

**Report of the Trustees and  
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026  
for  
Voices Of Experience**



Brett Nicholls Associates  
Herbert House  
24 Herbert Street  
Glasgow  
G20 6NB

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

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## Voices Of Experience

### Reference and Administrative Details for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

#### TRUSTEES

G A Johnston - Chairperson  
A Albashir - Vice Chairperson  
N Shewan - Treasurer  
S Duffy (resigned 18.6.25)  
G McInnes (resigned 18.6.25)  
R E Norris (Non-Member Director)  
M D Robertson (resigned 5.12.25)  
F M Macleod  
R Hart  
K Donnelly (resigned 20.5.25)  
C Ritchie  
A Foster (appointed 2.7.25)  
A F R Galashan (appointed 23.9.25)  
M C Greaves-Mackintosh (appointed 12.12.25)

#### REGISTERED OFFICE

C/o The Mental Health Foundation  
Floor 2, Moncrieff House  
69 West Nile Street  
Glasgow  
G1 2QB

#### REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER

SC361753 (Scotland)

#### REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

SC040646

#### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Nicholls FCCA  
Brett Nicholls Associates  
Herbert House  
24 Herbert Street  
Glasgow  
G20 6NB

#### BANKERS

Co-operative Bank Plc  
29 Gordon Street  
Glasgow  
G1 3PF

## Voices Of Experience

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

### Objectives and aims

The charity pursues the following aims which are to assist people with lived experience of mental ill health:

- To offer a structure for people to communicate with each other and other organisations, so that they may exchange opinions, perspectives and experiences, and support each other to have their voice heard.
- To continue to develop a national organisation of, for and run by people who have lived experienced of mental ill health which will drive and influence laws, policy and practice.
- To facilitate partnership working, consultations and working groups that enable people with lived experience to share their experiences and views.

### Key principles:

- Members shape our work plans.
- We share good practice.
- We aim to build capacity.
- We try to improve services.
- We aim to challenge stigma and discrimination.
- We help shape outcome measures for mental health.
- We undertake research to learn and influence.
- We promote justice, human rights and social inclusion.

### Our values:

VOX is...

- **Member-led.** We are nothing without our members. Our members lead our board, define our strategy, and drive our decision-making. Together we share our skills to develop our movement for change.
- **Non-judgemental.** We are a welcoming and inclusive, safe space for all.
- **An active listener.** We want to hear all the voices in the room and to reach those who are rarely heard. We all have unique experiences, and we feel valued and connected in sharing them.
- **A tenacious voice** for change. We know the challenges and we are ambitious about the change we want to see. We are focussed and determined. We speak up with courage and purpose.
- **Collaborative.** We work in partnership with like-minded groups to achieve our goals. We work constructively with decision-makers to shape policy and practice.

## ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

### Charitable activities

#### Supporting Governance

VOX Scotland held five directors' meetings and one away-day for staff and directors over the 12-month period, with a mixture of fully online, and hybrid meetings. Board meetings covered monitoring VOX Scotland activity and risk, budget management, and planning other key strategic activities such as creating our new VOX Scotland Strategy and influencing our Manifesto for the 2026 elections. Directors also attended VOX general members' online and in-person meetings, as well as other member focus groups and events in smaller numbers. VOX Scotland staff also provided individual support to board members as and when required.

#### Staff Development

VOX Scotland supported staff to develop their skills through training opportunities provided by The Mental Health Foundation - including GDPR, and Safeguarding training, as well as a series of leadership and skills development and coaching sessions. Staff have also attended training provided by other third sector organisations, partner organisations and contracted consultants, such as Sighted Guide Training, Conflict Resolution Training, public affairs opportunities and exchanges and network learning opportunities.

All staff have a learning and development plan reviewed each year through our appraisal process and a number of staff have joined professional bodies which provide peer support.

## ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

### Charitable activities

#### Members' Meetings

VOX Scotland held our AGM on 18th June 2025 and we continued our programme of members conversation cafes. We delivered six Conversation Cafe's across Oban, the Borders, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Perth and online, engaging around 36 participants from a mix of lived experience, community organisations and public and third sector professionals. Despite different local contexts, remarkably consistent themes emerged across Scotland. Participants spoke about long waiting lists, limited crisis follow-up, fragmented services and poor continuity of care, with people often having to repeat their stories due to weak information sharing between NHS, social work and third-sector services. Workforce shortages, reliance on agency staff, and gaps in trauma-informed training were seen as key pressures. Alongside these challenges, participants highlighted strong examples of good practice, particularly peer-led provision, welcoming community hubs, nature-based activities and integrated or one-stop access models. Importantly, the cafe's themselves were seen as meaningful interventions: over 90% of participants felt their voice was heard, 86% felt more connected to peers, and over three quarters reported a stronger sense of community.

In addition, VOX Scotland held a range of meetings for members to shape our responses to Scottish Government mental health policy developments and consultations, to get involved in co-produced projects, and to get involved in research opportunities.

#### Influencing Our Workplans

VOX Scotland ensured that members' views shaped our work focused through participation in member events, including the Annual General Meeting and by members being fully engaged with the development of our new strategy. The new strategy was a substantial piece of work by our board of directors this year, through which we have developed three priorities:

Priority 1: We will share our experiences to improve services for people living with mental ill health.

Under this aim we will prioritise activities to:

- Improve access, diagnosis and treatment in mental health services.
- Improve people's experience and sense of dignity in health care.
- Inform decision-makers how funding and service cuts are affecting service quality and people's lives.
- Influence Scottish Government mental health workforce planning and improve quality of care.
- Ensure services take a person centred and rights-based approach.

Priority 2: We will strengthen VOX Scotland so we are more robust and active for our members and their objectives

Under this aim we will prioritise activities to:

- Maintain good governance and keep a strong member-led decision structure.
- Reach and hear all voices and strengthen our collective advocacy.
- Meet our members' needs better.
- Build our reach, reputation and profile.
- Diversify and grow our income.

Priority 3: We will share members' experiences to transform the wider mental health landscape

Under this aim we will prioritise activities to:

- Influence delivery and review of the mental health and wellbeing strategy and other national strategies.
- Protect our human rights.
- Influence change beyond mental health services into other areas of discrimination (for example work, benefits, housing, justice system, rural issues etc).
- Achieve our objectives and build relationships with decision makers post-election.

#### Amplifying Members' Voices

Throughout the year VOX Scotland sought opportunities to amplify members' voices and ensure that lived experience perspectives shaped national mental health developments.

In November, VOX published our first ever election manifesto to help further promote the views of our members among government, sitting MSPs, and those standing for the Scottish Parliament in May 2026.

Our proposals align around the four main areas of Strategy, Funding, Service Provision, and Workforce, and emphasise the need for a greater focus on severe and enduring mental ill-health, with a more joined up strategy informed by lived experience; funding levels to meet demand and greater oversight of spend at national level; a continuum of care with greater community-based services nationwide to keep people well; and more specialist and trained support staff, including peer support. VOX also fed into the manifesto developed by Scotland's Mental Health Partnership, and we hope to see many of the proposals from both documents reflected in the manifestos of the political parties in the run up to May's elections.

## **Voices Of Experience**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

In addition, VOX took part in two pre-election Hustings, organised by Scotland's Mental Health Partnership and Inclusion Scotland, where our members had the opportunity to question and hear from candidates from all the main political parties on the issues of mental health and inclusion and disability.

#### **Representing Members Views**

Consultations:

This year, with our members' valuable input and experiences, we responded to the Scottish Government on their Polypharmacy Guidance consultation and to the NHS Delivery consultation. We also responded to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committees call for views on Pre-budget scrutiny, informed by our members' experiences and thoughts. We submitted a response to the consultation on the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 Remedial Order 2026. The Scottish Mental Health Nursing Review which VOX Scotland members made an important contribution to was also published in June 2025, at which time we published VOX Scotland's full response. Our members also contributed their views to the Psychiatric Emergency Plans Review. In June 2025, we consulted VOX members on the UK Government's proposals for getting more people into work, which forms part of their welfare reform agenda. VOX Scotland submitted members' views as part of the UK Government's formal consultation process.

#### **Understanding Members' Experiences**

Research:

We carried out an in-depth piece of research on people's experiences of complaining about mental health services, co-designed by a member, Ailsa Lindsay and influenced by other members' experiences and concerns. This saw us report on 86 people's experiences from across 12 of the territorial health boards in Scotland, highlighting the difficulties people face accessing and going through the complaints process, demonstrating the issues that give people cause to complain, and the dissatisfaction with responses, the culture around complaints and the lack of meaningful improvements and involvement of those with lived experience in helping to make positive changes within services as a result of complaints received. We ensured those with power and influence in this field had their attention drawn to this report, its findings and recommendations, and we are continuing our campaign for dialogue on these issues and for improvements in complaints handling for people using mental health services in Scotland.

We were also commissioned to carry out research for the Scottish Ambulance Service, gathering people's experiences of mental health cars and ambulances during a mental health crisis. This was shared with the Scottish Ambulance Service who found the feedback valuable and will use the findings internally to build on good practice and widen knowledge of mental health lived experience needs.

We have been developing our connections with universities and research networks to help widen and deepen the impact of our lived experience research, create new opportunities for members to be involved in ethics and research projects, create new partnerships for funding and pursuing importance areas of research for our members. As part of this, on the 20th of February 2026, four VOX Scotland members along with people with lived experience from other organisations volunteered to have conversations on what matters to them regarding their health with small groups of pharmacy students at Strathclyde University over the course of the day, reaching 165 students and creating positive impact for students and volunteers.

#### **Empowering and connecting through projects, participation and events**

On 20 January 2026, VOX Scotland and Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance hosted a half-day event bringing together collective advocacy groups, collective advocacy workers and independent advocacy managers to meet with Tom Arthur MSP, Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing.

The event followed a joint letter to the Minister, supported by 30 organisations, setting out shared concerns about funding cuts affecting collective advocacy organisations and projects. The letter also highlighted the gap between policy intent and delivery, and called for action on the full implementation of the Scottish Mental Health Law Review (the Scott Report). Following a meeting with the Minister, VOX Scotland and SIAA agreed to host an event that would allow people with lived experience to speak directly to him, strengthening understanding of the value and impact of collective advocacy, the uneven provision across Scotland, and the challenges created by narrow interpretations of the law.

Across the day, discussions focused on the value and impact of collective advocacy, the right to advocacy under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, and the ongoing funding pressures facing the sector. It was a valuable opportunity to build connections across Scotland's collective advocacy landscape. We produced a full report from the event and this was shared with attendees, key stakeholders and the Minister and his team at Scottish Government.

## **Voices Of Experience**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities**

##### **Strategic Groups**

VOX Scotland is actively involved in a range of key networks and groups to ensure that members' views can influence mental health policy, research, and practice in Scotland. For example, VOX Scotland has a place on the Scottish Government's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Leadership Board.

##### **Key Highlights**

- With 79 new people joining VOX Scotland during 2025 we equalled the record membership growth we saw during 2024!
- We ran a further twelve Connect Up sessions to provide social connection for members this year
- We established quarterly engagement sessions for group members
- Engaged with 200+ people through focus groups, consultations and research
- We have attended over 20 events to promote VOX Scotland and we sit on more than 15 strategic groups to influence change through the voice of our members.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial position**

The Trustees wish to record their thanks for the support of their main funder - The Scottish Government - during this year. The Trustees also wish to thank the Mental Health Foundation ("MHF") for their ongoing support.

The charity generated a surplus of £703 for the year ended 31 March 2026 (2025: £9,325).

At 31 March 2026, reserves totalled £109,366 (2025: £108,663), which are all unrestricted free reserves.

##### **Reserves policy**

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted, free reserves at a level equivalent to three months running costs.

Based on the year ended 31 March 2026, three month's ordinary expenditure amounts to £55,322 (2025: £53,618). At 31 March 2026 the charity held unrestricted reserves of £109,366 (2025: £108,663). The trustees are therefore satisfied that this policy is being met. Funds in excess of the reserves policy will be reinvested in the development of the charity.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

We will continue to develop our membership through targeting those we have not worked with previously, this will ensure we are more representative when we are influencing policy and practice. Over the first few months of the next financial year we will plan delivery of an expanded programme of conversation cafes which will see us focus on rural areas of Scotland (the Borders, Lochaber and Shetland). From May onwards we will look to engage with a new Scottish Parliament and many new MSPs, amplifying our members voices and ensuring progress on the delivery of key manifesto asks during the first year of the next parliament. We will also share experiences from our members around accessing primary care and continue to build our research and facilitate consultation responses.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The charity was incorporated on 25 June 2009. On this date, the Voices of Experience (VOX) project, previously managed by the Mental Health Foundation, became independent.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The liability of each member in the case of winding up is limited to £1. The company number is SC361753. The governing document consists of the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated June 2009 (revised 1 June 2021).

##### **Organisational structure**

The charity has a board of Trustees which is responsible for general policy decisions and for ensuring that the appropriate safeguards, policies and procedures are in place.

Ongoing training for the Trustees is maintained through regular development days at which the Board and staff consider various issues pertinent to the structure, operation and governance of the charity. The Board has documentation defining the role and expectations of a Trustee and ground rules for Board meetings.

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Recruitment, appointment, induction and training of new trustees**

Up to twelve of the Trustees are elected from membership at the annual general meeting. Those who put themselves forward prepare a summary of their skills, experience and knowledge for the other members to vote and elect. The remaining Trustees (up to three non-member Trustees) are selected from contacts of existing Trustees and Members who the Board believe bring additional skills or knowledge to the Board. An induction is carried out for all new Trustees.

**Key management remuneration**

In the opinion of the trustees there is one member of key management, the manager. Total employer costs for this post in the year were £56,822 (2025: £51,530).

**Related parties**

The charity became independent of the Mental Health Foundation on 25 June 2009. The charity operates from the premises of the Mental Health Foundation and receives on-going support as required by this organisation, a proportion of this we pay for and is reflected within our overhead costs.

**Remuneration of employees**

All new staff posts were externally evaluated so that the salary was aligned with the objectives of the post. Within our staff appraisal sessions, we always ensure that any changes in someones role are considered, and if a role needs re-evaluated it would form part of the appraisal process.

**Risk management**

The Board of Trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and have systems in place to mitigate these risks to an acceptable level.

**08/05/2026**

Approved by order of the board of trustees on ..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
D3C80000-6B6A-DACB-0DC5-08DEB25E9FFD

G A Johnston - Trustee

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Voices Of Experience

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

### 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 (as amended). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of the independent examiner's 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 disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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.

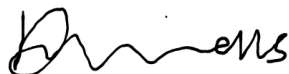
### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with Regulation 8 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.



D3C80000-6B6A-DACB-8DF7-88DEB25E9FFD

David Nicholls FCCA  
Fellow of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants  
Brett Nicholls Associates  
Herbert House  
24 Herbert Street  
Glasgow  
G20 6NB

26/05/2026

Date: ..... D3C80000-6B6A-DACB-8DF7-88DEB25E9FFD .....

## Voices Of Experience

### Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

|                                                                                     |              | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2026<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2025<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>                                                   | <b>Notes</b> |                            |                          |                             |                             |
| Donations and legacies                                                              | 3            | 220,992                    | -                        | 220,992                     | 214,062                     |
| Other trading activities                                                            | 4            | <u>1,000</u>               | <u>-</u>                 | <u>1,000</u>                | <u>9,560</u>                |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                        |              | <u>221,992</u>             | <u>-</u>                 | <u>221,992</u>              | <u>223,622</u>              |
| <b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>                                                               |              |                            |                          |                             |                             |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>                                                        | 5            |                            |                          |                             |                             |
| Providing collective advocacy for people with lived experience of mental ill health |              | <u>221,289</u>             | <u>-</u>                 | <u>221,289</u>              | <u>214,297</u>              |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                                                                   |              | <u>703</u>                 | <u>-</u>                 | <u>703</u>                  | <u>9,325</u>                |
| <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>                                                      |              |                            |                          |                             |                             |
| Total funds brought forward                                                         |              | <u>108,663</u>             | <u>-</u>                 | <u>108,663</u>              | <u>99,338</u>               |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>                                                  |              | <u>109,366</u>             | <u>-</u>                 | <u>109,366</u>              | <u>108,663</u>              |

#### CONTINUING OPERATIONS

This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities in both years.  
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in note 10.  
All funds were unrestricted both in the current year and the prior year.

## Voices Of Experience

### Balance Sheet 31 March 2026

|                                              | Notes | 2026<br>£      | 2025<br>£      |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                        |       |                |                |
| Debtors                                      | 12    | -              | 44             |
| Cash at bank                                 |       | <u>111,554</u> | <u>110,779</u> |
|                                              |       | 111,554        | 110,823        |
| <b>CREDITORS</b>                             |       |                |                |
| Amounts falling due within one year          | 13    | (2,188)        | (2,160)        |
|                                              |       | <u>109,366</u> | <u>108,663</u> |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                    |       |                |                |
|                                              |       | <u>109,366</u> | <u>108,663</u> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> |       |                |                |
|                                              |       | <u>109,366</u> | <u>108,663</u> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                            |       |                |                |
|                                              |       | <u>109,366</u> | <u>108,663</u> |
| <b>FUNDS</b>                                 | 15    |                |                |
| Unrestricted funds:                          |       |                |                |
| General fund                                 |       | <u>109,366</u> | <u>108,663</u> |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>                           |       | <u>109,366</u> | <u>108,663</u> |

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

25/05/2026

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ..... and were signed on its behalf by:

*Natalie Shewan*

D3C80000-686A-DACB-0DE9-08DEB25E9FFD

N Shewan - Trustee

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

Voices of Experience ("the charity") is a Scottish company limited by guarantee and governed by its articles of association. It was registered as a charity in Scotland (registered number SC040646) on 07 July 2009. Its registered address is C/o The Mental Health Foundation, Floor 2, Moncrieff House, 69 West Nile Street, Glasgow, G1 2QB.

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis, and on a going concern basis, in accordance with:

- the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;
- Regulation 8 (Statement of account - Fully accrued accounts) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006;
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, published in March 2018 ("FRS 102"), to the extent that it applies to small entities and public benefit entities;
- '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, published in October 2019 (FRS102) ('the Charities SORP');
- UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- the historical cost convention.

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

The financial statements are presented in UK sterling, which is the charity's functional currency, and rounded to the nearest pound.

There have been no changes to the basis of preparation this financial year or to the previous financial year's financial statements.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer Equipment - 25% Straight Line

**Taxation**

Voices of Experience is a charity within the meaning of Section 467 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied for charitable purposes only.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

|        | <b>2026</b>    | <b>2025</b>    |
|--------|----------------|----------------|
|        | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Grants | <u>220,992</u> | <u>214,062</u> |

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

|                          | <b>2026</b>    | <b>2025</b>    |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                          | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Scottish Government      | 220,492        | 214,062        |
| Barrack Charitable Trust | <u>500</u>     | <u>-</u>       |
|                          | <u>220,992</u> | <u>214,062</u> |

**4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

|                | <b>2026</b>  | <b>2025</b>  |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
|                | <b>£</b>     | <b>£</b>     |
| Project income | <u>1,000</u> | <u>9,560</u> |

**5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

|                                                                                        | <b>Direct<br/>Costs (see<br/>note 6)<br/>£</b> | <b>Support<br/>costs (see<br/>note 7)<br/>£</b> | <b>Totals<br/>£</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Providing collective advocacy for people<br>with lived experience of mental ill health | <u>202,493</u>                                 | <u>18,796</u>                                   | <u>221,289</u>      |

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

**6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

|                                | <b>2026</b>    | <b>2025</b>    |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Staff costs                    | 146,147        | 120,093        |
| Events, room hire & catering   | 6,244          | 2,522          |
| Consultancy & external workers | 16,508         | 40,985         |
| Travel                         | 3,625          | 1,821          |
| Printing, production & design  | 1,583          | 592            |
| General office overheads       | 17,413         | 17,413         |
| Legal & professional fees      | 34             | 384            |
| IT Software & consumables      | 504            | 504            |
| Subscriptions                  | 2,551          | 2,255          |
| Staff expenses                 | 1,038          | 797            |
| Staff training                 | 439            | 334            |
| Board expenses                 | 3,041          | 1,906          |
| Telephone & internet           | -              | 10             |
| Postage/courier costs          | 306            | 85             |
| Member expenses                | 1,045          | 2,019          |
| Advertising & Marketing        | 1,276          | 3,000          |
| Insurance                      | 739            | 680            |
|                                | <u>202,493</u> | <u>195,400</u> |

**7. SUPPORT COSTS**

|                                                | <b>2026</b>   | <b>2025</b>   |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                                | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>      |
| Accounts Preparation & Independent Examination | 2,160         | 2,160         |
| Management support fee                         | <u>16,636</u> | <u>16,737</u> |
|                                                | <u>18,796</u> | <u>18,897</u> |

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

**8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Trustees' expenses**

A total of £3,041 was paid to 8 trustees for expenses (2025: 5 trustees for £1,906)

**9. STAFF COSTS**

|                       | <b>2026</b>           | <b>2025</b>           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                       | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| Wages and salaries    | 121,278               | 102,287               |
| Social security costs | 14,892                | 9,368                 |
| Other pension costs   | <u>9,977</u>          | <u>8,438</u>          |
|                       | <u><u>146,147</u></u> | <u><u>120,093</u></u> |

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

|       | <b>2026</b>     | <b>2025</b>     |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
|       | <b></b>         | <b></b>         |
| Total | <u><u>5</u></u> | <u><u>5</u></u> |

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Voices of Experience was previously a division of the Mental Health Foundation. On 24 June 2009, Voices of Experience became a separate entity. All staff are employed by the Mental Health Foundation who recharge all related staff costs to Voices of Experience.

**10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

|                                                                                     | <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds<br/>£</b> | <b>Restricted<br/>funds<br/>£</b> | <b>Total<br/>funds<br/>£</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>                                                   |                                     |                                   |                              |
| Donations and legacies                                                              | 214,062                             | -                                 | 214,062                      |
| Other trading activities                                                            | <u>9,560</u>                        | <u>-</u>                          | <u>9,560</u>                 |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                        | <u><u>223,622</u></u>               | <u><u>-</u></u>                   | <u><u>223,622</u></u>        |
| <b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>                                                               |                                     |                                   |                              |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>                                                        |                                     |                                   |                              |
| Providing collective advocacy for people with lived experience of mental ill health | <u>214,297</u>                      | <u>-</u>                          | <u>214,297</u>               |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                                                                   | 9,325                               | -                                 | 9,325                        |
| <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>                                                      |                                     |                                   |                              |
| Total funds brought forward                                                         | <u>99,338</u>                       | <u>-</u>                          | <u>99,338</u>                |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>                                                  | <u><u>108,663</u></u>               | <u><u>-</u></u>                   | <u><u>108,663</u></u>        |

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

|                                   | Computer<br>Equipment<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>COST</b>                       |                            |
| At 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 | <u>825</u>                 |
| <b>DEPRECIATION</b>               |                            |
| At 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 | <u>825</u>                 |
| <b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>             |                            |
| At 31 March 2026                  | <u>-</u>                   |
| At 31 March 2025                  | <u>-</u>                   |

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

|                     | 2026<br>£ | 2025<br>£ |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Other debtors - MHF | <u>-</u>  | <u>44</u> |

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

|                  | 2026<br>£    | 2025<br>£    |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Trade creditors  | 28           | -            |
| Accrued expenses | <u>2,160</u> | <u>2,160</u> |
|                  | <u>2,188</u> | <u>2,160</u> |

14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

|                     | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2026<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2025<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Current assets      | 111,554                    | -                        | 111,554                     | 110,823                     |
| Current liabilities | <u>(2,188)</u>             | <u>-</u>                 | <u>(2,188)</u>              | <u>(2,160)</u>              |
|                     | <u>109,366</u>             | <u>-</u>                 | <u>109,366</u>              | <u>108,663</u>              |

Comparatives for analysis of net assets between funds

|                     | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2025<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Current assets      | 110,823                    | -                        | 110,823                     | 101,941                     |
| Current liabilities | <u>(2,160)</u>             | <u>-</u>                 | <u>(2,160)</u>              | <u>(2,603)</u>              |
|                     | <u>108,663</u>             | <u>-</u>                 | <u>108,663</u>              | <u>99,338</u>               |

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

|                           | At 1/4/25<br>£ | Net<br>movement<br>in funds<br>£ | At<br>31/3/26<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                |                                  |                    |
| General fund              | 108,663        | 703                              | 109,366            |
|                           | <hr/>          | <hr/>                            | <hr/>              |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <u>108,663</u> | <u>703</u>                       | <u>109,366</u>     |

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

|                           | Incoming<br>resources<br>£ | Resources<br>expended<br>£ | Movement<br>in funds<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                            |                            |                           |
| General fund              | 221,992                    | (221,289)                  | 703                       |
|                           | <hr/>                      | <hr/>                      | <hr/>                     |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <u>221,992</u>             | <u>(221,289)</u>           | <u>703</u>                |

Comparatives for movement in funds

|                           | At 1/4/24<br>£ | Net<br>movement<br>in funds<br>£ | At<br>31/3/25<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                |                                  |                    |
| General fund              | 99,338         | 9,325                            | 108,663            |
|                           | <hr/>          | <hr/>                            | <hr/>              |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <u>99,338</u>  | <u>9,325</u>                     | <u>108,663</u>     |

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

|                           | Incoming<br>resources<br>£ | Resources<br>expended<br>£ | Movement<br>in funds<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                            |                            |                           |
| General fund              | 223,622                    | (214,297)                  | 9,325                     |
|                           | <hr/>                      | <hr/>                      | <hr/>                     |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <u>223,622</u>             | <u>(214,297)</u>           | <u>9,325</u>              |

**16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

The charity is supported in its day to day operations by the Mental Health Foundation, a charity which Voices of Experience was formerly a division of. During the year this organisation charged Voices of Experience a management fee of £16,636 (2025: £16,737) to cover the administration services provided to Voices of Experience in the year. In addition £17,413 (2025: £17,413) was charged to cover rent and office overhead costs incurred by the Mental Health Foundation for the shared office facilities. Staff costs of £146,147 (2025: £120,093) were also recharged to Voices of Experience during the year. Details of staff costs recharged are included in note 9.

At 31 March 2025, the charity was owed £44 from the Mental Health Foundation in respect of Voices of Experience funding received by the Mental Health Foundation. The funding was fully received in the year we are reporting on.

**17. PURPOSES OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

General Fund - the unrestricted, 'free reserves' of the charity.

Designated Fixed Asset Fund - this fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets. Annual depreciation is charged to the fund and additions are transferred to it.

Scottish Government - funding towards the core activities of the charity, to sustain an accountable national organisation of, and for, people who have or have or have had mental ill health. Our aim is to improve services and society for our members by influencing policy, practice and research in mental health.

## Document Details

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| IP Address/es     | 86.182.143.160                                                           |
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