RISE

Racial Inclusion, Supporting Empowerment

Forth Valley

# Annual Financial Statements

# Year ending 31 March 2026

# Charity number: SC049883

**Reference and administrative details**

Charity number: SC049883

Registered Office: Falkirk Business Hub, 45 Vicar Street, Falkirk, FK1 1LL

**Our Advisers**

Independent Examiners: CBS Accountants & Advisors, 13 Hopetoun Street, Bathgate, EH48 4PA

Bankers: Bank of Scotland, PO BOX 1000, BX2 1LB

**Board and Managers**

The trustees of the charitable entity (the charity) are its board members for the purpose of charity law. The board members and officers serving during the year and since the year-end were as follows:

**Key management personnel: Board Members**

**Exec Elected Board:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nominated Chair | Farah Farzana |
| Nominated Treasurer | Shumaila Abid |
| Nominated Secretary | Ruth Ashaye |
| Non-Exec Board | Ayesha Mobeen |
| | Umair Choksy |
| | Tanya Richards |

**Key management personnel:**

Senior managers:

CEO Safia Ali

**Departures from Board Members**

Non-Exec Board Sharon Mwale

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Report of the board members**

The board members are pleased to present their annual trustees' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2026.

The financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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).

**Chair's report**

It has been an honour to continue as chairperson for RISE Forth Valley.

There has been much progress from the previous year, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our CEO. Her vision and passion have driven us forward to overcome the challenges we face. The support of our Board Members is equally important, who take a keen interest in the outcomes of our projects, promote the influence of RISE Forth Valley and always make themselves available when needed. Most importantly, I would like to thank all of our service users, for supporting our organisation, but for sharing your experiences so we can improve and empower more families.

We need to focus on the diversity of our service users and continue to build our brand by being more vocal on local issues. We need volunteers that can contribute to promoting RISE Forth Valley and use this opportunity to gain skills, experience and joy in giving back to the community.



**Farah Farzana**
*Chairperson*

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Structure, Governance and Management**

## Governing Document

Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO is registered as a charity with the Scottish Charity Regulator. It has a committee composed of 5 board members.

## Appointment of board members

As set out in the governing document, the Constitution was updated in 2020.

## Organisation

The Board, which can have up to thirteen members, administers the charity. The Board meets typically quarterly, and there are sub-committees covering development, membership, finance and audit, which normally meet monthly. The Board Members appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to manage the charity's day-to-day operations. To facilitate effective operations, the CEO has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Board Members, for operational matters, including finance, employment, and related activity.

Board Member Appointment and Induction

Board member recruitment is initiated when a skills and experience gap or resignation exists. The Charity will review the current skills and the gaps to be filled. Then, advertisements will be placed in community groups and social media, inviting interested candidates to apply. After the written application is accepted, two existing board members and/or senior staff will hold an interview. Once approved, the candidate is formally accepted and invited to a board meeting. Induction is delivered online or in person, and it introduces the charity's aims, strategy, policies, and online project management systems. They join charity's Board and WhatsApp group to keep updated with information and activities as well as external training opportunities. Induction videos are available on YouTube as private links for members to revisit. Opportunities for training through third sector interface and partners are shared with board members. Those interested in volunteering with service users are subjected to disclosure checks.

## Objectives and activities

The purposes of the charity are:

4.1 To advance active citizenship and the contribution of the diverse communities across the Forth Valley through promoting equality & diversity, dynamic citizenship and assisting in removing barriers (e.g. language, isolation and exclusion) of diverse ethnic and cultural minorities communities. This will be done through empowering an active role locally and nationally building direct links with local disadvantaged communities and policy makers, addressing areas of support

in relation to training,

4.2 To promote racial harmony among the diverse communities through celebrating diverse cultural heritage and facilitating inclusion in multicultural Scotland while empowering these communities through capacity building support as a means of tackling isolation and promoting integration and active citizenship. This will build positive relationships, promote mutual understanding and respect and dignity for all while enhancing community cohesion through offering relevant activities and training opportunities and stimulating democratic participation in all aspects of community work and society.

4.3 To advance education through offering educational activities and training opportunities as well as empowering youth engagement and participation in education and well as equal opportunities in progressing participative democracy for all.

4.4 To advance public participation in sport by facilitating weekly football sessions and forming partnerships with other local organisations to provide a range of sporting opportunities.

4.5 To provide recreational activities with the object of improving conditions for the persons for whom the activities are primarily intended through our projects; we provide a safe space for women and children to advance their skills in a social environment.

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Achievements and performance**

**CEO Report:**

The 2025/26 year has been one of consolidation, growth and strengthening foundations for the future. Following the successful rebrand from Al Masaar SCIO to RISE Forth Valley SCIO, this was our first full year operating under our new identity. Throughout the year we have continued to support, empower and advocate for racialised communities across Forth Valley while strengthening our partnerships, increasing our profile and ensuring our communities have opportunities to influence local and national decision-making

Our projects have continued to deliver high-quality services despite ongoing challenges within the funding environment. We have maintained support for racialised families, carers and young people through our Parent Club, Carers Support Project and Youth Club while also developing new areas of work linked to climate justice, environmental engagement and community leadership.

This year marked the successful completion of the first year of our Henry Duncan Grant funding administered by Corra Foundation. Whilst a relatively small grant, it has provided the organisation with much-needed stability and has enabled us to employ a dedicated Parent Club worker to support families and activities across Forth Valley. The funding has allowed us to invest in our communities, strengthen engagement and create a solid foundation on which we can continue to build over the remaining four years of the funding programme

We also completed the first year of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, which has provided additional stability for the organisation by supporting management, governance and organisational development. Together with the Henry Duncan funding, this has enabled RISE to focus on strengthening our infrastructure while continuing to deliver services to our communities.

The Robertson Trust funding has continued to play an important role in supporting the organisation and is now entering its final year before ending in June 2026. We are extremely grateful for the support provided through this funding, which has contributed significantly to organisational development and sustainability over the funding period.

The Carers Support Project also entered its final year of Health and Social Care Partnership funding following three years of successful delivery. Whilst funding was due to end in March 2026, we have secured an additional six months of support to allow delivery to continue until September 2026. This project has made a significant difference to many minority ethnic carers by improving access to services, reducing isolation and ensuring carers' voices are represented within wider support systems

As an organisation, we remain committed to ensuring that racialised communities have opportunities to influence policy and services. During the year, RISE contributed to numerous consultations including NHS Forth Valley strategies, suicide prevention planning, climate

change consultations and Falkirk Council's homelessness prevention work. Our members have shared their lived experiences to help shape future services and policies across the region.

I have continued to strengthen partnerships and networking opportunities across Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire, raising awareness of the issues affecting racialised communities and promoting greater cultural understanding. This has included delivering presentations and cultural sharing sessions to organisations and agencies, helping to build stronger relationships and increase understanding of the needs and experiences of our communities.

I have also represented RISE as a member of The Black Promise Focus Group, contributing to national discussions on race equality, children's rights and Scotland's Promise. This work has enabled us to ensure the voices and experiences of Black and minority ethnic children, young people and families are represented within national policy discussions and future service design.

A particular highlight this year has been the development of our environmental justice work. Through funding from Forth Valley Environmental Link, we engaged diverse communities in climate change consultations and have subsequently secured further funding to deliver a Climate Leadership Programme during 2026/27. This will provide leadership opportunities, community engagement activities and stronger representation of racialised communities in climate action discussions.

We were also delighted to secure National Lottery Young Start funding, which will commence in April 2026. This funding will enable us to expand our Youth Club provision, recruit dedicated youth work staff and create new opportunities for racialised young people and young carers across Forth Valley.

While the current funding environment remains extremely competitive and we have experienced a number of unsuccessful applications throughout the year, I remain optimistic about the future. There continue to be a range of funding opportunities available, and I am actively pursuing new sources of investment to ensure the sustainability and growth of the organisation. Securing continuation funding for core staff, maintaining services and developing new programmes will remain a key priority during the coming year.

I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, Board members, funders and partners for their continued support and commitment throughout the year. Most importantly, I would like to thank our members and communities, whose resilience, participation and willingness to share their experiences continue to shape and strengthen the work of RISE Forth Valley.



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**Safia Ali**
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Treasurer Report**

## Reserve policy and ongoing concern

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between spending and income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditures. The board consider that the ideal level of unrestricted reserves as of 31 March 2026 would be £10,000. This level of reserves would enable the charity to continue in the event of a significant drop in income.

The Charity had reserves of £30,494 with £25,663 restricted funds, giving a surplus in unrestricted funds of £4,831. The board has reviewed the charity's present circumstances and considers that adequate resources will continue to be available to fund the organisation's activities for the foreseeable future. The unrestricted fund needs to be monitored so the restricted funds are available for the intended fund and ensure the charity is not in breach of its terms of funding.

## Related parties and cooperation with other organisations

None of our board members receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee and a related party must be disclosed to the full board of members like any other contractual relationship with a related party.

During the year, the charity entered into a consultancy agreement for IT and administration support services with close family members of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The total amount paid under this agreement was £4,000 and £7,312 respectively. The contract was awarded following a standard competitive process, and the Chief Executive Officer took no part in the decision of renumeration approval, or management of these contracts.

## Pay policy for senior staff.

The board members and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All board members gave of their time freely, and no trustee received remuneration in the year.

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with inflation. In view of the nature of the charity, the board members benchmark against pays levels in other charities of a similar size run on a voluntary basis.

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Treasurer Report (continued)**

## Risk management

The board members have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces.
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element of financial risk management is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due, regular liaison with the bank, and active management of trade debtors and creditors balances to ensure sufficient working capital.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from events and measuring impact of work to justify funding and attract donors. These risks are managed by having robust policies and procedures in place and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

## Board members' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The board members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 8 of the Charites Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Chair of Board Members



…….. 19/08/2026 ……..

**Shumaila Abid** Date
*Treasurer*

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 set out on pages 2 to 16.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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 (the Act) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of my examination as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent examiner's statement**

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - proper accounting records are kept 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
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M. Elahix

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**Muhammad Asim Elahix**
*Association of Certified Chartered Accountant (ACCA)*

13 Hopetoun Street
Bathgate
EH48 4PA

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Statement of Financial Activities**
**(Including Income and Expenditure Account)**

| | Note | **Unrestricted Funds** £ | **Restricted Funds** £ | **Total Funds 2026** £ | Total Funds 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income** | 1 | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 1,131 | - | 1,131 | 2,759 |
| Income from charitable activities: | | | | | |
| Charitable Funds | 3 | - | 161,699 | 161,699 | 95,988 |
| Total income | | 1,131 | 161,699 | 162,830 | 98,747 |
| **Expenditure** | | | | | |
| Expenditure on charitable activities: | | | | | |
| Operating expenditure | 4 | - | (159,055) | (159,055) | (80,073) |
| Total expenditure | | - | (159,055) | (159,055) | (80,073) |
| **Net Income/(Expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year** | | 1,131 | 2,644 | 3,775 | 18,674 |
| Transfer between funds | | - | - | - | - |
| **Reconciliation of funds** | | | | | |
| Brought forward | | 3,700 | 23,019 | 26,719 | 8,045 |
| **Carried forward** | | **4,831** | **25,663** | **30,494** | **26,719** |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses, recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Notes can be found on following pages.

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Statement of Balance Sheet**

| | Note | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ |
| **Current Assets** | | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 30,494 | 26,719 |
| **Net assets** | | **30,494** | **26,719** |
| The funds of the charity: | | | |
| Unrestricted income funds | 8 | 4,831 | 3,700 |
| Restricted income funds | 8 | 25,663 | 23,019 |
| **Total charity funds** | | **30,494** | **26,719** |

The board members have prepared accounts in accordance with section 44 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies and are for circulation to members of the charity.

The notes at pages 13 to 16 form part of these accounts.

Farah Farzana ..... 24th July 2026

**Farah Farzana** Date

*Chair of Board*

On behalf of board members.

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Notes on the accounts**

## 1. Accounting Policies

a) 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
The charity 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 note(s).

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The charity reported a net cash inflow for the year. The board members are of the view that the potential future income and measures taken subsequent to the year-end to reduce operating costs have secured the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months and that on this basis the charity accounts are prepared on going concern basis.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.
Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

d) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

## 3. Income from donations and legacies

| Donations | 2026 £ | 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Donated services | 1,130 | 2,759 |
| | 1,130 | 2,759 |

## 4. Income from charitable activities

| | Unrestricted Funds 2026 £ | Restricted Funds 2026 £ | Total Funds 2026 £ | Total Funds 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from funders:** | | | | |
| Income and grants | - | 161,699 | 161,699 | 95,988 |
| **Total income from charitable activities** | - | 161,699 | 161,699 | 95,988 |

## 5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

| | 2026 £ | 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Cost of events | 13,296 | 4,445 |
| Salaries and benefits | 103,140 | 68,244 |
| Pension | 5,206 | 1,151 |
| Consultants | 17,993 | - |
| Insurance | 452 | 413 |
| Telephone | 342 | 241 |
| IT Software and website | 3,393 | 1,408 |
| Volunteer expenses | 324 | 474 |
| Rent | 5,938 | 432 |
| Sundry | 992 | - |
| Equipment expensed | 1,098 | - |
| Subscriptions | 52 | 90 |
| Professional fees | 2,829 | 575 |
| Marketing | 4,000 | 2,600 |
| **Total** | **159,055** | **80,073** |

## 6. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel.

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Salaries and wages | 99,830 | 63,827 |
| Social security | 3,307 | 4,417 |
| Pension | 5,207 | 1,151 |
| | 108,344 | 69,395 |

No employees had employee benefits more than £60,000 (2025: £nil).

The board members did not receive any additional employment benefits from the charity during the year (2025: £nil). No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2025: £nil) apart from reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity.

## 7. Staff Numbers

The average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year were as follows:

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Full time | 1 | 1 |
| Part time | 4 | 4 |
| | 5 | 5 |

## 8. Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

| | 1 April 2025 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | 31 March 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General Fund | 3,700 | 1,131 | - | - | 4,831 |
| **Total** | **3,700** | **1,131** | **-** | **-** | **4,831** |

**Racial Inclusion and Supporting Empowerment (RISE) Forth Valley SCIO**
**For the year ending 31 March 2026**
**Notes on the accounts (continued)**

Analysis of movements in restricted fund

| | 1 April 2025 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources Expended £ | Transfers £ | 31 March 2026 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corra Boost Corra Foundation | 11,000 | - | - | - | 11,000 |
| Henry Duncan foundation - Corra | - | 8,000 | (7,412) | - | 588 |
| ETU Falkirk Council | 875 | - | - | - | 875 |
| Robertson Trust | 8,140 | 20,000 | (27,675) | - | 465 |
| Suicide Prevention Falkirk HSCP | 1,800 | - | - | - | 1,800 |
| Carer's Project Falkirk HSCP | 1,204 | 71,949 | (72,259) | - | 894 |
| FEL Scotland | - | 11,750 | (1,837) | - | 9,913 |
| National Lottery Community Fund | - | 50,000 | (49,872) | - | 128 |
| **Total** | **23,019** | **161,699** | **(159,055)** | **-** | **25,663** |