Company registration number: SC431246

Charity registration number: SC035939

Escape Youth Services

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 October 2025

Escape Youth Services

Contents

Escape Youth Services

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	R J Jones T Gibson V Rae C Ramage A Hill J Pringle L Ramage
Secretary	S Snowdon
Charity Registration Number:	SC035939
Company Registration Number	SC431246
Country of Incorporation	Scotland
Registered Office	Hawick Youth Centre Havelock Street Hawick Scotland TD9 7BB
Independent Examiner	David Campbell Deans Accountants & Business Advisors 27 North Bridge Street Hawick TD9 9BD

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 October 2025.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Escape Youth Services exists to improve the wellbeing, confidence and life chances of children and young people across Teviot and Liddesdale through the provision of high-quality, inclusive youth work.

The charity delivers a combination of universal and targeted services designed to support emotional wellbeing, reduce social isolation, develop life skills and create opportunities for personal growth. Activities include community-based youth work, one-to-one support, holiday programmes, school-based youth work, volunteering and leadership opportunities, physical activity projects and community events. Programmes are developed in consultation with young people and delivered in partnership with schools, statutory agencies and community organisations to ensure they remain responsive to local need.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trustees are committed to providing accessible early intervention and prevention services, recognising that positive relationships, safe spaces and timely support can improve outcomes for young people before difficulties become more significant.
Alongside universal provision that is open to all, additional targeted support is provided for children and young people experiencing disadvantage, poverty, social isolation, poor mental wellbeing or other barriers to participation.

Throughout the year, the Trustees monitored the charity's performance to ensure that its activities continued to advance its charitable purposes and deliver public benefit. The following report outlines the principal activities undertaken during the year and the impact they have had on the children, young people and communities the charity exists to serve.

Use of volunteers

We are grateful to all our volunteers who assist in delivering our services.

Achievements and performance

During the year ended 31 October 2025, Escape Youth Services continued to deliver a broad programme of universal and targeted youth work across Teviot and Liddesdale, supporting children and young people to improve their wellbeing, develop confidence and resilience, build positive relationships and access opportunities for personal growth.

The demand for youth work remained high throughout the year as many young people and families continued to experience the effects of financial hardship, poor mental wellbeing, social isolation and reduced opportunities. Against this backdrop, Escape maintained a consistent and responsive service, providing safe, inclusive spaces where young people felt welcomed, valued and supported.

Alongside delivering established youth work provision, the charity continued to strengthen targeted support for those facing additional barriers, expanded opportunities for volunteering and leadership, increased partnership working with schools and community organisations, and secured significant investment to improve its facilities for future generations.

The Trustees remain committed to ensuring that the charity's activities continue to deliver meaningful public benefit by responding to identified local need, removing barriers to participation and providing high-quality youth work that enables young people to reach their full potential.

Reach and Engagement

Escape Youth Services continued to experience strong levels of engagement across all areas of service delivery throughout the year, demonstrating the ongoing demand for accessible, community-based youth work.

During the reporting period, the charity delivered 623 youth work opportunities, resulting in 8,218 attendances by 460 individual young people across its universal provision, targeted support projects, holiday activities and programmes.

The charity remains committed to ensuring its services are accessible to those who would benefit most. During the year, 147 young people accessing Escape's services lived within communities ranked amongst the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, reflecting the organisation's continued focus on reducing inequalities and supporting young people experiencing disadvantage.

Participation remained strong throughout the year, with many young people engaging regularly in activities that provide consistency, trusted relationships and opportunities for personal development.

During the final six months of the reporting period:

- 60 new young people registered with the service.
- 144 young people attended drop-in sessions on three or more occasions during the final three months.
- 93 young people attended twelve or more sessions over the final six months.

These figures demonstrate not only the continued demand for Escape's services but also the ability of the organisation to build sustained relationships with young people over time. Regular participation allows staff to provide consistent support, identify emerging needs at an early stage and create progression opportunities through volunteering, leadership and targeted interventions where appropriate.

Alongside services delivered from the main youth centre in Hawick, the charity continued to expand its community-based offer through Burnfoot Community Hub, Denholm village, school-based youth work, one-to-one support and outreach activities, enabling more young people to access support in environments that best meet their individual needs.

Escape Youth Services

Trustees' Report

Our Youth Work Programme
Universal youth work remains at the heart of Escape Youth Services, providing safe, welcoming environments where young people can socialise, develop new skills, improve their wellbeing and build trusted relationships with skilled youth workers and their peers.

Throughout the year the charity delivered four weekly drop-in sessions from its Hawick youth centre base, weekly community sessions at Burnfoot Community Hub and Denholm Village Hall, a weekly cooking group, lunchtime youth work within Hawick High School and a wide range of additional activities throughout the year.

Across all drop-in provision, 423 young people engaged in sessions delivered in Hawick, Burnfoot and Denholm, demonstrating the continued importance of accessible youth work within local communities.

Sessions were planned in response to the interests and ideas of young people and provided a varied programme of informal learning, recreational activities and opportunities for personal development. Activities throughout the year included cooking and baking, sports and physical activity, arts and crafts, dance, karaoke, sign language, culture weeks exploring different countries and cuisines, issue-based discussions, wellbeing activities, seasonal celebrations and community projects.

Young people were encouraged to take increasing ownership of activities, helping to plan programmes, lead games and share their knowledge and skills with others. This approach supports the development of confidence, communication, teamwork and leadership while ensuring sessions remain genuinely youth-led.

The weekly cooking programme continues to be a particular strength of the organisation. Alongside developing practical life skills, the sessions encourage teamwork, independence, healthy eating and confidence. During the year, several longer-term members increasingly took responsibility for planning recipes, demonstrating cooking techniques and supporting newer participants, requiring only minimal staff assistance. Staff observed significant growth in confidence, resilience and leadership amongst participants, with young people taking genuine pride in sharing their skills with others.

The wider programme also continued to promote learning through enjoyable and engaging experiences. Culture weeks encouraged young people to explore different countries through food, quizzes and discussions, while activities linked to Burns Night, Chinese New Year and other celebrations promoted awareness of different traditions and cultures. Issue-based sessions focusing on topics such as emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships and managing stress provided opportunities for informal learning within trusted peer environments.

Throughout the year, Escape continued to prioritise youth participation in the planning and delivery of activities. Young people regularly contributed ideas for future programmes, trips and equipment, helped establish group agreements and took an active role in shaping the service they receive. This approach not only ensures activities remain relevant and engaging but also helps young people develop confidence in expressing their views and influencing decisions that affect them.

The impact of sustained participation continues to be evident through individual progress. Staff observed young people becoming more confident in social situations, developing stronger friendships, increasing their independence and taking on new responsibilities within sessions.

One parent commented:"Can't believe X is kneading dough! For this young person, who initially found handling ingredients particularly challenging, regular participation in the cooking group has resulted in significant growth in confidence and willingness to try new experiences. Staff have observed them progressing from reluctance to fully participating in practical cooking activities, demonstrating the value of patient, relation-ship-based youth work over time.

Similarly, two young people reflected during a session that, prior to joining Escape's cooking group, they rarely helped prepare meals at home. As their confidence and skills have developed, both now regularly contribute to family cooking, demonstrating how informal youth work can positively influence everyday life beyond the youth group setting.

Escape's universal youth work continues to provide far more than recreational opportunities. Through consistent relationships, positive role models and a welcoming environment, young people are supported to develop confidence, resilience and practical skills while feeling connected to their peers, community and trusted adults. These relationships often provide the foundation for progression into volunteering, leadership opportunities and, where required, more targeted support services.

Holiday Programmes

School holiday periods can present particular challenges for many young people and families, including increased social isolation, reduced access to structured activities and additional financial pressures. Escape continued to prioritise opportunities for young people to remain active, connected and supported throughout the holidays, although funding constraints continued to impact the level of provision that could be delivered.

During the February school break, the charity secured funding to provide three fully funded activity days involving young people from Hawick, Burnfoot and Denholm. A total of 131 young people participated, generating 167 attendances across the programme.

Activities included visits to Laser Quest, Ninja Warrior and Fusion Trampoline Park, with transport, meals and refreshments provided free of charge. Bringing together young people from different communities and age groups encouraged new friendships and helped strengthen relationships across the wider service.

Feedback from parents demonstrated the wider value of these opportunities. Many highlighted that the programme enabled their children to experience activities that would otherwise have been financially out of reach, while providing safe, enjoyable experiences during the school holidays.

Parents commented:

"Amazing trips, fantastic organisation and great atmosphere."

"Absolutely love these holiday programmes. Couldn't live without them during the holidays."

"It was brilliant to know my child could still have fun through the holidays while I was working."

Several parents also noted the positive impact of bringing together younger and older members, with one commenting that the programme provided valuable opportunities for younger participants to build friendships ahead of moving into senior sessions.

Unfortunately, due to the loss of dedicated holiday funding, the charity was unable to provide additional daytime activities during the Easter holidays. Maintaining existing weekly youth work sessions remained the priority while staff continued to seek alternative funding opportunities.

These efforts were successful, enabling Escape to deliver a four-week Summer Programme during the school holidays.

Across 11 sessions, 118 young people participated, generating 355 attendances through a varied programme of educational, recreational and outdoor experiences. Activities included a day trip to Blackpool, Foxlake outdoor activities, bowling, Eyemouth Beach, golf, challenge activities, inflatable sessions and community-based sports.

All activities were delivered either free of charge or at heavily subsidised rates, ensuring that financial circumstances did not prevent participation. Lunch, refreshments and transport were provided throughout the programme, helping reduce additional pressures on families during the holiday period.

The programme concluded with Escape's annual Family Fun Day, bringing together members, families and the wider community to celebrate another successful summer of youth work.

Parent feedback reflected the significance of the programme:

"The programme was beyond my expectations. X had the best time on the trips and made her summer memorable."

"It's such a great programme for the kids. It saves us money because if we took them ourselves we'd all have to pay."

These opportunities continue to provide much more than enjoyable days out. They reduce social isolation, encourage physical activity, develop confidence and resilience, strengthen friendships and ensure young people remain connected with trusted youth workers throughout periods when many other support services are unavailable.

Stepping Stones and Targeted Support

Escape's Stepping Stones project continued to provide personalised one-to-one support for young people requiring additional help to overcome barriers affecting their wellbeing, education or social inclusion.

Throughout the year, 18 young people received individual support through 269 one-to-one sessions, providing relationship-based youth work tailored to each young person's circumstances, aspirations and identified needs.

Demand for the service continued to increase throughout the year, reflecting both the growing complexity of need experienced by local young people and the confidence that schools and partner agencies place in the quality of support provided.

A significant development during the year was the appointment of a new Stepping Stones Worker. Following a comprehensive induction period, strong relationships were quickly established with schools, social work, pastoral staff and wider partners, strengthening referral pathways and enabling earlier intervention for young people requiring support.

Regular attendance within Hawick High School, participation in Community Action Group meetings and close communication with partner agencies have enabled support to be better coordinated, ensuring young people receive timely, appropriate interventions based on a shared understanding of their circumstances.

The project reached full capacity during the year, demonstrating both its effectiveness and the continued need for targeted youth work within the local community.

The impact of this support is best demonstrated through individual outcomes.

One young person had been out of education for over a year prior to referral and experienced significant anxiety which prevented them from leaving home independently. Working alongside the young person, their family, social worker and school, the Stepping Stones Worker focused initially on building trust, confidence and participation within the community.

Over several months the young person gradually increased their confidence through regular meetings, visits to local cafés and opportunities to develop independence within familiar environments. As confidence grew, they enrolled at school and began attending on a part-time basis rather than pursuing home education, as had originally been planned.

The young person's parent reflected:
"Thank you so, so much. You really have made such a difference to XXXX's life."

This example illustrates the value of patient, relationship-based youth work in supporting young people to achieve outcomes that initially appeared beyond their reach.

The project also continued to support young people experiencing social isolation, poor emotional wellbeing, family difficulties and reduced engagement with education. Through consistent support, young people developed greater confidence, resilience, self-esteem and motivation while strengthening links with education and wider community services.

16+ Transition Support
This year also marked the introduction of a dedicated support service for young people aged 16 to 21, recognising the increasing challenges many face as they transition into adulthood.

The new service complements the Stepping Stones project by supporting older young people as they move towards employment, further education, training, volunteering and independent living.

Alongside establishing referral pathways and developing outcome monitoring through the Lamplight database, the project has already begun supporting young people to achieve practical outcomes that increase independence and future opportunities.

Support has included assistance with securing accommodation, accessing financial support for driving lessons, applying for employment and volunteering opportunities, maintaining college attendance and developing confidence through regular one-to-one mentoring.

One young person supported by the project progressed from feeling uncertain about their future to independently applying for employment, volunteering opportunities and additional support services after only a small number of meetings.

Staff observed a significant increase in confidence, motivation and optimism, demonstrating the value of providing consistent support during what can often be a challenging period of transition.

The introduction of this service strengthens Escape's progression pathway, ensuring young people can continue accessing appropriate support beyond traditional youth work age ranges and reducing the risk of vulnerable young adults disengaging from education, employment or wider support networks.

Physical Activity Project
Promoting positive physical and mental wellbeing continued to be an important aspect of Escape's work throughout the year.

Funding secured for the Physical Activity Project enabled the charity to deliver a diverse programme of accessible activities designed to improve health, confidence and social connection while removing financial barriers to participation.

During the funded period, 154 individual young people participated in activities, generating 719 attendances across basketball, dance, yoga and a range of additional sporting and outdoor opportunities.

All activities were delivered free of charge, ensuring every young person could participate regardless of family income or previous experience.

The project encouraged many participants to try activities for the first time, increasing confidence while helping young people develop healthier lifestyles and stronger friendships.

Young people consistently reported improvements in confidence and wellbeing, with one participant commenting:

"I loved the dancing. I didn't think I could do it, but I did."

Another described the basketball sessions simply as: "Basketball club was unreal."

Parents and partner organisations also highlighted the value of providing accessible local opportunities for young people who may not otherwise engage in organised sport.

The project demonstrated that high-quality physical activity provision can be successfully delivered within local communities, reducing barriers created by transport and cost while contributing positively to physical health, emotional wellbeing and community pride.

Investing in Our Future

One of the most significant organisational achievements during the year was securing major capital investment to improve Escape's youth facilities.

Following successful applications to the Scottish Borders Council Youth Facilities Fund and Place Based Investment Fund, the charity secured more than £173,000 to redevelop its premises and improve accessibility, sustainability and the overall experience for young people.

Extensive consultation took place with young people, staff and Trustees throughout the planning process to ensure the proposed improvements reflected the needs and aspirations of those who use the building.

The redevelopment will include improvements to the internal layout, upgraded kitchen and toilet facilities, improved accessibility, enhanced security and energy efficiency measures, together with the creation of a covered outdoor learning space, outdoor kitchen, cycle storage, additional seating and improved landscaping.

These developments represent a significant investment in the future sustainability of the organisation and will enable Escape to provide an even more inclusive, welcoming and flexible environment for young people for many years to come.

Alongside physical improvements to the building, the charity has continued to invest in its organisational infrastructure, embedding the Lamplight outcomes database to strengthen monitoring, evaluation and impact measurement. This will further enhance the charity's ability to evidence outcomes, inform service development and demonstrate the difference made through its work.

Volunteering, Leadership and Youth Voice

Providing opportunities for young people to contribute positively to their community remains a core part of Escape Youth Services' approach. Throughout the year, young people continued to develop leadership skills, increase their confidence and make valuable contributions through volunteering, fundraising and participation in decision-making.

During the reporting period, young people contributed 542 hours of volunteering, supporting fundraising events, community activities and the delivery of youth work sessions whilst progressing towards Saltire Awards. Several young people are working towards 200 hours of volunteering. Volunteers undertook a wide variety of roles including welcoming visitors, serving refreshments, managing stalls, supporting activities, setting up events and assisting younger members. These opportunities enabled young people to develop practical skills, gain experience and increase confidence in taking on responsibility.

The Young Leadership Team continued to play an important role within the organisation, helping to shape activities, support fundraising events and represent the views of their peers. Members participated in the national #InvestInYouthWork campaign, helping to promote the value of youth work and its positive impact on young people's lives.

Young people also took part in YouthBorders' United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) celebration project, contributing to activities that promoted awareness of children's rights and encouraged meaningful youth participation within their communities.

Fundraising continued to provide valuable opportunities for young people to develop organisational, communication and teamwork skills while contributing directly to the sustainability of the charity. Members supported coffee mornings, community markets, Tunes by the Teviot, the Family Fun Day, Christmas events and a range of local fundraising activities throughout the year.

Escape remains committed to ensuring that young people have genuine opportunities to influence the organisation. Consultation continues to inform programme planning, activity choices and future developments, with young people regularly sharing ideas, evaluating projects and contributing to decisions affecting the service.

This continued emphasis on youth participation helps ensure that Escape remains responsive to local need whilst enabling young people to develop confidence in expressing their views and contributing positively to their community.

Partnerships and Youth Work in Schools

Partnership working remains fundamental to the successful delivery of Escape's services and enables the charity to provide coordinated, responsive support for young people across Teviot and Liddesdale. During the year, Escape continued to work closely with Hawick High School, local primary schools, Scottish Borders Council, YouthBorders, Borders Community Action, NHS Borders, Hawick Development Trust, Hawick Town Team and a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector partners. These partnerships strengthen referral pathways, improve information sharing where appropriate and enable young people to access additional support quickly and effectively. The charity maintained its annual programme of Primary 7 transition sessions, visiting schools across the Teviot and Liddesdale cluster, including renewed engagement with Newcastleton Primary School. These sessions provide practical information, reassurance and opportunities for young people to build confidence ahead of their transition into secondary education whilst introducing them to Escape's wider youth work provision.

Escape also continued to deliver weekly lunchtime youth work sessions within Hawick High School, providing an accessible and informal opportunity for young people to seek advice, develop positive relationships with youth workers and access support before concerns escalate into more significant issues. Staff maintained regular attendance at Community Action Group meetings, Problem Solving Partnership meetings, Cluster meetings and other multi-agency forums throughout the year. These partnerships support early intervention, coordinated planning and improved outcomes for young people experiencing additional challenges.

The charity also continued to work collaboratively with local organisations to deliver activities and events that enhance opportunities for young people whilst avoiding duplication of services and making best use of available community resources.

Community Events and Fundraising

Community engagement continues to play an important role in both the sustainability of the charity and the development of young people. Throughout the year, Escape organised and supported a wide range of community events, providing opportunities for young people to volunteer, develop practical skills and strengthen connections with the wider community. The annual Family Fun Day once again brought together young people, families and local residents to celebrate the work of the organisation whilst raising valuable unrestricted income. Young people played an active role in planning and delivering the event, demonstrating responsibility, teamwork and leadership throughout the day.

Escape also continued its successful partnership with Tunes by the Teviot, with young people supporting the delivery of the event through a variety of volunteer roles. Their professionalism and commitment were widely recognised and provided valuable experience in event management, customer service and teamwork.

The charity's Mini Hut remained a popular feature of the Common Riding celebrations, welcoming invited guests and providing an opportunity for young people to celebrate an important part of Hawick's heritage. The project reflects Escape's commitment to helping young people develop pride in their local community whilst maintaining links with local traditions.

During the summer, eleven young people attended YouthBeatz Festival in Dumfries, providing many with their first experience of attending a major music festival. The visit encouraged independence, strengthened friendships and enabled young people to experience opportunities beyond their local area.

Additional fundraising activities throughout the year included coffee mornings, community markets, seasonal events, raffles, sponsored activities and craft stalls, all supported by young people, volunteers, staff and Trustees. These activities not only generated valuable unrestricted income but also strengthened community relationships and increased awareness of Escape's work across the local area.

Celebrating Success

The achievements of young people continued to be recognised both within Escape and across the wider community throughout the year.

Several members received awards through Hawick High School's annual Celebration of Success event, recognising their contribution to the school community, determination and personal development. One young person received the school's Award for Determination, recognising the remarkable progress they have made over a number of years through regular participation in Escape's cooking programme. The award acknowledged not only the practical skills they have developed but also the significant growth in confidence, resilience and independence observed by both school staff and youth workers.

Escape's Young Leadership Team was also shortlisted as finalists in the Recognition Hawick Awards within the Under 25 Achiever category. This recognition reflects the team's continued commitment to volunteering, leadership and making a positive contribution to the local community. The organisation itself was recognised as runner-up in the YouthBorders LEAD Awards Heritage Preservation category for its work through the Mini Hut project during Common Riding celebrations and ongoing cultural activities. This award recognised the positive role young people have played in celebrating local heritage whilst developing confidence, teamwork and community involvement. These achievements demonstrate the positive outcomes that can be achieved when young people are provided with consistent support, meaningful opportunities and encouragement to realise their potential.

Our Impact
The impact of Escape Youth Services extends beyond attendance figures or the number of activities delivered. Through trusted relationships, early intervention and consistent support, the charity continues to make a positive difference to the lives of children, young people and their families. Feedback received throughout the year demonstrates the value that young people place on having somewhere they feel safe, welcome and accepted.

One young person returning to Escape after a period away commented:
"I've had an AMAZING night. I didn't realise how much I'd missed it."

Parents consistently highlighted the quality of support provided by staff and the positive impact the organisation has on their children. Comments received included:
"No improvement needed. The youth workers go above and beyond."
"Keep up the good work and thank you for looking after our kids."

Throughout our services, examples have demonstrated how young people have developed confidence and self-worth through engagement, returned to education following periods of disengagement, secured employment and volunteering opportunities, increased physical activity, built new friendships and progressed into leadership roles. While each young person's journey is different, threaded through our work is providing consistent, trusted relationships within safe and inclusive environments enabling young people to build resilience, overcome challenges and achieve positive outcomes that extend well beyond their time at Escape.

Our Team
The Trustees recognise that the charity's achievements are only possible because of the commitment, professionalism and dedication of its staff, volunteers and Board of Directors. Throughout the year, the organisation continued to invest in the development of its workforce through a comprehensive programme of training and professional development. Staff completed training in areas including Child Protection, Trauma-Informed Practice, Food Hygiene, Sexual Health Awareness, management development and Ready for Youth Work, ensuring that services continue to reflect current legislation, good practice and the changing needs of young people.
Alongside investment in staff development, the charity continued to strengthen its systems and organisational capacity through improved use of the Lamplight outcomes database and ongoing review of policies, procedures and quality assurance processes.
The charity also continued to contribute to the wider youth work sector. During the year, the Service Manager delivered a presentation at a UK Youth residential event, sharing learning and good practice on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people in rural communities.

The Trustees extend their sincere thanks to all staff, volunteers and Board members for their continued commitment, professionalism and passion throughout the year. Their collective efforts ensure that Escape remains a trusted and valued organisation within the communities it serves.

Financial review
A surplus of £34,771 was retained during the year. Of this surplus £28,361 related to restricted funds and £6,410 to unrestricted funds. As noted in the report, the trustees will be looking at options to generate unrestricted income to ensure the reserves are maintained.

Policy on reserves

At the end of the year there was £16,255 in unrestricted reserves, and £104,707 in restricted reserves. The Board recognises the need to continue to raise further unrestricted funds to enable a reserve policy of 3 months operating costs.

Funds in deficit

No funds are in deficit.

Principal funding sources

Escape Youth Services continues to rely on a diverse range of grant funding, charitable trusts, corporate supporters, community fundraising and individual donations to sustain and develop its services.

During the year, the charity received grant funding from The National Lottery Community Fund (Community Fund and Awards for All), BBC Children in Need, Foundation Scotland (Essentia Fund), Scottish Borders Council, UK Youth (Thriving Minds), Hawick Common Good Fund, Langhope Rig Community Fund, GoFibre, Scottish Children's Lottery Trust, Christina Mary Hendrie Trust, The Robertson Trust, People's Postcode Trust, Borders Community Action, The Maple Trust, Dr Guthrie Association, Morrisons Foundation, The Hedley Foundation, Muirhall Energy, Asda Foundation, Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust and the Neighbourly Community Fund.

The charity also benefited from the generosity of local organisations, businesses and community groups, including Tunes by the Teviot, Hawick Pantomime Group, Cavers and Kirkpatrick Church, Hawick Masonic Lodge, Hawick Rotary Club, Johnstons of Elgin, the Hizzy Run, together with donations from Jean Bruce, Nisa Local customers through in-store collection tins, and many other individual supporters.

Additional income was generated through community fundraising events, Easyfundraising, raffles, sponsorship of members' fundraising activities, craft and market stalls, and the charity's annual Family Fun Day. These contributions, together with the ongoing commitment of our members, families, volunteers and staff, continue to play an important role in enabling Escape Youth Services to provide high-quality youth work opportunities across Teviot and Liddesdale.

The Trustees extend their sincere thanks to all funders, donors, volunteers, supporters and community partners whose continued generosity and commitment make the charity's work possible.

Investment policy and objectives

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to invest in any way the directors wish. Monies not immediately required can be invested in such investments or securities or property as may be thought fit.

Plans for future periods

Aims and key objectives for future periods

Challenges and Looking Ahead
The charity continues to operate within an increasingly challenging financial environment. Competition for grant funding remains significant, while rising operating costs and increasing demand for services place ongoing pressure on resources.
Despite these challenges, Escape has continued to demonstrate resilience, adapting services where necessary, strengthening partnerships and securing new investment to support both service delivery and future organisational development.

Looking ahead, the Trustees will continue to prioritise:
- securing sustainable funding to maintain and develop services;
- progressing the redevelopment of the youth centre through the successful delivery of the capital improvement project;
- strengthening targeted support for young people experiencing disadvantage or additional barriers;
- continuing to develop staff, volunteers and Trustees through training and professional development;
- further embedding the Lamplight outcomes database to strengthen monitoring, evaluation and evidence of impact; and
- ensuring that young people remain at the centre of service planning, delivery and decision-making.

The Trustees remain confident that, through the continued commitment of staff, volunteers, partners, funders and the local community, Escape Youth Services is well placed to build on the achievements of the past year and continue delivering high-quality youth work that improves outcomes for children and young people across Teviot and Liddesdale.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that the charity is a going concern.

Escape Youth Services

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The company, which is a recognised charity in Scotland, is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 28 August 2012.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

All of the organisations trustees are appointed or reappointed by the members at the annual general meeting, which is held in February each year.

Induction and training of trustees

New directors undergo an induction process which briefs them on their obligations under legislation, the decision making processes, the business plan and the recent financial performance.

Organisational structure

The Company has a Board of Directors who meet monthly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. At present the committee has seven members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility for the provision of the facilities rest with the manager. The manager is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the facilities specified and that key performance indicators are met, together with responsibility for the operational management of the facilities.

Relationships with related parties

Scottish Borders Council
Scottish Borders Council Service Level Agreement (through Community Learning and Development) has now ended.

Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds are held on behalf of other organisations.

Creditor payment policy

It is policy to settle invoices within normal credit terms.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 7 July 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

....
T Gibson
Trustee

Escape Youth Services

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Escape Youth Services ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 October 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ('the 2005 Act'), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 44 (1) (c) of the 2005 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company is required by company law to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis and is registered as a charity in Scotland your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Regulation 11(2) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAS, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulation; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records and comply with the accounting requirements of Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

....
David Campbell
David Campbell
Deans Accountants & Business Advisors
ICAS

27 North Bridge Street
Hawick
TD9 9BD

Date: 28-7-26

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 October 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	11,791	206,409	218,200
Other trading activities	5	24,041	12,050	36,091
Total income		35,832	218,459	254,291
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(29,422)	(190,098)	(219,520)
Total expenditure		(29,422)	(190,098)	(219,520)
Net income		6,410	28,361	34,771
Transfers between funds		(796)	796	-
Net movement in funds		5,614	29,157	34,771
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		10,641	75,550	86,191
Total funds carried forward	13	16,255	104,707	120,962

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	45,670	153,397	199,067
Other trading activities	5	41,432	-	41,432
Total income		87,102	153,397	240,499
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(92,031)	(123,413)	(215,444)
Total expenditure		(92,031)	(123,413)	(215,444)
Net (expenditure)/income		(4,929)	29,984	25,055
Net movement in funds		(4,929)	29,984	25,055
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		15,570	45,566	61,136
Total funds carried forward	13	10,641	75,550	86,191

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 13.

Escape Youth Services

(Registration number: SC431246)
Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	11	121,670	86,479
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(708)	(288)
Net assets		120,962	86,191
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	13	104,707	75,550
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		16,255	10,641
Total funds	13	120,962	86,191

For the financial year ending 31 October 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 15 to 26 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 7 July 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

....

T Gibson
Trustee

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in Scotland, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:
Hawick Youth Centre
Havelock Street
Hawick
Scotland
TD9 7BB

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 7 July 2026.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
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) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
Escape Youth Services meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The accounts are presented in Sterling (£) and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments
All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for, according to the substance of the contractual arrangement, as financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of it's liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

Where shares are issued, any component that creates, a financial liability of the company is presented as a liability in the balance sheet. The corresponding dividends relating to the liability component are charged as an interest expenses in the profit and loss account.

Impairment

At the end of each reporting period financial instruments measured at fair value are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. The impairment loss is recognised in the profit and loss account.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	11,791	-	11,791
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants	-	206,409	206,409
	11,791	206,409	218,200

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	7,712	-	7,712
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants	37,958	153,397	191,355
	45,670	153,397	199,067

4 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Children In Need	15,000	15,000	15,000
Scottish Borders Council	40,091	40,091	40,646
Borders Community Action	9,926	9,926	-
The Maple Trust	10,000	10,000	-
SBC CLLD	20,349	20,349	-
SBC Service Level Agreement	-	-	7,000
Hawick Common Good Fund	3,000	3,000	9,000
The Morrisons Foundation	7,910	7,910	-
Guthrie's Association	1,500	1,500	-
Foundation Scotland	12,890	12,890	2,890
Youth Borders	-	-	4,939
Neighbourly Community Fund	730	730	500
Awards For All	19,999	19,999	-
Young Scot	-	-	3,700
Peoples Postcode Trust	-	-	15,975
UK Youth Fund	-	-	42,500
Go Further Fund	-	-	3,000
Langhope Rig Community Fund	-	-	2,901
Scottish Childrens Lottery Trust	-	-	5,000
Southern Uplands Partnership	-	-	995
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	-	1,000
Hedley Foundation	-	-	1,000
The Robertson Trust	15,000	15,000	15,000
Asda Foundation	1,000	1,000	400
CM Hendrie Foundation	7,500	7,500	-
Henry Smith Fund	2,620	2,620	-
Burnfoot Community Futures	8,354	8,354	-
Anton Jurgens	6,000	6,000	-
National Lottery Community Fund	24,540	24,540	19,909
	206,409	206,409	191,355

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Trading income;			
Sales of goods and services	5,141	-	5,141
Local fundraising and street collection income	6,012	11,034	17,046
Membership subscriptions	5,168	1,016	6,184
Property rental income	7,720	-	7,720
	24,041	12,050	36,091

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £
Trading income;		
Sales of goods and services	6,129	6,129
Local fundraising and street collection income	19,675	19,675
Membership subscriptions	6,140	6,140
Property rental income	9,488	9,488
	41,432	41,432

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Fundraising		14,995	-	14,995
Staff costs		10,913	149,535	160,448
Allocated support costs	7	3,094	40,563	43,657
Governance costs	7	420	-	420
		29,422	190,098	219,520

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising		8,421	-	8,421
Staff costs		49,381	101,958	151,339
Allocated support costs	7	33,796	21,455	55,251
Governance costs	7	433	-	433
		92,031	123,413	215,444

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 October 2025

	Activity undertaken directly £	2025 £
Fundraising costs	9,216	9,216
Purchases	5,779	5,779
	14,995	14,995

	Activity undertaken directly £	2024 £
Fundraising costs	3,648	3,648
Purchases	4,773	4,773
	8,421	8,421

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also governance costs of £420 (2024 - £433) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 7 for further details.

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	420	420	433
	420	420	433

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	152,173	141,969
Social security costs	4,159	5,648
Pension costs	2,665	2,705
Other staff costs	1,451	1,017
	160,448	151,339

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Administration and support	13	12
	13	12

4 (2024 - 9) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £2,665 (2024 - £2,705).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Examination of the financial statements	420	433

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank	121,670	86,479

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	420	-
Accruals	288	288
	708	288

13 Funds

	Balance at 1 November 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 October 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General	10,641	35,832	(29,422)	(796)	16,255
	10,641	35,832	(29,422)	(796)	16,255
Restricted funds					
Children In Need	2,287	15,000	(14,551)	-	2,736
CYPLG	3,201	20,903	(22,503)	(1,601)	-
CMH	-	7,500	(5,625)	-	1,875
Denholm	4,710	1,016	(4,337)	-	1,389
Foundation Scotland	2,649	12,890	(4,521)	-	11,018
Burnfoot Community Hub	-	8,354	(7,302)	-	1,052
Borders Community Fund	-	9,926	(1,654)	-	8,272
SBC	-	22,610	(22,610)	-	-
Maple Trust	-	10,000	(5,891)	-	4,109
Awards For All	-	19,999	(3,693)	-	16,306
SBC - NFS	-	4,967	(4,967)	-	-
Youth FAC Fund	-	11,960	(3,896)	-	8,064
National Lottery Community Fund	15,670	24,540	(19,439)	664	21,435
UK Youth Fund	23,085	-	(23,085)	-	-
Go Further Fund	500	-	(500)	-	-
Childrens Lottery	2,917	-	(2,917)	-	-
Peoples Postcode Trust	8,031	-	(8,031)	-	-
The Robertson Trust	12,500	15,000	(15,000)	-	12,500
General	-	33,794	(19,576)	1,733	15,951
Total restricted funds	75,550	218,459	(190,098)	796	104,707
Total funds	86,191	254,291	(219,520)	-	120,962

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 October 2025

	Balance at 1 November 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 October 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General				
General	15,570	87,102	(92,031)	10,641
Restricted				
Children In Need	-	15,000	(12,713)	2,287
CYPLG	1,600	19,204	(17,603)	3,201
Denholm	-	7,919	(3,209)	4,710
Foundation Scotland	2,649	2,890	(2,890)	2,649
SBC	2,489	7,000	(9,489)	-
Awards For All	5,832	-	(5,832)	-
Youth Scotland	936	-	(936)	-
Gannochy Trust	2,285	-	(2,285)	-
Youth FAC Fund	2,500	-	(2,500)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	14,775	19,909	(19,014)	15,670
UK Youth Fund	12,500	42,500	(31,915)	23,085
Go Further Fund	-	3,000	(2,500)	500
Childrens Lottery	-	5,000	(2,083)	2,917
Peoples Postcode Trust	-	15,975	(7,944)	8,031
The Robertson Trust	-	15,000	(2,500)	12,500
Total restricted funds	45,566	153,397	(123,413)	75,550
Total funds	61,136	240,499	(215,444)	86,191

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Restricted funds represent various grants provided to assist in the running of the charity. Each provider has its own conditions attached to the grants and the providers are shown separately for this reason. Balances on these funds represent unspent grant monies where the commitment to expend the balance exists in subsequent accounting periods.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 October 2025 £
Current assets	31,977	89,693	121,670
Current liabilities	(708)	-	(708)
Total net assets	31,269	89,693	120,962

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 October 2024 £
Current assets	10,929	75,550	86,479
Current liabilities	(288)	-	(288)
Total net assets	10,641	75,550	86,191

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year