Lochview Rural Training

Scottish Charity: SC050948

Trustees' Annual Report
&
Receipts & Payments Accounts

1st April 2025 – 31 March 2026

LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING **SC050948**

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LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING **SC050948**

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year from 1st April 2025 – 31 March 2026

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, along with the independent examiner's report.

Reference and Administration Details

The charity is registered as Lochview Rural Training. It became a charity on 30th April 2021 and is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR): number SC050948.

The principal office and operating address of the charity is:

19 Achfrish, Shinness, Lairg, IV27 4DN

The following served as charity trustees during the year and up to the date of this report:

- Caroline Matherson
- Allan Michael
- Tracie Drummond
- Gwen Jensen
- Stephen Russell
- Amiee Campbell

Structure, Governance and Management

Lochview Rural Training is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the purposes and administrative arrangements are set out in its constitution. The trustees are usually appointed or reappointed at the AGM, with one third (to the nearest round number) of the charity trustees retiring from office, but eligible for reappointment. The Board currently comprises six trustees, including a young trustee, and meets approximately three times a year in addition to the AGM. The voice of young people is also embedded in our governance through our Young Persons' Steering Group, made up of young people aged 14 to 22 who have attended courses and activities at Lochview, and who help to shape new course ideas and the development of our programme.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects are the advancement of education, mainly through the development of rural skills.

Achievements and Performance

Overview

This has been a landmark year for Lochview Rural Training, marking five years since the charity was established. Demand for our rural skills training, wellbeing programmes and youth work has continued to grow, and we are proud to report a further increase in the number of courses, workshops, projects, staff, volunteers and participants supported across Sutherland. Our programmes support participants ranging in age from 7 to over 80, reflecting our commitment to lifelong learning and to bringing generations together - including through our Intergenerational Project, which pairs young people with older generation crofters for an exchange of skills and knowledge, and our Crofter's Voice project, in which young people work alongside an author to record the memories and experience of older crofters.

Lochview in Numbers: 2025–26

372 YOUTH SESSIONS DELIVERED	**304** ADULT SESSIONS DELIVERED	**154** ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS
2 NEW STAFF MEMBERS	**5** YEARS OF LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING	**6** SUPPORTED VOLUNTEER MENTORS
7-80+ AGES OF PARTICIPANTS SUPPORTED	**6** TRUSTEES, INCLUDING A YOUNG PERSON	

New courses and equipment • New animals and growing areas • Visitors from all over the world

Figures above reflect the number of sessions delivered during the year, as recorded in our 2025–26 Impact Report. A full breakdown of individual participant numbers and delivery hours can be provided as a supplementary annex if required for OSCR or funder reporting purposes.

Staff Development and Capacity Building

Our team is led by Cara Cameron, CEO and Founder, working 30 hours per week, supported by Angela Platts, our Development Officer, working 25 hours per week with funding secured for two years. This year has seen a continued increase in staffing levels, with two new staff members joining the team. In August 2025 we welcomed Hannah as our new Community Link Worker (CLW), helping to connect participants and their families with the wider support, services and opportunities available to them in their community. Funding from the Volunteer Support Fund, Impact Funding Partners and HTSI also allowed us to appoint Martin Yeoman as our new Volunteer Co-ordinator, working 10 hours per week (plus additional hours) with funding secured for 18 months, focusing on recruiting, training and supporting adult volunteers, while Cara continues to support young people in their volunteer roles. With support from HTSI and the Volunteer Academy, staff also undertook an in-depth Volunteering Research Fellowship, visiting organisations with strong volunteering programmes in London, Edinburgh and Newcastle, and meeting staff and volunteers at not-for-profit organisations in Arizona, USA, bringing back learning and good practice to enhance the way we support volunteers at Lochview. Sessional staff and specialist tutors continue to be engaged to deliver workshops, educational programmes and courses as required, giving us the flexibility to respond to growing demand.

Policies, Procedures and Organisational Development

As Lochview Rural Training continues to grow, we recognise the importance of robust policies, procedures and systems to support our staff, volunteers and participants. The charity has a range of policies and procedures in place, including a Fair Work First Policy which supports fair pay, conditions and voice for our staff, and we continue to update, adapt and add new policies as required. As our staffing structure expands, we are strengthening our organisational resilience through developing a staff procedure handbook, shared systems for staff, tutor and volunteer records, and a shared calendar of course delivery, helping to ensure consistency of practice and continuity of service as the organisation grows.

Education and Training Programmes

Lochview continues to offer a wide and growing range of rural skills, heritage craft and vocational training, from Introduction to Sheep through to basket weaving. With support from Lantra, this year we introduced Tractor Driving courses for young people and adults for the first time. Our 8-week Introduction to the Land-Based Sector course, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and The Royal Countryside Fund, gave young people hands-on skills in dry stone walling, fencing, farm machinery maintenance and safety, animal husbandry, soil science and peatland management, alongside a new skills exchange pairing young people with older generational crofters. Our Land to Livelihoods project, funded

by Foundation Scotland and the Bairdwatson Charitable Trust, supported adults aged 16 and over - particularly those not currently in education, employment or training - to build practical rural skills and explore enterprise opportunities, with current participants working towards roles including shepherding, agricultural and horticultural contracting, fencing instruction and land-based photography.

We are proud of the real educational value our experiential approach delivers. Lochview delivers SQA and ASDAN qualifications, and for some of the young people we work with, these represent the only formal qualifications they will achieve - a powerful illustration of the difference hands-on, needs-led learning can make. Our close links with UHI, the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET), Lantra and the Crofting Commission help ensure our courses remain relevant, high quality and well recognised across the sector, and we continue to produce case studies and impact reports which we share with other organisations and forums to promote good practice.

8-week Land-Based Sector course • Adults 16+ supported into enterprise • SQA & ASDAN qualifications delivered

Wellbeing and Inclusive Support

Our Growing Well Together and Acre of Knowledge programmes, funded by HTSI and NHS Highland, continued to support adults with long-term mental and physical health conditions each Thursday and Friday through arts and crafts, growing and horticultural projects, cooking, animal care and manual tasks around the croft. NHS Highland has told us that these sessions make a critical difference to their clients' wellbeing, offering support that is not available anywhere else locally. Participants consistently tell us that they leave sessions feeling more positive and that there is always something new to learn. This year we also delivered a programme of family activities through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, and continued to support young carers through TYKES, working in partnership with the Highland Council Employability Team, Enable and NHS Highland to provide joined-up, needs-led support. We also continued to develop our 1-to-1 learning provision for children and young people with Additional Support Needs and disabilities, including through our fortnightly Junior Crofters (7-11 years) and Young Crofters (11-19 years) groups, helping young people build confidence and skills - including formal and vocational qualifications - through experiential, hands-on learning.

Equality and Inclusion

Inclusion sits at the heart of everything we do. We believe that all children, young people and adults, of all ages and abilities, should have the opportunity to learn and reach their fullest potential without barriers, in a safe, supportive and accepting environment. Our programmes are designed to be needs-led and person-centred, and we work closely with support workers, carers and specialist agencies to ensure that participants with additional support needs, disabilities, long-term health conditions or caring responsibilities are able to take part fully. Funding has also been secured for Roots and Resilience, a two-year collaborative mental health and wellbeing project which will be delivered in partnership with Assynt Leisure, Coigach Community Development Company and Scourie Community Development Company, extending our support to rurally isolated adults - particularly men - in central and west Sutherland and Coigach. We look forward to sharing progress on this project in next year's Trustees' Annual Report.

Outreach to NW Sutherland and Beyond

Growing demand for our services means outreach and partnership working across the wider region remains a priority. Staff and volunteers regularly attend local events and visit schools to promote our work and to consult local people on the courses and activities they would like to see developed. Cara Cameron represents Lochview at NW2045 meetings, contributing to discussions on land-related issues affecting the North West Sutherland area, and staff have also taken part in the Social Enterprise Academy's Towards a Thriving Sector programme, which supports heritage organisations across Scotland. Looking ahead, further outreach, events and visits are planned to ensure participants across Sutherland - including in central and west Sutherland and Coigach - can access training and support in new community venues.

Awards and Recognition

It has been a rewarding year for recognition of the training centre, staff and volunteers. In September 2025 Lochview received the HTSI Collaboration Award for the Acre of Knowledge project delivered with NHS Highland and Brora Learning Centre, and volunteer Grace won a Youth Award at the same ceremony - a proud moment for the whole team. Staff and volunteers have also been recognised and shortlisted for further regional and national awards, with more detail to be shared in next year's Trustees' Annual Report.

Partnership Working

Collaboration remains central to our work. We continue to work closely with NHS Highland, Highland Council, HTSI, RSABI, MikeysLine and other mental health support agencies, as well as Business Gateway, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Enable and the Social Enterprise Academy, to deliver joined-up support for participants and their families and to help develop sustainable rural livelihoods.

Acknowledgements and Funding Support

Our achievements this year have been made possible through the continued generosity and commitment of our funders and delivery partners. Their support enables us to deliver life-changing opportunities to individuals across Sutherland and the Highlands. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following funders for their support this year:

- Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI)
- Impact Funding Partners
- NHS Highland
- Highland Council Community Regeneration Fund
- Foundation Scotland
- Bairdwatson Charitable Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Royal Countryside Fund
- Westminster Foundation
- The Essentia Foundation
- SSE
- The Murphy Group
- Lantra

We are also grateful to our delivery partners - Assynt Leisure, Coigach Community Development Company, Scourie Community Development Company, RSABI and MikeysLine - and to the many volunteers, host organisations and local businesses who have supported our work this year.

Looking Ahead

Lochview Rural Training is now five years old and busier than ever, with demand continuing to outweigh capacity. Two new buildings are planned at the training centre: a new covered outdoor learning area, partially funded through HTSI's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults with support from SSE and The Murphy Group; and a multi-use building funded by Highland Council's Community Regeneration Fund, which will support 1-to-1 sessions, small group work and office space. Support for families is a priority for the year ahead, with the 'Flock Together' and 'Families on the Croft' programmes starting soon, alongside plans to engage volunteering families. Outreach to schools and communities will continue to expand, and we have begun early-stage work with HIE to develop online learning courses that will make Lochview's training accessible to people across the UK and beyond - a project that will be a particular focus of next year's Trustees' Annual Report. Our staff team is also set to grow further, and securing sustainable core funding - including for our CEO/Founder post - remains a strategic priority as the organisation continues to develop.

Financial Review

The closing balance is made up of £73,339 unrestricted, of which £62,000 is designated for redundancy/windup, running costs for 6 months, and maintenance for the classroom building. There is £180,869 in restricted funding. The organisation responds to expenditure needs as and when they arise, and frequent committee meetings ensure that reserves are always available and that fundraising activity will take place when necessary. We are in the process of developing financial policies.

Approved by the Trustees on 21 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Signed: (signature can be typed) T.W. Drummond

PRINT NAME: T.W. DRUMMOND

POSITION: TRUSTEE.

STEPHEN RUSSELL

TRUSTEE

LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING **SC050948**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

For the year from 1st April 2025 – 31 March 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING registered charity number SC050948.

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026, set out on the following pages.

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 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 explanation from the Trustees concerning 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 accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of 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 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.

Signed: *Marleen Crabtree*

Date: 23 September 2026

PRINT NAME: Marleen Crabtree

ADDRESS: Crosswinds, Station Road, Edderton, IV19 1LA

LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING **SC050948**

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

For the year from 1st April 2025 – 31 March 2026

INCOME

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2026	Total 2025
Donations	608		608	379
Grants	10,000	195,190	205,190	94,654
Gross Trading Receipts				15
Income from Investments				
Dry Stone Dyking	840		840	2,015
Wool as a By Product				334
Education Visits	1,485		1,485	9,467
Fencing	480		480	890
Croft Experience				70
Young Crofters	440		440	975
Junior Crofters				440
Starting a Meat Box				
Holiday Club				545
Christmas Craft				
Events	240		240	
Family Sessions	40		40	
Introduction to Lambing				1,173
Workshops	3,235		3,235	2,480
Sales	100		100	
TOTAL INCOME	**17,468**	**195,190**	**212,658**	**113,437**

EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2026	Total 2025
Course Materials	22	2,568	2,590	1,610
Tutor Fees	3,096	7,471	10,567	9,937
Training Centre Facilities	2,572	12,564	15,136	660
Equipment & Stock	638	896	1,534	279
Rent	1,200		1,200	1,200
Marketing & Admin	3,950		3,950	2,570
Repairs				
Insurance		1,357	1,357	956
Employees		48,455	48,455	32,234
HMRC / PAYE, NI		7,444	7,444	4,436
Employee expenses		1,214	1,214	525
Pensions		1,356	1,356	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**11,478**	**83,325**	**94,803**	**54,407**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2026	Total 2025
Surplus / (deficit)	**5,990**	**111,865**	**117,855**	**59,030**

LOCHVIEW RURAL TRAINING **SC050948**

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

For the year from 1st April 2025 – 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2026	Total 2025
Opening Balances	67,349	69,004	136,353	77,323
Surplus / (deficit)	5,990	111,865	117,855	59,030
Closing Balances	**73,339**	**180,869**	**254,208**	**136,353**

Accounts

RBS: £254,208

Assets (value from new)

Classroom Building	50,000
Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings	3,000
Outdoor Buildings & Equipment	5,000
Computer Equipment	1,400
Total	**59,400**

Approved by the Trustees on 21 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Signed: (signature can be typed) TW Drummond

PRINT NAME: TW DRUMMOND

POSITION: TRUSTEE

NOTES

For the year from 1st April 2025 – 31 March 2026

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1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Reserves

There is £73,339 in unrestricted reserves, of which £62,000 is designated for redundancy/windup, running costs for 6 months and maintenance for the classroom building, and £180,869 in restricted funds.

3. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in the year.