

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	04	2025	To	31	03	2026

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Pillar of Hope
Other names charity is known by	POH UK
Registered charity number	SC052720
Charity's principal address	28 Inchbrae Terrace
	Garthdee
	Aberdeen
Postcode AB10 7AN	

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Nkem Nwobi	Chairperson		
2	Celia Offoh			
3	Hannatu Gamba			
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Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Pillar of Hope is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO) based in Aberdeen, Scotland and governed by a constitution. Pillar of Hope has a single-tier structure; the Board of Trustees constitute the charity management board, and they meet as and when required. A new Board of Trustees member may be appointed at the annual general meeting, held in August each year.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The Board of Trustees members are appointed in accordance with the charity's constitution. Recruitment of the Board of Trustees considers ensuring appropriate balancing of skills, lived experience, and lived understanding of the communities the charity serves. New trustees undergo induction covering the charity's purposes, governance structure, safeguarding responsibilities, and regulatory obligations. There is provision of ongoing support and guidance to enable trustees to effectively fulfil their duties under charity law.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes	This is for the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantages, by promoting health and well-being; organising wellness and fitness activities, community health education fairs, and community resource awareness campaigns. By advancing education and skills development, supporting community members in gaining knowledge, life skills, and vocational training.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	Pillar of Hope Trustees' Annual Report 2025/26 – Summary of Objectives and Purposes During the 2025/26 financial year, Pillar of Hope continued to pursue its charitable objectives to enhance the health, well-being, and quality of life of vulnerable individuals and families across Aberdeen, with a particular focus on activities for those experiencing poverty, loneliness, social isolation, and physical and mental health inequalities. We continued to strengthen our befriending service activities, providing increased one-on-one and group emotional and practical support to older adults, individuals living alone, migrants, international students and vulnerable individuals facing social isolation. Our volunteer base expanded, leading to increased volunteer support and engagement, enabling more beneficiaries to access regular companionship, helping reduce loneliness and improve mental wellbeing. Other community project activities include our Weekly Wellness and Fitness Activities delivered throughout the year, encouraging participants of all ages to improve their physical health, mental wellbeing, and social connectedness through regular exercise and group activities. We partnered with Snap Fitness. Pillar of Hope organised monthly Community Health and Wellbeing Fairs, bringing together healthcare professionals, community members, our service users, local business organisations, and service providers to deliver health education, health and well-being management, screening opportunities, and information on available support services. These events help improve awareness of preventable health conditions and increase access to local health resources, particularly among underserved communities. In response to growing demand arising from the cost-of-living crisis, Pillar of Hope significantly expanded its Food Bank Service, increasing provision from one distribution centre to two distribution centres each week across two different locations. This expansion enabled us to support more vulnerable individuals and families experiencing food insecurity and financial hardship. Collaboration remained central to our practice approach. Pillar of Hope strengthened partnerships with Ruthrieston Community Centre, Mamacita Foundation, Cfine, Snap Fitness and several other local businesses and charity organisations. These partnerships enhanced the delivery of community programmes through shared resources, venue provision, food donations, volunteer support, and joint community engagement, enabling the charity to extend its reach and maximise its impact. Through the continued development of essential services, effective partnerships, and responsive community programmes, Pillar of Hope strengthened its support services for vulnerable people while promoting healthier, more connected, and resilient communities throughout Aberdeen.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

The 2025/2026 financial year was a significant period of growth and development for Pillar of Hope. Despite modest financial resources, the charity expanded its services, strengthened partnerships and volunteer involvement, and responded to increasing levels of poverty, loneliness, social isolation and health inequalities across Aberdeen.

During the year, Pillar of Hope directly and indirectly provided support for more than 3,500 beneficiaries, including vulnerable adults, older people, low-income families, people living with long-term health conditions, refugees, asylum seekers and members of Black and Minority Ethnic communities. Support included food assistance, befriending, health promotion campaigns, well-being activities, practical support and signposting.

Our Befriending Service supported more than 80 vulnerable individuals, providing companionship, emotional support and regular contact through home visits, telephone calls, group befriending meetings and community activities. Our befriending service helped reduce isolation, improve confidence and strengthen social connections among beneficiaries.

Pillar of Hope's Weekly Wellness and Fitness Activities, delivered in partnership with Snap Fitness Aberdeen, recorded more than 400 attendances, promoting different levels of exercise and dance classes.

We also delivered Monthly Community Health and Wellbeing Fairs, at different locations in Aberdeen, reaching more than 500 people with health information, checks, wellbeing advice and signposting on issues including mental health, diabetes, cancer awareness, healthy lifestyles and cardiovascular health. In response to the cost-of-living crisis, our Food Bank Service expanded to twice-weekly sessions at two community locations, distributing more than 3,000 food parcels to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

Work commenced on establishing the Pillar of Hope Charity Shop, another important milestone, aiming to provide affordable reusable household and office items that will generate unrestricted income, create volunteering opportunities, and promote reuse of items that would otherwise end up in landfill.

Our work was strengthened by more than 30 active volunteers and partnerships with over 15 organisations, including NHS Grampian, ACVO, Snap Fitness Aberdeen, Ruthrieston Community Centre, local churches, businesses and community groups.

We also strengthened governance, safeguarding, financial management and monitoring systems, improving accountability and preparing Pillar of Hope for sustainable future growth.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Financial Review – Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees recognises the importance of maintaining an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves to ensure the charity's financial sustainability and enable the charity to continue delivering its charitable purposes in the event of an unexpected reduction in income or unforeseen expenditure.

As a relatively young charity that experienced significant growth during the 2025/2026 financial year, Pillar of Hope has prioritised investing available resources directly in charitable activities, including expansion of the food bank, befriending service, health and wellbeing programmes and establishment of a charity shop. Consequently, unrestricted reserves remain modest.

The trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position and are committed to building an appropriate level of free reserves over time. Their long-term objective is to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately three months of normal operating expenditure, subject to available funding and the charity's ongoing development.

The reserves policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains appropriate to the charity's size, financial circumstances and operational risks, while balancing the need to safeguard the charity's future with the commitment to maximise the resources available for charitable activities.

Details of any deficit Donated facilities and services (if any)

Pillar of Hope is grateful for the generous support received through donated office furniture and more than 400 hours of voluntary services during the 2025/2026 financial year. These contributions significantly reduced the charity's operating costs and enabled it to maximise the resources available for delivering its charitable activities.

The charity benefited from the time, skills and commitment of its volunteers, who supported the delivery of various Pillar of Hope's projects and administration. The charity benefited from the time, skills and commitment of its volunteers, who supported the delivery of the food bank, befriending service, weekly wellness and fitness activities, community health and wellbeing fairs, fundraising, administration and the operation of the charity shop. The trustees recognise that the value of this voluntary contribution is substantial, even though it is not included in the financial statements because it cannot be measured reliably in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Pillar of Hope also received donations of food, furniture, clothing, household goods and other essential items from members of the public, local businesses and community organisations. These donated goods were either distributed directly to individuals and families in need or sold through the charity shop to generate income that supports the charity's objectives.

Additionally, the charity benefited from the use of community facilities and support from partner organisations to deliver some of its activities and events. The trustees sincerely thank all volunteers, donors, local businesses, community organisations and partners whose generosity and commitment have made a significant contribution to the charity's work and the positive impact achieved during the year.

Other optional information

The Board of Trustees wishes to record their sincere appreciation to all volunteers, donors, funders, partners and members of the local community whose generosity and commitment have contributed to the success of Pillar of Hope during the 2025/2026 financial year. Their continued support has enabled the charity to expand its services and respond effectively to increasing levels of need across Aberdeen.

During the year, the charity strengthened its organisational capacity by developing new partnerships, improving governance arrangements and increasing community engagement.

The Board of Trustees remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance, accountability and financial stewardship. We will continue to review the charity's policies, procedures and risk management arrangements to ensure that Pillar of Hope operates effectively, transparently and in compliance with the requirements of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Looking ahead, the charity will focus on consolidating and expanding its existing services, including the befriending service, food bank, health and wellbeing programmes and establishing a new charity shop operation. The trustees also intend to strengthen fundraising activities, develop additional partnerships and secure new grant funding to ensure the long-term sustainability of the charity and increase its positive impact on vulnerable individuals, families and communities.

The trustees remain confident that, with the continued support of volunteers, funders, donors and partner organisations, Pillar of Hope is well positioned to build on the achievements of 2025/2026 and continue fulfilling its charitable mission of improving health, well-being, social inclusion and quality of life for those most in need.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) <i>OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures</i>	N T Nwobi	
Full name(s)	Nkem Theresa Nwobi	
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chair, Board of Trustees	
Date	14.09.2026	

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from

Period start date

Day Month Year
01 04 2025

to

Period end date

Day Month Year
31 03 2026

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	250				250	115
Legacies					-	
Grants	10,230	52,959			63,189	23,700
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	150
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	10,480	52,959	-	-	63,439	23,965
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,480	52,959	-	-	63,439	23,965
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	100
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	10,025	47,398			57,423	7,568
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination	200				200	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	10,225	47,398	-	-	57,623	7,668
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	10,225	47,398	-	-	57,623	7,668
Net receipts / (payments)	255	5,561	-	-	5,816	16,297
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	255	5,561	-	-	5,816	16,297

						-	SC052720
Section B Statement of balances							
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year		16,297			16,297	16,297
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account		5,816			5,816	
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	-	22,113	-	-	22,113	16,297
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	- 255	255	-	-	-	- 16,297

		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						
Report to the trustees/members of		Pillar of Hope						
Registered charity number		SC0562720						
On the accounts of the charity for the period		Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
		01	04	2025		31	03	2026
Set out on pages		7-8						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
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) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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 matters have come to my attention.							
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 the view given by the accounts.							
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*] - 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 - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.							
Signed:					Date:	22 September 2026		
Name:	Ibrahim Yohanna – B.Sc., M.Sc., MBA, ACA, ACCA, FCCA, FFA, CIA, CFE							
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) Institute of Financial Accountants (FFA) Institute of Chartered Internal Auditor of UK & Ireland (CMIIA) Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)							
Address:	14, Valentine Crescent, Danestone AB22 8DB Scotland, UK							

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

**OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures.

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details
of any items that
the examiner
wishes to
disclose**