Scottish Charity Ref. No. SC052391

INVERCLYDE FAMILY CONTACT CENTRE SCIO

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

INVERCLYDE FAMILY CONTACT CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

CHARITABLE TRUST STATUS
Inverclyde Family Contact Centre SCIO is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) Scottish Charity Number SC052391

TRUSTEES
Margaret Anne Foggie, Gordon Anderson Macphail, Julie Ferguson, Rebecca Little and Elizabeth McDonald ,Alison Graham, Caroline Scott
Reverend Christine Murdoch

Julie Ferguson, Margaret Anne Foggie, and Gordon Anderson Macphail CA, Rebecca Little and Elizabeth McDonald's were Trustees of the Charitable Trust Inverclyde Family Contact Centre (SC035041) and remained as Trustees following the transition in March 2023 to Inverclyde Family Contact Centre SCIO. Alison Graham and Caroline Scott were appointed as Trustees in April 2024. The Reverend Christine Murdoch is a Trustee *ex officio* retaining our historic links with Church of Scotland Clyde Presbytery.

TRUST PURPOSE
The purpose of the Trust is the relief of distress among children who do not live with both their birth father and birth mother where the families are affected by difficulties and/or disputes over child contact and in furtherance thereof:

(a) To facilitate where possible the building and maintenance of healthy relationships between the children and their parents, grandparents or significant others
(b) To maintain one or more supervised venues for children to have contact with their separated parents, grandparents or significant others in a safe, neutral and child-centred environment (Family Contact Centre/s)
(c) Recognising that the children's contact period is a stressful time for the adults involved, to give emotional support both to those having contact with the children and to those with whom the children reside
(d) To encourage the provision and use of family mediation, and discourage by better education, the use of child contact as a bargaining counter in family disputes

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS
In 2025, we welcomed 48 children from 34 families. Of these, 26 children had already been using the centre in the previous year, with 22 new children registering during 2025.
The children we supported ranged in age from just six months old to 17 years. We also facilitated sibling contact for four children and grandparent contact for eleven children, helping to strengthen and maintain important relationships with members of their wider family network.

An encouraging highlight during 2025 was seeing several long-term families move on from supported contact arrangements to successfully being able to co-parent without the need for support from the centre.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS (cont)

During 2025, four young parents registered with babies under one year old. For these families, the contact centre was more than just a place for contact to take place. It provided a safe and supportive space where parents could spend quality time with their children, build their confidence, and develop their parenting skills. Watching these early relationships grow was a positive reminder of the difference supported contact can make for both parents and their babies. One father spoke about how supportive the centre had been for both him and his daughter. He shared that the centre would always hold a special place in his heart, as it was here that his daughter took her first steps and said her first words.

Two additional highlights of the year involved, firstly, a young father whose daughter had been born prematurely. Through regular contact sessions, he was able to spend valuable time with his baby, developing his confidence in tasks such as nappy changing, communication, and play. The supportive environment of the centre enabled him to strengthen his bond with his daughter and grow in his role as a parent, demonstrating the significant impact that early intervention and support can have on family relationships.

And secondly a mother who contacted us to share photographs of her child's first day at school. She explained that both parents had been able to attend together, a significant change from when the family first began using the service. At that time, the parents had been unable to make eye contact with one another during handovers at the centre. Their ability to share this important milestone in their child's life together demonstrated the positive progress that had been made in their co-parenting relationship and highlighted the lasting impact of the support provided by the centre.

For some families, contact sessions provided an opportunity to rebuild trust. Seeing their former partner consistently attend and engage positively with their children helped a number of parents reconcile their relationship and move forward together as a family. In 2025, we had three families who were able to do this.

This year we are supporting seven families free of charge. These families have a variety of different circumstance and although they need to use the contact centre in some cases for several years they are not eligible for legal aid and are unable to afford the fees. We recognise that maintaining and supporting these important family relationships is our priority, and we do not want financial circumstances to prevent children and families from benefiting from contact, so in these cases we waive our fees.

With our sensory room now fully established, children have benefited from a dedicated space where they can regulate their emotions and take time away from the busy contact environment when needed. The room has been particularly popular with babies and younger children throughout the year. It has also provided a private and supportive area for a baby who required separation from other children due to a health condition, ensuring that their individual needs were being met during their contact sessions.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS (cont)

Throughout the year, the centre relied upon the support of eight volunteers, working alongside our paid staff. We continue to benefit from financial support from The National Lottery funding a family support worker for the second year. This post has been so successful in increasing the resilience of our team and providing extra focussed support to children and families, consequently we have employed a second family support worker who joined our team in May. Additional funding from the National Lottery in April also enabled us to employ a policy writer, who has worked closely with our manager to update existing policies and develop new ones as required.

This year finally saw our new carpet installed in all areas of the contact centre which has made the environment more comfortable and welcoming for our families. We are grateful to Foundation Scotland (Bailiee Gifford Fund) and Inverclyde Council for their financial support in this. We also enhanced the safety of the building through the installation of a new fire alarm system with break-glass call points in all areas of the centre.

In November we successfully applied to participate in the Inverclyde Council Warm Hand of Friendship Project. This funding enabled us to run a new initiative, Tea, Tots & Toast. This was a weekly drop-in for parents, carers and children aged 0-4, offering a warm welcoming space for families to connect with each other, share experiences and access gentle support. The initiative also included a clothing swap.

As we look forward to 2026 we are preparing for the legal requirements of registration with the Care Inspectorate. We also plan to continue to develop our staff and explore ways to make greater use of our building to support our community, alongside maintaining and improving our centre facilities and most importantly continuing to support and respond effectively to the many different needs of families and children using our centre.

As always the Trustees are hugely grateful to our committed staff and volunteers, who give so much time effort and care to the centre and the families and all those whose work behind the scenes and for financial support which enable us to continue this important work.

The Inverclyde Family Contact Centre opens on Wednesdays from 3.45 to 6pm and Saturdays from 9.30 to 4pm.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS (cont)

The children and families using the Contact Centre are mainly from the Inverclyde area, but we also have families from surrounding areas. Without this service many of these children and parents simply would not have the opportunity to build or re-establish relationships with each other when the parents part company. We have the privilege of offering supportive and positive guidance to separated parents working through the care of their children following the breakdown of their relationship. This can be extremely daunting particularly for a young person who may not have had the benefit of their own stable family from which to draw personal experience or advice and support which others may take for granted. The encouragement of staff and volunteers can be pivotal in helping these parents to persist and be patient in building up relationships with their children sometimes over weeks and months against a backdrop of inter-parental animosity. The long-term benefits of this service have a wider impact on the community in that it is recognised that children who are able to have relationships with both parents are more likely to thrive and have a firmer basis on which to build their own relationships and be successful in later life. The service and support we offer is not limited to parents and extends to the wider family if required. We often have grandparents and other family members using our centre where family break-up or bereavement has affected their opportunities to build relationships with their grandchildren or close relatives. We know that these bonds are so important to all those concerned. We have around 30 families attending the centre each week, between handovers and contact sessions within the centre and usually have a waiting list of families waiting to use our service.

Our aim is to protect children from disputes between their parents and facilitate the child's contact with the separated parent by providing a friendly neutral supervised venue for contact. Where bail conditions or circumstances require that parents do not meet, staff will pass the child from one parent to the other. We support both the parent with residence giving up a child for contact and the contact parent who may never have seen their child or may know and love the child but been separated for months. We facilitate Child Welfare Reporters appointed by the Court and social work where they are involved.

Greenock Sheriff Court deals with hundreds of Child Welfare Hearings every year, and most involve contact questions. Some families can come to an agreement, and some are bitterly opposed to each other only out of disappointment and hurt but in some cases there are genuine reasons to doubt the children's safety. There may be mental or physical health issues, drug or alcohol abuse or worries over domestic abuse, or threats. Sometimes a separated parent has no suitable home to bring a child. It is these cases that need the Contact Centre most so that the children can get to know the parent safely and our objective reports on progress can assist better decision-making on their future.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS (cont)
Even when a child can go over-night to the Contact Parent, we may have to supervise the hand-over until trust grows to the point where at last the parents can make their own arrangements. Things can go smoothly for weeks and then a family crisis or a new partner or a new baby can cause a quarrel to flare but with patience the lawyers or our Manager can often smooth matters . If not, we welcome them back without blame when they are ready to try again.

Contact parents may be allowed 1 hour in the Contact Centre at first, gradually building as we see the contact parent building a good relationship with the child. They may then graduate to 15 minutes in the Centre, 1 hour outside and 15 minutes back with us so that we can see whether the child Is well and happy and then to have the full time or longer outside with only the handovers monitored by us.

Our manager provides valuable telephone support and professional advice to parents and relatives, doing all they can to help families overcome obstacles and provide reassurance so that contact goes ahead whenever possible.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE INVERCLYDE FAMILY CONTACT CENTRE
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report
My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An Examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosure in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners' statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounts records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Gregor Orr C. A.
Independent Examiner

29 September 2026

INVERCLYDE FAMILY CONTACT CENTRE SCIO

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025			2024		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
Fees Received		65,005	65,005	0	52,705	52,705
Inverclyde Council		2,000	2,000	1,733	0	1,733
National Lottery Fund	8,419		8,419	20,000	0	20,000
Inverclyde Community Fund		0	0	1,000	0	1,000
Bank Interest		598	598	0	569	569
Gifts and Donations		1,320	1,320	0	1,986	1,986
Cattanach Trust		0	0	0	20,000	20,000
Sundry Income		100	100	0	0	0
Total receipts	8,419	69,023	77,442	22,733	75,260	97,993
PAYMENTS						
Payments for Charitable Activities						
Wages	8,742	27,550	36,292	4,441	26,589	31,030
Pension Contributions		1,345	1,345		1,191	1,191
Rent		12,000	12,000		12,000	12,000
Heat & Light		7,279	7,279		7,112	7,112
Repairs and Renewals	500	5,730	6,230	3,032	109	3,141
Telephone		2,356	2,356		2,192	2,192
Insurance		2,782	2,782		1,067	1,067
Legal and Professional Fees		**1,344**	**1,344**		0	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	613	2,745	3,358	339	1,445	1,784
Total Payments for Charitable Activities	9,855	63,131	72,986	7,812	51,705	59,517
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	-1,436	5,892	4,456	14,921	23,555	38,476

NOTES

1. The figures for 2024 reflect all the transactions of both the SCIO and the non SCIO charity during the year.
2. During the year, the Trustees made donations to the Charity totalling £200 (2024- £200).

INVERCLYOE FAMILY CONTACT CENTRE SCIO

STATEMENT OF **BALANCES**
As at 31 December 2025

	£	2025 £	£	£	2024 £
BANK AND CASH IN HAND					
Bank Balance				92,720	88,264

RESERVES

	Opening Balance	Incoming **Resources**	**Outgoing Resources**	Closing **Balance**	
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General Fund	69,593	69,023	60,215	78,401	69,593
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Repairs and Renewals	3,451	0	2,916	535	3,451
Support Worker	15,220	0	8,441	6,779	15,220
Report Writer	0	5419	914	4,505	0
New Door	0	1500	500	1,000	0
Warm Spaces	0	1500	0	1,500	0
	88,264	77,442	72,986	92,720	88,264

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

Rebecca Little (Sep 29, 2026 16:39:09 GMT+2) R Little (Chairperson)

Gordon MacPhail (Sep 29, 2026 11:18:05 GMT+1) G A. Macphail (Treasurer)

29 September 2026