy requires CPAG to hold sufficient free reserves to cover the largest decline in income, or increase in unplanned costs, that could realistically occur over a year. This would allow CPAG sufficient capacity to adjust its operations to the new financial situation in an orderly manner and continue to achieve its mission.

Free reserves are defined in the policy to exclude the tangible fixed assets (such as offices and equipment) and operating working capital (such as stock and trade debtors) necessary for CPAG to operate. They also exclude restricted funds and other designated funds set aside for identified projects planned for the near future.

Adequacy of reserves and going concern

The Trustees have reviewed the level of free reserves at 31 March 2026 against the reserves policy.

They have assessed that the level of free reserves required is £1,625,000, and that the free reserves held are £2,062,439 after taking account of the designated funds. This means that the level of free reserves at the 31 March 2026 exceeded the required level by £437,439. The excess free reserves above the minimum reserves' requirement provides a degree of financial resilience, enabling CPAG to respond effectively to unforeseen costs, manage cash flow variability, and support future strategic initiatives where appropriate. In addition, the excess above the reserve's requirement will be utilised to help balance the budgeted deficit in the forthcoming financial year, ensuring continued financial stability and responsible resource management. The trustees concluded that no further action was required to maintain free reserves at a satisfactory level, other than to ensure CPAG continues to set budgets close to break-even, after taking into account the utilisation of designated funds.

The Trustees are therefore satisfied that CPAG is a going concern, that is, that it will be able to continue its operations for at least twelve months from the date of this report, and for the foreseeable future.

Investment policy

The Trustees adopted a revised investment policy during the year. Our surplus funds continue to be invested in deposits in accordance with the policy. An investment of £1,781,056 was maintained in an interest-bearing notice account as at year end.

The Trustees continue to strive to increase the charity's income and to use its resources to maximum effect in combating child poverty, balancing the need to maximise the impact of our activities with the need to maintain financial security.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees/Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each of the Directors/Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- each Director/Trustee has taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of this information.

Auditors

HaysMac LLP were reappointed auditors at the annual general meeting on 18 December 2025 and have indicated their willingness to continue in that capacity.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the Trustees on 24 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Jane Millar
Chair

Independent auditor's report to the members of Child Poverty Action Group Year ended 31 March 2026

We have audited the financial statements of Child Poverty Action Group for the year-ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Other information (continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the Strategic Report and Directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Directors' report included within the Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees Report (which incorporates the directors' report prepared for the purpose of company law).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our auditor.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 27-28, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to registered charities, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011, and other factors such as income tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to areas of estimation uncertainty and to manual accounting journals. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing manual journals, in particularly any unusual items; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Lee Stokes (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of HaysMac LLP, Statutory Auditors

10 Queen Street Place
London, EC4R 1AG

8 October 2026

Statement of financial activities (Current Year)
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
Year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2026 £	2025 £
Income from:					
Donations	2	1,608,985	10,547	1,619,532	981,672
Legacies	2	156,316	-	156,316	280,098
Charitable activities:					
Publications		1,099,159	112,793	1,211,952	1,221,290
Welfare rights and test cases		59,014	1,164,095	1,223,109	1,019,855
Training	7	560,053	275,360	835,413	875,806
Membership		96,619	-	96,619	90,156
Information, research and campaigning		10,955	990,840	1,001,795	1,036,044
Investments		109,098	-	109,098	118,781
Other		8,098	-	8,098	14,858
Total		3,708,297	2,553,635	6,261,932	5,638,560
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		506,788	10,547	517,335	474,537
Charitable activities:					
Publications		941,468	112,793	1,054,261	1,142,865
Welfare rights and test cases		1,073,162	1,164,095	2,237,257	1,428,445
Training		435,023	275,360	710,383	747,109
Membership		52,158	-	52,158	66,900
Information, research and campaigning		568,521	990,840	1,559,361	1,731,200
Total	4	3,577,120	2,553,635	6,130,755	5,591,056
Net income before investment gains		131,177	-	131,177	47,504
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income	3	131,177	-	131,177	47,504
Unrealised investment gains	9	1,531	-	1,531	645
Net movement in funds		132,708	-	132,708	48,149
Total funds brought forward		4,885,211	-	4,885,211	4,837,062
Total funds carried forward		5,017,919	-	5,017,919	4,885,211

Statement of financial activities (prior year)
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
Year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £
Income from:				
Donations	2	981,672	-	981,672
Legacies	2	280,098	-	280,098
Charitable activities:				
Publications		1,151,259	70,031	1,221,290
Welfare rights and test cases		24,507	995,348	1,019,855
Training	7	541,892	333,914	875,806
Membership		90,156	-	90,156
Information, research and campaigning		13,662	1,022,382	1,036,044
Investments		118,781	-	118,781
Other		14,858	-	14,858
Total		3,216,885	2,421,675	5,638,560
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		474,537	-	474,537
Charitable activities:				
Publications		1,072,834	70,031	1,142,865
Welfare rights and test cases		433,097	995,348	1,428,445
Training		413,195	333,914	747,109
Membership		66,900	-	66,900
Information, research and campaigning		708,818	1,022,382	1,731,200
Total	4	3,169,381	2,421,675	5,591,056
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains		47,504	-	47,504
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	3	47,504	-	47,504
Unrealised investment gains	9	645	-	645
Net movement in funds		48,149	-	48,149
Total funds brought forward		4,837,062	-	4,837,062
Total funds carried forward		4,885,211	-	4,885,211

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	8		1,435,735		1,493,993
Investments	9		1,785,163		1,706,226
			3,220,898		3,200,219
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock	10	105,710		110,566	
Debtors	11	812,946		1,145,530	
Cash and short-term deposits		2,523,496		2,461,461	
		3,442,152		3,717,557	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(1,645,131)		(2,032,565)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			1,797,021		1,684,992
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			5,017,919		4,885,211
NET ASSETS	13		5,017,919		4,885,211
FUNDS					
Restricted funds			-		-
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds			2,955,480		3,381,109
General funds			2,062,439		1,504,102
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	14		5,017,919		4,885,211

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 24 September 2026 and were signed below on its behalf by:

J Millar

Mark Cooke

Jane Millar
Chair

Mark Cooke
Treasurer

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Cashflows from operating activities		
Net cash provided by operating activities (see note below)	30,343	175,538
Cash flows from investing activities		
Investment income received	109,098	118,781
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of investments	(77,406)	(80,721)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	31,692	38,060
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	62,035	213,598
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year	2,461,461	2,247,863
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2,523,496	2,461,461

Note: reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash used by operating activities

Net income for the year	132,708	48,149
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	58,258	90,349
Investment (gains)/losses	(1,531)	(645)
Investment income	(109,098)	(118,781)
Decrease in stock	4,856	73,268
Decrease in debtors	332,584	6,916
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(387,434)	76,282
Net cash provided by operating activities	30,343	175,538

No reconciliation of net debt is provided as the charitable company has no borrowings and hence no net debt.

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key of estimation for uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statement are as follows:

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition, 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Companies Act 2006.

CPAG meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting note(s).

Going concern

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis. Having considered the forecast income, expenditure and cash flow of the charity and the financing available, the Trustees are satisfied that this basis is appropriate and that there is no material uncertainty in connection with the charitable company's ability to continue to operate for the foreseeable future and a minimum period of twelve months from the approval of the accounts.

Donations

Donations are received by way of donations and gifts and are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when receivable.

Legacies

Legacies are accounted for on a receivable basis. Legacies notified but not received are included in the financial statements if it is probable that they will be received and the value can be quantified.

Grants

Grants are credited to the statement of financial activities when received or receivable whichever is earlier. Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent upon fulfilment of conditions within the charity's control, income are recognised when there is sufficient evidence that conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the charity can meet such conditions the incoming resource is deferred.

Earned income

Income generated from the supply of goods or services is included in the statement of financial activities in the period in which the supply is made, net of VAT where applicable.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds
Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Expenditure for raising funds
Expenditure for raising funds relates to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Where such information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is also provided to potential donors, activity costs are apportioned between fundraising and charitable activities on a proportional basis.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. The cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the basis of staff time.

Support costs
Support costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the basis of estimated staff time attributable to each activity. This has resulted in the following percentage allocations:

	2026	2025
Publications	10%	9%
Welfare rights and test cases	33%	27%
Training	16%	18%
Membership	1%	1%
Information, research and campaigning	32%	37%
Fundraising and publicity	7%	7%
Governance	1%	1%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

Depreciation
Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

For assets brought forward from 2019-20 and earlier years:

Leasehold buildings	50 years
Fixtures, furniture and equipment	10 years
Office machines, CRM and website	5 years
Computers including software	4 years

For new additions from 2020-21 following the change in the fixed asset policy, assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and the depreciation period revised as follows:

Leasehold buildings	50 years
Fixtures, furniture and equipment	5 years
CRM and website	5 years
Computers including other software	3 years

Investments
Investments have been stated at market value at the date of the Balance Sheet. The gains and losses of each period are taken to the statement of financial activities.

Short-term deposits
Short-term deposits are defined as cash balances which cannot be withdrawn within 24 hours without notice and without penalty.

Stocks
Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. In general, cost is determined on a first in first out basis and includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks. Stock also include work in progress to produce our publication.

Pension costs
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the charity to the fund. The charity has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

Rentals under operating leases
Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the minimum lease term.

Critical judgements and estimation uncertainty
The principal area of judgement and estimation uncertainty relates to the determination of provisions against bad and doubtful debts.

2. Voluntary income

Current year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2026 £
Donations	876,220	10,547	886,767
Donated Services	732,765	-	732,765
Legacies	156,316	-	156,316
	1,765,301	10,547	1,775,848

Prior year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £
Donations	823,335	-	823,335
Donated Services	158,337		158,337
Legacies	280,098	-	280,098
	1,261,770	-	1,261,770

Included within voluntary income are services which have been donated to the charity during the year. This consists of consultancy £732,765 (2025: £158,337).

3. Net income

	2026 £	2025 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	58,258	90,349
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	50,167	51,250
Equipment	9,665	9,727
Auditors' remuneration:		
Audit fee	22,250	21,600
Trustees' remuneration:		
Costs paid for Trustees	-	-
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	176	755

Trustees' reimbursed expenses of £176 (2025: £755) represents the reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs of 1 Trustee (2025: 3 Trustees) relating to attendance at meetings of the Trustees and other committees. During the year, Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £950 (2025: £1,620).

4. Expenditure

Current year

	Support Costs £	Direct Costs £	2026 £
Costs of generating funds			
Raising funds	118,363	398,972	**517,335**
Charitable activities			
Publications	142,530	911,731	**1,054,261**
Welfare rights	409,731	1,827,526	**2,237,257**
Training	183,633	526,750	**710,383**
Membership	8,367	43,791	**52,158**
Information, research and campaigning	394,127	1,165,234	**1,559,361**
Total expenditure	1,256,751	4,874,004	**6,130,755**

Prior year

	Support Costs £	Direct Costs £	2025 £
Costs of generating funds			
Raising funds	105,982	368,555	**474,537**
Charitable activities			
Publications	138,305	1,004,560	**1,142,865**
Welfare rights	344,177	1,084,268	**1,428,445**
Training	191,149	555,960	**747,109**
Membership	12,755	54,145	**66,900**
Information, research and campaigning	453,931	1,277,269	**1,731,200**
Total expenditure	1,246,299	4,344,757	**5,591,056**

5. Staff costs and emoluments

	2026 £	2025 £
Salaries and wages	3,170,328	3,184,905
Social security costs	416,994	344,176
Pension contributions	179,832	179,889
	3,767,154	3,708,970
Total staff costs	3,767,154	3,708,970

The number of employees who earned £60,000 or more (including benefits in kind) during the year was as follows:

	2026	2025
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	4	4

The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and increased with the same cost of living inflation figure as for all staff. The charity uses a pay scale devised for CPAG after benchmarking against median salaries in the sector. The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer, Director of Finance and Resources, Director of Business, Director of CPAG in Scotland and Director of Policy, Rights and Advocacy. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £491,420 (2025: £462,785).

The average weekly headcount during the year was 74 (2025: 76) and the average weekly number of employees (full-time equivalent) during the year was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Welfare rights and test cases	17	19
Information, research and campaigning	17	16
Fundraising and publicity	4	3
Training	7	9
Membership	1	1
Publications	5	5
Governance	1	1
Support activities	11	11
	63	65

6. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

7. Training

Net training income will continue to be ring-fenced and only used to continue or enhance the charity's educational supplies.

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold buildings £	Fixtures, furniture & equipment £	Computers & software £	Total £
Cost				
At 01/04/2025	1,766,146	113,675	481,553	2,361,374
Additions in year	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	1,766,146	113,675	481,553	2,361,374
Depreciation				
At 01/04/2025	357,872	106,045	403,464	867,381
Charge for 2025/26	35,537	2,919	19,802	58,258
At 31 March 2026	393,409	108,964	423,266	925,639
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2026	1,372,737	4,711	58,287	1,435,735
At 31 March 2025	1,408,274	7,630	78,089	1,493,993

9. Investments

	2026 £	2025 £
Market value at the start of the year	1,706,226	1,624,860
Amount deposited in the year	77,406	80,721
Unrealised gain	1,531	645
Market value at the end of the year	1,785,163	1,706,226
Historic cost at year end	1,789,271	1,708,802
Investments comprise:		
Close Brothers Group Plc	1,781,056	1,703,650
Shares listed on the LSE	4,105	2,574
Investment in trading subsidiary	2	2
	1,785,163	1,706,226

The deposit of £1,781,056 in Notice accounts is managed by Close Brothers Group Plc. Trading subsidiary is CPAG Ltd and LSE stands for the London Stock Exchange. The shares represent 500 ordinary shares held in Banco Santander Hispano Central.

10. Stock

	2026 £	2025 £
Work in progress	99,801	102,201
Publications for resale	5,909	8,365
	105,710	110,566

11. Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	223,544	757,313
Other debtors	32,305	41,906
Prepayments	257,171	178,399
Accrued income	299,926	167,912
	812,946	1,145,530

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	338,101	204,638
Taxation and social security	88,790	87,991
Other creditors	160,790	376,157
Accruals and deferred income	1,057,450	1,363,779
	1,645,131	2,032,565

13. Analysis of net assets

Between funds – current

	Restricted	Designated			General	Total
		Fixed assets	Working Capital	Other		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,435,735		-	-	1,435,735
Fixed asset investments	-	-		1,785,163	-	1,785,163
Net current assets	-	-	580,555	(845,973)	2,062,439	1,797,021
Net assets at the end of the year 2026	-	1,435,735	580,555	939,190	2,062,439	5,017,919

Between funds – prior

	Restricted	Designated			General	Total
		Fixed assets	Working Capital	Other		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,493,993		-	-	1,493,993
Fixed asset investments	-	-		1,706,226	-	1,706,226
Net current assets	-	-	1,051,458	(870,568)	1,504,102	1,684,992
Net assets at the end of the year 2025	-	1,493,993	1,051,458	835,658	1,504,102	4,885,211

14. Movement in funds

Current year

	At start of the year	Income & unrealised gains	Expenditure & unrealised losses	Transfers	At end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Scottish government – second tier welfare rights service	-	864,931	(864,931)	-	-
Trussell– food bank income maximisation service	-	231,961	(231,961)	-	-
Scottish government – Cost of the School Day Project	-	160,940	(160,940)	-	-
National Lottery Fund – Cost of the School Day Wales	-	144,913	(144,913)	-	-
Grant for the welfare rights advice service and Universal Credit advice project	-	142,561	(142,561)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund - Young Leaders project	-	141,328	(141,328)	-	-
Scottish government through a CYPFEIF and ALEC Fund grant for the Early Warning System	-	139,650	(139,650)	-	-
Impact on Urban Health – Core funding for CPAG policy team	-	109,153	(109,153)	-	-
The Robertson Trust	-	103,684	(103,684)	-	-
Access to Justice Foundation - Improving Lives Through Advice	-	102,736	(102,736)	-	-
The Legal Education Foundation - Strengthening social security	-	94,170	(94,170)	-	-
The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellow	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-
Donations and grants for our expert welfare rights advice service.	-	33,827	(33,827)	-	-
Trussell - Ending the need for foodbanks: operational improvement of the Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis	-	33,376	(33,376)	-	-
University of York – social security UK: devolution, families, and alternative futures	-	27,685	(27,685)	-	-
University of York/IUH (novation to University of Glasgow) – Changing Realities – Creating communities for change	-	23,086	(23,086)	-	-
Trussell – Income maximisation and cash first support package in Scotland	-	18,923	(18,923)	-	-
Grant towards policy work and advice service in Scotland	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Donation towards our legal test case work	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-

	At start of the year	Income & unrealised gains	Expenditure & unrealised losses	Transfers	At end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£
University of York (novation to University of Glasgow) – Family finances: what difference does cash support for children make	-	13,441	(13,441)	-	-
The Indigo Trust – Setting up a major donor programme	-	10,547	(10,547)	-	-
The Northwick Trust – Cost of school day work in London	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
University of York (novation to University of Glasgow) – Campaigning for Change – Boosting Changing Realities' Media	-	9,585	(9,585)	-	-
University of York – Making change happen: Changing Realities	-	7,974	(7,974)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund (Scotland) Young people's conference	-	7,000	(7,000)	-	-
Donation towards Scotland Advice Line Service	-	7,000	(7,000)	-	-
Cost of the School Day project in England	-	6,812	(6,812)	-	-
University of York/Nuffield – Improving policy making processes and knowledge bases on child poverty	-	6,327	(6,327)	-	-
Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Getting the Child Poverty Strategy Right	-	5,303	(5,303)	-	-
General grant towards policy Research	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Scottish Children's Lottery Trust – Young people's conference	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
London School of Economics – Roundtable event for larger families	-	2,700	(2,700)	-	-
Donation for CPAG's work in Scotland	-	2,063	(2,063)	-	-
Scottish Government – Cost of the School Day (COSD) engagement with young people through the Voice Network	-	1,480	(1,480)	-	-
Digital Freedom Fund	-	(8,522)	8,522	-	-
Total restricted funds	-	2,553,635	(2,553,635)	-	-
Designated funds					
Tangible fixed assets	1,493,993	-	(58,258)	-	1,435,735
Operational Working Capital	1,051,458	-	-	(470,903)	580,555
Development fund	547,816	-	(109,465)	189,500	627,851
Impact Fund	287,842	-	(32,003)	55,500	311,339
Total designated funds	3,381,109	-	(199,726)	(225,903)	2,955,480
General funds	1,504,102	3,709,828	(3,377,394)	225,903	2,062,439
Total unrestricted funds	4,885,211	3,709,828	(3,577,120)	-	5,017,919
Total funds	**4,885,211**	**6,263,463**	**(6,130,755)**	**-**	**5,017,919**

Prior year

	At start of the year	Income & unrealised gains	Expenditure & unrealised losses	Transfers	At end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Scottish government – second tier welfare rights service	-	812,000	(812,000)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund and the Waterloo Foundation - Cost of the School Day Wales	-	179,644	(179,644)	-	-
Trussell – food bank income maximisation service	-	172,173	(172,173)	-	-
Scottish government – Cost of the School Day Project	-	158,415	(158,415)	-	-
Scottish government through a CYPFEIF and ALEC Fund grant for the Early Warning System	-	139,650	(139,650)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund - Young Leaders project	-	127,807	(127,807)	-	-
The Robertson Trust	-	110,653	(110,653	-	-
Access to Justice Foundation - Improving Lives Through Advice	-	108,383	(108,383)	-	-
Grant for the welfare rights advice service and Universal Credit advice project	-	108,130	(108,130)	-	-
The Legal Education Foundation - Strengthening social security	-	95,658	(95,658)	-	-
The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellow	-	59,209	(59,209)	-	-
Cost of the School Day project in England	-	47,711	(47,711)	-	-
Impact on Urban Health - Envisioning a child poverty strategy	-	46,216	(46,216)	-	-
abrdn Financial Fairness Trust	-	41,864	(41,864)	-	-
The Big Give Anchor Match Fund Appeal donations and grants for our expert welfare rights advice service.	-	35,547	(35,547)	-	-
University of York - Social security UK: devolution, families, and alternative futures	-	27,473	(27,473)	-	-
University of York – Making change happen: Changing Realities	-	24,788	(24,788)	-	-
Digital Freedom Fund	-	20,696	(20,696)	-	-
Trussell - Income maximisation and cash first support package in Scotland	-	20,070	(20,070)	-	-
Trussell - Ending the need for foodbanks: operational improvement of the Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis	-	17,939	(17,939)	-	-

	At start of the year	Income & unrealised gains	Expenditure & unrealised losses	Transfers	At end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£
Grant towards policy work and advice service in Scotland	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Donation towards our legal test case work	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Donations for CPAG's work in Scotland	-	10,793	(10,793)	-	-
University of York – Benefit changes and larger families	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
University of York - Family finances: what difference does cash support for children make?	-	9,606	(9,606)	-	-
The Clothworkers Foundation	-	4,700	(4,700)	-	-
The Big Give Champions for Children 2023 by The Childhood Trust	-	1,853	(1,853)	-	-
Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Getting the Child Poverty Strategy Right	-	697	(697)	-	-
Total restricted funds	-	2,421,675	(2,421,675)	-	-
Designated funds					
Tangible fixed assets	1,584,342	-	(90,349)	-	1,493,993
Operational Working Capital	1,148,532	-	-	(97,074)	1,051,458
Development fund	401,367	-	(183,551)	330,000	547,816
Impact Fund	170,000	-	(102,158)	220,000	287,842
Total designated funds	3,304,241	-	(376,058)	452,926	3,381,109
General funds	1,532,821	3,217,530	(2,793,323)	(452,926)	1,504,102
Total unrestricted funds	4,837,062	3,217,530	(3,169,381)	-	4,885,211
Total funds	**4,837,062**	**5,639,205**	**(5,591,056)**	**-**	**4,885,211**

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Scottish government – second tier welfare rights service	The grant supports CPAG's second-tier advice, information and training service, ensuring frontline agencies provide accurate, high quality and effective advice and information on UK and Scottish Social Security benefits for people both in and out of work.
Trussell - Food bank income maximisation service	Continuation grant to support Trussell's income maximisation service at food banks through a second-tier welfare rights advice service to benefits advisers funded by the Trussell Trust, helping to ensure individuals can access their full benefit entitlement.
Scottish Government – Cost of the school day project	Third year of a four-year grant, as a national programme within the Scottish Attainment Challenge, towards salary and support costs of the project manager, information officer and participation worker, and project costs. The project provides more strategic leadership and support to more schools and local authorities on tackling cost barriers and maximising incomes; ensures policy and practice is informed by children and families on a low income, and children increasingly lead on the Cost of the School Day.
National Lottery Community Fund - Cost of the school day Wales	Two-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund towards our schools practitioner, for our young people take over the Cost of the School Day: Every Voice Heard project. The project helps schools and local authorities to identify and overcome cost barriers to education, so that all pupils can have the same school experience.
Grant for the welfare rights advice service and Universal Credit advice project	Grant to CPAG's UK-wide benefits advice and specialist Universal Credit advice services, free to any frontline worker, volunteer or adviser helping people on low income.
National Lottery Community Fund - Young leaders project	A three-year grant that aims to ensure: (i) children and young people in low-income households have a say, and are heard, on what matters to them when it comes to poverty and the school day in London, and (ii) the experiences and outcomes of young people growing up in poverty are placed at the heart of decision making in education.
Scottish Government through a CYPFEIF and ALEC Fund grant for the Early Warning System	The Early Warning System collects and analyses evidence about the impact of changes in social security on children, their families and the communities that support them in Scotland.
Impact on Urban Health - Core funding for CPAG policy team	Two-year grant to support the policy and campaign work during this period of policy and political engagement, by capitalising on an opportunity for transformational change to address the root causes of poverty, and therefore, of children's mental health inequity.
The Robertson Trust	Two-year grant for a project to strengthen social security in Scotland. The project will make policy recommendations that provide greater financial security and stability for families currently on the edges of Scottish social security entitlement or who are excluded altogether.
Access to Justice Foundation - Improving Lives Through Advice	A five-year Improving Lives Through Advice (ILTA) grant from the Access to Justice Foundation, supported with funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, to support the delivery of free legal advice to marginalised people and communities across England.
The Legal Education Foundation - Strengthening social security	Three-year grant strengthening social security by evidencing problems and strengthening the sector with early legal challenges.

The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellow	Two-year grant to host a Justice First Fellow.
Impact on Urban Health - Envisioning a child poverty strategy	A one-year grant to carry out research to understand what it would take to effectively deliver a cross-government child poverty strategy.
Donations and grants for our expert welfare rights advice service.	Donations and grants for our expert welfare rights advice service to support low-income families in England and Scotland.
Trussell - Ending the need for foodbanks: operational improvement of the Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis	Funding to support operational improvement in the delivery of the Scottish Welfare Fund in three local authority areas.
University of York - Social security UK: devolution, families, and alternative Futures	Project on how social security is delivered and experienced by families with dependent children nationally, regionally and locally; and how social security and devolution can be utilised to address and ameliorate poverty and improve life chances. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation.
University of York/IUH (novation to University of Glasgow) - Changing Realities - Creating communities for change	A research project entitled 'Changing Realities: Creating Communities for Change. Funded by Impact on Urban Health.
Trussell - Income maximisation and cash first support package in Scotland	Second tier support for Trussell funded advisers, training and information for food bank staff and volunteers.
Grant towards policy work and advice service in Scotland	A grant towards our policy work and advice service in Scotland.
Donation towards our legal test case work	Towards our legal test case work.
The Indigo Trust - Setting up a major donor programme	A final grant towards setting up a major donor programme.
The Northwick Trust - Cost of school day work in London	A grant towards our cost of the school day work in London.
University of York (novation to University of Glasgow) - Campaigning for change - boosting Changing Realities' media capacity	Project to boost Changing Realities' media engagement capacity, and specifically to ensure we maximise the opportunities to disseminate key messages to the broadcast and print media. Funded by Abrdn Financial Fairness Trust.
University of York – Making change happen: Changing Realities	Project to boost the opportunities for and involvement of Scottish parents and carers on low income in changing anti-poverty and social security policy. Funded by The Robertson Trust.
National Lottery Community Fund (Scotland)	A grant towards young people's conference in Scotland.
Donations towards Scotland Advice Line Service	Donations towards Scotland Advice Line Service.
Cost of the School Day project in England	Co-funding from the TUUT Charitable Trust and the National Education Union towards our education policy work in England, and breaking down financial barriers in schools.

University of York/Nuffield - Improving policymaking processes and knowledge bases on child poverty	Project to improve policymaking processes and knowledge bases on child poverty - Changing Realities engagement with the Child Poverty Taskforce. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation.
Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Getting the child poverty strategy right	A collaboration between IPPR, Changing Realities and CPAG to combine lived and learnt expertise to shape the UK Government's child poverty strategy.
General grant towards policy research	Towards our policy research.
Scottish Children's Lottery Trust	Grant towards young people's conference in Scotland.
London School of Economics – Roundtable event for larger families	Towards costs of roundtable event for larger families project.
Donations for CPAG's work in Scotland	Donations towards CPAG's work in Scotland.
Scottish Government - Cost of the school day engagement	Engagement with young people through the Voice Network
Digital Freedom Fund	Project on access to justice in the face of digitalisation of means tested welfare benefits in the UK.

Purposes of Designated Funds	
Tangible fixed assets reserves	Reserve relates to the net book value of tangible fixed assets at the end of the financial year.
Operational Working Capital reserve	Reserve relates to net value of debtors, stock, and trade creditors at the end of the financial year.
Development fund reserve	Reserve fund to support our strategy to increase the income of CPAG over the next three years.
Impact fund	Reserve designated to support our campaign strategy over the next three years.

15. Operating lease commitments

The charity had total commitments at the year-end under operating leases as follows:

	Property		Equipment	
	2026 £	2025 £	2026 £	2025 £
Within 1 year	42,412	42,412	8,489	8,918
1 – 5 years	42,412	84,823	7,200	15,689
	84,824	127,235	15,689	24,607

The property lease is for the office of CPAG in Scotland.

16. Related party transactions

Other than the transactions with Trustees disclosed in note 3 and the remuneration of the key management personnel disclosed in note 5, there are no related party transactions requiring disclosure in these accounts.