VOCAL – Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Trustees' report and consolidated financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2026

Charity number SC020755
Company number SC183050

VOCAL – Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Contents

VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Registered Office	60 Leith Walk Edinburgh EH6 5HB
Country of Incorporation	Scotland, United Kingdom
Charity Number	SC020755 (Scotland)
Company Number	SC183050 (Scotland)
Senior Management Team	Rosemary McLoughlin, Chief Executive Officer Laura Hill, Depute Chief Executive Officer
Auditor	Findlays Audit Limited 11 Dudhope Terrace Dundee DD3 6TS
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank PO Box 250 Delf House, Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Solicitors	Thorntons Law LLP 3rd Floor, City Point 65 Haymarket Terrace Edinburgh EH12 5HD

VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited consolidated financial statements of the group and parent charity for the year ended 31 March 2026. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 and comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. The parent charity is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

OBJECTIVES, AIMS & ACTIVITIES

VOCAL is a carer-led charity, community anchor organisation and social enterprise, working with carers, partners and communities across Edinburgh and the Lothians, to identify carers, provide a range of personalised carer supports and services, and represent the interests of carers in local and national planning fora.

VOCAL's mission is to identify, support and give a voice to carers. Our vision is of a caring society;

- a society where carers care in confidence, good health and economic wellbeing, are resilient and can exercise choice, and a life outside caring
- a society which takes responsibility for providing care, treats carers as equal partners in care, meets its obligation to support carers and ensure they are resourced and supported
- a society where carers can provide care without compromising their human rights, and the care they provide is in addition to rather than a substitution for statutory health and social care support
- a society where VOCAL is recognised as a voice of carers, a key partner and provider of carer support and as a vibrant and innovative enterprise at the cutting edge of developing solutions to match carers' needs and aspirations.

VOCAL is carer-led and engages carers in all aspects of our work, recognising and advocating for carers as equal partners in care. We support carers to:

- build on their strengths and skills
- identify and achieve their outcomes
- strengthen their resilience
- improve their quality of life

We believe in diversity, equality of opportunity and choice. We promote transparency and honesty and treat people with dignity and respect. We create opportunities for innovation, creativity and enterprise and seek to work in partnership around agreed outcomes.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

VOCAL's Business Plan 24-27 focuses on consolidation of good practice, investment in staff and volunteers, sustainable partnerships and demonstrating leadership and innovation.

Consolidation of good practice
In 2025-26 VOCAL continued to build support in localities across Edinburgh and Midlothian, contributing to resilient communities with inclusive, accessible carer support. We strengthened our Short Breaks Team and maintained best practice in our carer counselling and therapeutic supports, recognised by our counselling's COSCA accreditation award, held for over 15 years. Internally and externally VOCAL contributed to best practice and training in the delivery of good quality Adult Carer Support Plans and our core carer support offer.

Investment in staff and volunteers
In 2025-26 we were delighted to renew our Investing in Volunteers award - demonstrating our commitment to making VOCAL a welcoming and supportive place for our growing volunteer team who provide over 3,000 hours of support annually. We also achieved renewal of our LGBT Silver Charter Accreditation, enhancing our inclusivity policies, staff training and our advice and information for LGBT carers. We continued our focus on investing in staff health, wellbeing and training, across a range of topics including cultural competency and reflective practice.

Sustainable partnerships
Our range of partners and partnerships has grown significantly in 2025-26 – from formal partners who support the delivery of our short breaks programme and micrograms to young and adult carers, through to our engagement with employers and health and social care practitioners. The launch of our Carer Community Fund in Midlothian has enabled us to distribute small grants to local community groups, build capacity and encourage the growth of sustainable choices and opportunities for carers. A new partnership and funding from the Scottish Gas Network led to the development of the Safe and Warm Project which provides targeted, practical support to unpaid carers including help to manage energy costs, maintain safe homes, and access wider support with the cost of living.

Demonstrating leadership and innovation
In partnership with Lothian carer centres, VOCAL led a successful system change application to The National Lottery Community Fund in 2025-26 which culminated in a 5-year funding award due to start in September 2026. The funding will support the development of an early carer identification blueprint, working with carers, practitioners and NHS partners across Lothian to tackle barriers and drive practice change, alongside a new digital platform linked to carer support plans. Alongside these new developments, VOCAL's social enterprises - Wee Breaks Enterprises and Treasure Tree – continue to grow sustainably and receive positive feedback from carers who value the innovative supports offered by both services.

Measuring impact
VOCAL measures the difference made to the quality of life of individual carers by evaluating carers' experience against personal outcomes agreed with carers at the point of referral and through the development of Adult Carer Support Plans. We produce a visual annual report and impact reports which are made available through VOCAL's website: https://www.vocal.org.uk/about/about-us/annual-reports/

About VOCAL's services
VOCAL's carer support activity focuses on five key areas:

Information and Advice
VOCAL provides a comprehensive, inclusive and accessible information and advice service to carers, health and social care practitioners and employers. This is delivered through a freephone helpline, in person support, training events, peer connections and through a range of print and digital options including a welcome information pack, digital information platform and websites, e-learning modules, bi-annual newsletters and social media. Over the last year, there were 25,662 individual carer contacts.

Carer Support
The Adult Carer Support Plan provides the framework for carer support practitioners to have a good conversation which enables carers to identify and achieve their outcomes, link to supports and build their strengths and skills. VOCAL provides a range of carer support interventions including financial planning and welfare benefit surgeries; future planning and legal advice; self-directed support surgeries and community brokerage, counselling, individual and group therapeutic supports and social and leisure activities. Over the last year 6,707 carers accessed carer support, including 2,831 new carers.

Financial wellbeing is a core part of VOCAL's holistic service and has increased in line with the complex landscape carers are now facing. 2,614 carers were supported with their financial wellbeing with over £2.3m achieved through income maximisation. Many carers experience food insecurity as rising living costs and reduced income makes it increasingly difficult to afford nutritious, fresh food. We have a partnership with Edinburgh Community Food who deliver free food boxes containing fresh produce for unpaid carers and those they care for.

Short Breaks

VOCAL short breaks service – Wee Breaks – provides carers with essential breaks from caring, allowing carers to recharge and prioritise their own wellbeing. The Wee Breaks grant programme accounts for approximately 15% of VOCAL's overall budget and is distributed in direct grants or vouchers to carers. VOCAL's Wee Breaks Enterprise has three holiday homes – Hawthorn Brae cottage in Blair Athol and two holiday homes in Seton Sands. Carer demand for these breaks has increased substantially over the last year. Surpluses are held in a Wee Breaks designated fund which supports the operation of the holiday homes.

Treasure Tree

VOCAL's social enterprise, Treasure Tree, plays an important role in supporting the financial wellbeing of carers and those they care for, providing access to affordable mobility and accessibility equipment. Treasure Tree collects, refurbishes and sells high-quality second-hand equipment at affordable prices. Carers benefit from a stress-free alternative to selling privately, with the option to receive a share of the sale price, and any income generated is reinvested into VOCAL's carer support services. The Treasure Tree model also contributes to the circular economy and environment by promoting reuse and reducing waste. In 2025-26 Treasure Tree continued to grow as a separate trading subsidiary, expanding distribution options, increasing stock and developing strategic partnerships.

Partnerships

VOCAL has a broad range of cross sector partnerships and formal delivery contracts, delivering training to 1,979 employers and professionals, and acting as the lead agency for several local and national carer contracts. We provide extensive support to employers across Edinburgh and Midlothian, actively assist over 50 employers annually with 28 new employers seeking assistance in 2025-26. With the majority of carers being of working age, and an increasing number giving up work to care, VOCAL's work with employers raises awareness of the economic benefits to supporting carers in the workplace, enabling carers to remain in employment or to re-enter employment after their caring role has ended.

To achieve agreed objectives VOCAL continuously seeks to strengthen the capacity of the organisation to provide support to a growing number of carer beneficiaries. VOCAL contributes to a wide range of health and social care planning committees and develops its own capacity through active income generation and staff recruitment, training and retention.

In November 2023, VOCAL underwent a rigorous and successful quality assurance assessment which scrutinises all areas of the charity's business and was awarded the Level 2 Trusted Charity mark. Progress against this mark is assessed through a continuous improvement annual check which VOCAL successfully passed in November 2025 and will be renewed in 2026. In addition, VOCAL has started the accreditation for the Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers which will be undertaken in 2026-27.

The year ahead

The year ahead will have a strong focus on quality assurance, new initiatives, managing the increasing demand for VOCAL services and supports and continuing to highlight the concerning growth in carer poverty and financial insecurity.

We will drive innovation in carer identification through digital solutions and partnerships, making support more accessible while ensuring carers are recognised as equal partners in health and social care.

We will promote awareness and high-quality, carer-led ACSPs that prioritise good conversations, carer wellbeing and support carers in maintaining life outside their caring role.

With work now underway in the Scottish Government to deliver a right to personalised short breaks support for carers, we will continue to expand our short breaks brokerage and Wee Breaks enterprise.

We will continue to advocate for funds such as the Carer Assistance Fund in Midlothian, ensuring carers can access grants to meet the immediate costs of caring, including energy, Power of Attorney, transport and equipment. Working with health and social care partners, community organisations and the business sector, we will identify solutions that reduce the wider cost of caring, combining practical financial support with early intervention. This includes interventions on future planning, energy support, access to affordable, high-quality food and access to affordable mobility and accessibility equipment.

We will strengthen employer partnerships, offering tailored support and training to help working carers balance employment and caring, including financial wellbeing initiatives.

We will continue to increase our visibility in localities across Edinburgh and Midlothian, developing partnerships and capacity to support carers in their local communities. In addition, we will strengthen our carer partnerships across the Lothian region to ensure a consistent level of support for all carers.

VOCAL will further strengthen its governance structure, recruiting additional trustees to the Board of Directors, and continue to invest in building the skills, knowledge and resilience of staff and volunteers. We will also begin the process of preparing for our next three-year Business Plan 2028-2030 through engagement with carers and key stakeholders.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview
The Group's total funds at 31 March 2026 amounted to £2,968,280 (2025: £2,950,560), comprising unrestricted funds of £1,582,605 (2025: £1,494,298) and restricted funds of £1,385,675 (2025: £1,456,262). During the year, the Group generated total income of £4,078,392 (2025: £3,765,824) and reported net income of £17,720 (2025: £191,317), increasing total funds to £2,968,280 at the year end.

Principal funding sources
The Group's principal funding sources comprise grants and contract income from local authorities, health and social care partnerships, the Scottish Government and other charitable trusts and foundations. Additional income is generated through donations, trading activities and investment income. The Trustees continue to seek a diverse range of funding sources to support the long-term sustainability of the Group's activities and services.

Reserves policy
At the year end, unrestricted funds totalled £1,582,605, of which £1,100,139 was represented by unrestricted fixed assets. Free reserves therefore amounted to £482,466, which is in line with the Trustees' target level of £400,000 and is considered sufficient to support the Group's reserves policy.

Grant-making policy
VOCAL provides grants, vouchers and other forms of financial assistance to unpaid carers in support of its charitable objectives. Awards are made to help carers achieve identified outcomes, improve their wellbeing and resilience, and access short breaks from their caring responsibilities.

Applications are assessed by authorised staff in accordance with established eligibility criteria, available funding and individual circumstances. Awards are monitored and recorded in accordance with VOCAL's financial procedures and any relevant funder requirements.

Going concern
The Trustees have reviewed the Group's financial position, cash flow forecasts and future funding commitments. Having considered the resources available and the Group's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

Investment policy
The Group's cash reserves are held across bank current accounts and short-term deposit accounts. The Trustees keep these arrangements under regular review, balancing the need to achieve an appropriate return on surplus funds with the requirement to maintain sufficient liquidity to meet the Group's operational commitments.

Major risks
The Board of Directors maintains a comprehensive risk register covering the key strategic, operational, financial and governance risks facing the Group. The register is reviewed regularly to ensure that risks are appropriately identified, monitored and mitigated, and that effective controls remain in place.

The Trustees recognise that financial sustainability is a key risk and continue to focus on income diversification through a range of fundraising and income-generating activities, including a long-term legacy campaign delivered in partnership with local solicitors. This approach strengthens the Group's resilience and reduces reliance on any single funding source.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

VOCAL's governing documents are its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Articles were reviewed and amended in July 2024, with the support of VOCAL's solicitors.

VOCAL is a company limited by guarantee, established in 1993, with no share capital. VOCAL is also a registered Scottish charity (SC020755).

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of approval of the financial statements, were:

Douglas Hendry, Chair and Treasurer
Alison Jarvis, Vice Chair
Ruth Hendery
James Dadge
Fiona Holligan
Amy Moreno (appointed 11 June 2025)
Elizabeth Cantrell (appointed 22 October 2025)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
Recruitment to the Board takes place through public advertising and a formal recruitment and induction process. VOCAL seeks to expand Board membership to 10 trustees adding new trustees with caring responsibilities, from different professional backgrounds, maintaining the carer-led ethos as well as the range of professional and governance experience required to lead a dynamic and growing charity and enterprise.

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of the senior management team is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees. In setting remuneration levels, the trustees consider the responsibilities of the role, charity sector benchmarking information and the financial position of the Charity. Any increases are approved by the Board.

Organisational structure
The Board is supported by a number of committees, including the Finance Committee, Quality Assurance Committee, HR Committee, Health & Safety Committee, and Wee Breaks Enterprise Working Group. The Board, Finance Committee and Quality Assurance Committee meet on a bi-monthly basis and all others meet quarterly. The Board has approved the delegation of financial authority to the Chief Executive, with specific limits imposed within an approved scheme of delegation.

Induction and training of trustees
New trustees receive a formal induction and are provided with information on the charity's activities, governance arrangements and their responsibilities as trustees. Ongoing training and development opportunities are provided as required.

Auditor
In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing the reappointment of Findlays Audit Limited as auditor of the company will be put to the members.

Disclosure of information to auditor
So far as each of the trustees is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Douglas Hendry
....

Douglas Hendry
Chair

Date: 19th August 2026

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the year ended 31 March 2026

The trustees, who are also the directors of VOCAL – Voice of Carers Across Lothian for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and parent charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the group for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group and parent charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the parent charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and parent charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of VOCAL – Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of VOCAL – Voice of Carers Across Lothian (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, group and parent Balance Sheets, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company and group's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis of opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditors under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with those Acts and the relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of VOCAL – Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The audit team has the appropriate skills and expertise required and, through discussions with management and the Trustees, maintains knowledge of the sector to ensure any non-compliance is recognised and all necessary disclosures are made. The controls in place help the Group mitigate the risk of fraud and also assist in identifying any instances of fraud that may have occurred.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- Making enquiries of management and directors about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations relevant to the Group, including GDPR, employment law, health and safety regulations, PVG Scheme requirements, counselling service registration and professional requirements, and fraud.
- Reviewing correspondence with regulators, including OSCR, Companies House and legal advisers.
- Reviewing legal expenses and Board minutes.
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in significant accounting estimates, including the application of judgement-based accounting policies such as depreciation and fund allocations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify unusual transactions.
- Making enquiries of management and directors as to whether they consider there is a susceptibility to fraud and their knowledge of how actual, suspected and alleged fraud might occur.
- Review of any areas where there is a potential of management bias, large & unusual transactions and the risk of undisclosed related parties.

Because of the nature of the Group's activities, we identified the following laws and regulations as those most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements:

Direct impact on the financial statements:
Companies Act 2006
Charities SORP (FRS 102)
Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006
Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
Grants with conditions

Indirect impact on the financial statements:
Employment law
Health and safety legislation
GDPR
PVG Scheme requirements
Counselling service registration and professional standards
Memorandum and articles of association

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with laws and regulations. The further removed laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities arising from fraud rather than error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities
This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Lesley Campbell
....

Lesley Campbell, BA, CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Findlays Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor
11 Dudhope Terrace
Dundee
DD3 6TS

Date: 19th August 2026

Findlays Audit Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Group statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2026

Current financial year	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Income & endowments from:					
Donations & legacies	5	61,910	3,822,512	3,884,422	3,606,306
Charitable activities	6	56,100	19,400	75,500	33,264
Other trading activities	7	55,162	23,545	78,707	84,654
Investments	8	39,763	-	39,763	41,600
Total income		212,935	3,865,457	4,078,392	3,765,824
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	9	4,783	-	4,783	6,972
Charitable activities	10	119,845	3,936,044	4,055,889	3,567,535
Total expenditure		124,628	3,936,044	4,060,672	3,574,507
Net income/(expenditure) & movement in funds		88,307	(70,587)	17,720	191,317
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 April 2025		1,494,298	1,456,262	2,950,560	2,759,243
Fund balances at 31 March 2026		1,582,605	1,385,675	2,968,280	2,950,560

The notes on pages 19 - 35 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the statement of financial activities

- The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
- For the year ended 31 March 2026, the statement of financial activities is equivalent to an income and expenditure account. A separate income and expenditure account has not therefore been prepared.
- None of the group's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two accounting periods.

VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Group statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

Prior financial year	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £ *As restated*	Restricted Funds 2025 £ *As restated*	Total Funds 2025 £
Income & endowments from:				
Donations & legacies	5	64,624	3,541,682	3,606,306
Charitable activities	6	15,576	17,688	33,264
Other trading activities	7	70,691	13,963	84,654
Investments	8	41,600	-	41,600
Total income		192,491	3,573,333	3,765,824
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	9	6,972	-	6,972
Charitable activities	10	126,277	3,441,258	3,567,535
Total expenditure		133,249	3,441,258	3,574,507
Net income/(expenditure) & movement in funds		59,242	132,075	191,317
Reconciliation of funds:				
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		1,435,056	1,324,187	2,759,243
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		1,494,298	1,456,262	2,950,560

VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Group balance sheet at 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	18		1,604,189		1,646,828
Current Assets					
Debtors	21	36,735		187,239	
Investments	22	1,316,747		1,127,604	
Cash at bank & in hand		344,292		426,152	
		1,697,774		1,740,995	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	23	(333,683)		(437,263)	
Net current assets			1,364,091		1,303,732
Total assets less current liabilities			2,968,280		2,950,560
The funds of the group					
Restricted funds	26		1,385,675		1,456,262
Unrestricted funds	27		1,582,605		1,494,298
			2,968,280		2,950,560

The notes on pages 19 - 35 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 19th August 2026.

Douglas Hendry

Douglas Hendry
Chair

VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Charity balance sheet at 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £ *As restated*	2025 £ *As restated*
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	18		1,604,189		1,646,828
Investments	19		1		1
			1,604,190		1,646,829
Current Assets					
Debtors	21	36,735		187,239	
Investments	22	1,316,747		1,127,604	
Cash at bank & in hand		344,292		426,152	
		1,697,774		1,740,995	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	23	(337,585)		(437,264)	
Net current assets			1,360,189		1,303,731
Total assets less current liabilities			2,964,379		2,950,560
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	26		1,385,675		1,456,262
Unrestricted funds	27		1,578,704		1,494,298
			2,964,379		2,950,560

The notes on pages 19 - 35 form part of these financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved by the board on 19th August 2026.

Douglas Hendry

Douglas Hendry
Chair

VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Group statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operating activities	31		67,520		400,514
Investing activities					
Investment income received		39,763		41,600	
Net cash generated from investing activities			39,763		41,600
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash & cash equivalents			107,283		442,114
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,553,756		1,111,642
Cash & cash equivalents at end of year			**1,661,039**		**1,553,756**
Relating to:					
Cash at bank & in hand			344,292		426,152
Short term deposits included in current asset investments			1,316,747		1,127,604
			1,661,039		**1,553,756**

The notes on pages 19 - 35 form part of these financial statements.

VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian

Charity statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operating activities	31		67,520		400,515
Investing activities					
Purchase of subsidiaries		-		(1)	
Investment income received		39,763		41,600	
Net cash generated from investing activities			39,763		41,599
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash & cash equivalents			107,283		442,114
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,553,756		1,111,642
Cash & cash equivalents at end of year			**1,661,039**		**1,553,756**
Relating to:					
Cash at bank & in hand			344,292		426,152
Short term deposits included in current asset investments			1,316,747		1,127,604
			1,661,039		**1,553,756**

The notes on pages 19 - 35 form part of these financial statements.

Accounting policies

1. Charity information

VOCAL – Voice of Carers Across Lothian is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Scotland. The registered office is 60 Leith Walk, Edinburgh, EH6 5HB.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements consolidate the results of VOCAL – Voice of Carers Across Lothian and its wholly-owned trading subsidiary, Treasure Tree 2025 Limited (together referred to as "the Group").

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Group's Memorandum & Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102), and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The parent charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The consolidated financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Group. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charitable company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Treasure Tree 2025 Limited. The subsidiary's results are consolidated on a line-by-line basis.

The charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the Group's charitable objectives.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes. The purpose and use of the designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or funders and may only be used for the purposes for which they were provided. Details of restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.5 Income recognition

Income is recognised when the Group is entitled to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Donations are recognised when the Group is entitled to the income, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grant income is recognised when the Group is entitled to the income, any performance-related conditions have been met, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from charitable activities, including grants and contracts received to provide support and services to carers, is recognised as the related services are delivered.

Income from other trading activities, including commercial holiday home lettings, consultancy services, shop income, and room hire, is recognised when the related goods or services are provided.

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis and is classified according to the nature of the cost. Costs are attributed directly where possible. Central support costs are allocated across funds on a reasonable and consistent basis to reflect the use of resources.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their estimated useful lives on the following bases:

Heritable property:	1%, 2% and 10% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment:	20% straight line
Computer equipment:	33.3% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

The Group operates a capitalisation policy of £2,000 for tangible fixed assets.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand, balances held with banks and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less. Bank overdrafts are included within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Investments

Investments comprise short-term deposits held with financial institutions. These balances are held to generate investment income while maintaining liquidity and are carried at cost, which approximates fair value.

1.11 Financial instruments

The Group has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 Basic Financial Instruments and Section 12 Other Financial Instruments Issues of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Group's balance sheet when the Group becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other debtors, cash and cash equivalents, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, in which case the liability is measured at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Group's contractual obligations expire or are discharged, cancelled or otherwise extinguished.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Group is demonstrably committed to terminating the employment of an employee or to providing termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution pension schemes are charged to the statement of financial activities as an expense in the period in which they fall due.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements (continued)

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements

Allocation of expenditure between funds
Judgement is applied in determining the allocation of expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds. Costs are allocated directly where they relate specifically to a particular fund, while central and support costs are apportioned on a reasonable and consistent basis having regard to the nature of the expenditure and the activities supported.

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets
The annual depreciation charge is based on estimates of the useful economic lives and residual values of tangible fixed assets. The trustees review these estimates regularly and are satisfied that the rates applied are appropriate to reflect the pattern in which the assets' future economic benefits are expected to be consumed.

3. Financial activities of the Charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the Group. A summary of the charity-only results for the year is set out below:

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £ *As restated*
Income & endowments from:					
Donations & legacies	5	61,910	3,822,512	3,884,422	3,606,306
Charitable activities	6	56,100	19,400	75,500	33,264
Other trading activities	7	16,097	23,545	39,642	84,654
Investments	8	39,763	-	39,763	41,600
Inter-company recharge income		17,674	-	17,674	-
Total income		191,544	3,865,457	4,057,001	3,765,824
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	9	4,783	-	4,783	6,972
Charitable activities	10	102,355	3,936,044	4,038,399	3,567,535
Total expenditure		107,138	3,936,044	4,043,182	3,574,507
Net income/(expenditure) & movement in funds		84,406	(70,587)	13,819	191,317
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 April 2025		1,494,298	1,456,262	2,950,560	2,759,243
Fund balances at 31 March 2026		1,578,704	1,385,675	2,964,379	2,950,560

4. Commercial trading activities

The wholly-owned trading subsidiary, Treasure Tree 2025 Limited (company number SC838358), which is incorporated in Scotland, intends to distribute its taxable profits to the charity under Gift Aid. Treasure Tree 2025 Limited operates a retail outlet selling pre-owned mobility equipment. The company was incorporated on 19 February 2025 and the trading activity transferred from the charity to the company on 1 April 2025.

The charity owns the entire issued share capital of Treasure Tree 2025 Limited, comprising one ordinary share of £1. A summary of the company's trading results is shown below.

	Period ended 31 March 2026 £
Turnover	39,065
Administration costs	(17,490)
Inter-company recharged staff costs	(17,674)
Net profit before tax	3,901
Gift Aid payments made to parent during the period	-
Retained profit/(loss) in subsidiary	3,901

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:

	Period ended 31 March 2026 £
Current assets	4,945
Current liabilities	(1,043)
Total net assets	3,902
Share capital	1
Profit and loss account	3,901
Aggregate share capital and reserves	3,902

5. Income from donations & legacies (Group & Charity)

	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £ *As restated*	Restricted Funds 2025 £ *As restated*	Total 2025 £ *As restated*
Donations & gifts	61,910	-	61,910	63,474	8,356	71,830
Grants	-	3,822,512	3,822,512	1,150	3,533,326	3,534,476
	61,910	3,822,512	3,884,422	64,624	3,541,682	3,606,306
Donations & gifts						
General donations	32,345	-	32,345	21,035	1,877	22,912
Fundraising donations	27,615	-	27,615	21,976	-	21,976
VOCAL 100	1,950	-	1,950	1,942	-	1,942
Trust fund donations	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Other donations	-	-	-	8,521	6,479	15,000
	61,910	-	61,910	63,474	8,356	71,830
Grants						
EHSCP	-	1,882,457	1,882,457	-	1,861,828	1,861,828
MHSCP	-	1,046,464	1,046,464	-	1,159,009	1,159,009
SGN	-	66,866	66,866	-	5,558	5,558
Scottish Government	-	790,308	790,308	-	506,931	506,931
Weir Charitable Trust	-	6,417	6,417	-	-	-
National Lottery	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	1,150	-	1,150
	-	3,822,512	3,822,512	1,150	3,533,326	3,534,476

EHSCP and MHSCP represent funding received through Edinburgh and Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnerships respectively, comprising a number of grants funded by local authorities, Integration Joint Boards and Scottish Government programmes, including funding administered through Shared Care Scotland. The majority of the charity's grant income is derived from public sector sources, either received directly or administered through intermediary funding bodies.

6. Income from charitable activities (Group & Charity)

	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £ *As restated*	Restricted Funds 2025 £ *As restated*	Total 2025 £ *As restated*
Carer holiday lets	56,100	19,400	75,500	15,576	17,688	33,264

7. Income from other trading activities

	GROUP			CHARITY		
	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £
Consultancy income	8,500	-	8,500	8,500	-	8,500
Shop income	39,065	-	39,065	-	-	-
Commercial holiday lets	7,480	23,545	31,025	7,480	23,545	31,025
Room hire	117	-	117	117	-	117
Other trading activities	55,162	23,545	78,707	16,097	23,545	39,642

	GROUP			CHARITY		
	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Consultancy income	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
Shop income	36,196	-	36,196	36,196	-	36,196
Commercial holiday lets	29,495	13,963	43,458	29,495	13,963	43,458
Other trading activities	70,691	13,963	84,654	70,691	13,963	84,654

8. Income from investments (Group & Charity)

	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £
Interest receivable	39,763	41,600

9. Expenditure on raising funds (Group & Charity)

	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £
Other fundraising & publicity costs	4,783	6,972

10. Expenditure on charitable activities

		GROUP		CHARITY	
		2026	2025	2026	2025
	Note	£	£	£	£
					As restated
Direct costs					
Staff costs		2,474,519	2,266,002	2,474,519	2,266,002
Other staffing costs		35,514	29,262	34,693	29,262
Counselling costs		63,463	62,293	63,463	62,293
Carer expenses & events		100,061	91,567	100,061	91,567
		2,673,557	2,449,124	2,672,736	2,449,124
Grant funding of activities	11	871,933	648,499	871,933	648,499
Share of support costs	12	490,432	462,562	475,923	462,562
Share of governance costs	12	19,967	7,350	17,807	7,350
		4,055,889	3,567,535	4,038,399	3,567,535
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds		119,845	124,062	102,355	126,277
Restricted funds		3,936,044	3,443,473	3,936,044	3,441,258
		4,055,889	3,567,535	4,038,399	3,567,535

11. Grant funding of activities (Group & Charity)

	2026	2025
	£	£
Grants to institutions:		
Eric Liddell Community	56,352	55,524
Health in Mind	48,909	48,852
Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living	36,593	25,546
British Red Cross	33,024	32,340
MILAN Senior Welfare Organisation	29,236	28,858
Edinburgh Community Food	25,000	-
Dalkeith & District Citizens Advice Bureau	15,840	15,840
LGBT Health and Wellbeing	12,500	12,500
Dalkeith Arts	4,000	-
Newtongrange Development Trust	3,300	-
PASDA	3,280	-
Glencorse Centre	3,260	-
Cold Therapy Collective	3,250	-
Growing Families	3,000	-
Dalkeith Men's Shed	2,960	-
Gorebridge Community Development Trust	2,850	-
	283,354	219,460
Grants to individuals	588,579	429,039
Total grant funding of activities	871,933	648,499
Number of grants awarded:		
Grants to institutions	16	7
Grants to individuals	2,483	1,626

During the year, the charity provided grant funding to 16 institutions (2025: 7) and made 2,483 awards to individual beneficiaries (2025: 1,626) in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Support to individual beneficiaries included short break grants, carer assistance awards, gift cards and vouchers, with awards typically ranging from £15 to £800. The trustees are satisfied that all grants and awards were made in accordance with the charity's objectives and grant-making policies.

12. Support & governance costs

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
	£	£	£	£
				As restated
Support costs:				
Depreciation	42,638	55,504	42,638	55,504
Office running costs	229,258	208,109	215,141	208,109
Professional fees	37,305	32,803	36,913	32,803
IT costs	181,231	166,146	181,231	166,146
	490,432	462,562	475,923	462,562
Governance costs:				
Audit fees	19,967	7,350	17,807	7,350
Total support & governance costs	510,399	469,912	493,730	469,912

13. Net movement in funds

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):	£	£	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	42,638	55,504	42,638	55,504
Audit & accountancy fees	19,967	7,350	17,807	7,350

14. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year. No trustee expenses were reimbursed during the year (2025: £nil).

During the year, one trustee paid £994 (2025: £nil) to the charity in respect of holiday let accommodation. The transaction was undertaken at market rates.

Donations totalling £2,169 (2025: £nil) were received from one trustee.

There were no outstanding balances at the year end.

15. Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	GROUP 2026	GROUP 2025	CHARITY 2026	CHARITY 2025
Employees	64	65	64	65
Directors	2	2	-	-
	66	67	64	65

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 was:

	GROUP 2026	GROUP 2025	CHARITY 2026	CHARITY 2025
£60,000 to £70,000	1	1	1	1

Employment costs (Group & Charity)	2026 £	2025 £
Wages and salaries	1,969,010	1,868,382
Social security costs	237,672	172,159
Pension costs	267,837	225,461
	2,474,519	2,266,002

Remuneration of key management personnel (Group & Charity)	2026 £	2025 £
Aggregate compensation	162,874	156,750

The group includes a wholly-owned trading subsidiary which had no employees during the year. No remuneration was paid by the subsidiary to its directors.

16. Auditor's remuneration

	GROUP 2026 £	GROUP 2025 £	CHARITY 2026 £	CHARITY 2025 £
Auditor's remuneration:				
- Audit of the financial statements	17,807	7,350	17,807	7,350
- Accounts preparation services	2,160	-	-	-
	19,967	7,350	17,807	7,350

17. Taxation

The charity is recognised by HM Revenue & Customs as a charity for tax purposes and is exempt from corporation tax on income and gains falling within the taxes legislation to the extent that they are applied for charitable purposes.

18. Tangible fixed assets (Group & Charity)

	Heritable Property	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2025	1,811,228	59,045	214,344	2,084,617
Disposals	-	(41,750)	(174,860)	(216,610)
At 31 March 2026	1,811,228	17,295	39,484	1,868,007
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2025	170,490	53,351	213,949	437,790
Depreciation charged in year	38,786	3,457	395	42,638
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(41,750)	(174,860)	(216,610)
At 31 March 2026	209,276	15,058	39,484	263,818
Carrying Amount				
At 31 March 2026	1,601,952	2,237	-	1,604,189
At 31 March 2025	1,640,739	5,695	394	1,646,828

19. Fixed asset investments

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
	£	£	£	£
Shares in Treasure Tree 2025 Limited	-	-	1	1

The charity owns 100% of the issued ordinary share capital of Treasure Tree 2025 Limited (company number SC838358), a company incorporated in Scotland. The principal activity of the company is the sale of pre-owned mobility equipment.

The profit for the period ended 31 March 2026 in Treasure Tree 2025 Limited was £3,901. No Gift Aid payment had been made or accrued at the year-end. The closing shareholders' funds were £3,902.

20. Financial Instruments (Group & Charity)

	2026	2025
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Short term deposits held with financial institutions	1,316,747	1,127,604

21. Debtors (Group & Charity)

	2026	2025
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	6,446	14,158
Other debtors	1,811	1,408
Prepayments & accrued income	28,478	171,673
	36,735	187,239

22. Current asset investments (Group & Charity)

	2026	2025
	£	£
Short term deposits held with financial institutions	1,316,747	1,127,604

23. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

		GROUP		CHARITY	
		2026	2025	2026	2025
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Other taxation and social security		55,616	41,039	55,616	41,039
Deferred income	24	84,447	92,619	84,447	92,619
Trade creditors		112,628	231,750	112,628	231,750
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings		-	-	4,945	1
Other creditors		32,883	29,003	32,883	29,003
Accruals		48,109	42,852	47,066	42,852
		333,683	437,263	337,585	437,264

24. Deferred income (Group & Charity)

	2026	2025
	£	£
Deferred income received in advance for future activities	84,447	92,619
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income brought forward	92,619	120,286
Released from previous periods	(92,619)	(120,286)
Income deferred in the year	84,447	92,619
Deferred income carried forward	84,447	92,619

Deferred income comprises grant funding received in advance for activities to be delivered in future periods together with holiday let deposits received in advance of bookings. The income is recognised when the related performance obligations are fulfilled or the associated services are delivered.

25. Retirement benefit schemes (Group & Charity)

	2026	2025
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes:		
Charge to profit or loss	267,837	225,461

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered scheme.

26. Restricted funds (Group & Charity)

The restricted funds of the charity comprise unexpended donations and grants that are subject to specific conditions imposed by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
	As restated				
EHSCP	570,218	1,882,457	(1,949,251)	(2,457)	500,967
MHSCP	260,720	1,046,464	(1,013,063)	-	294,121
Safe and Warm Scheme	-	66,866	(66,866)	-	-
SiRD Programme	8,571	125,124	(133,695)	-	-
Short Breaks Fund TTL – Midlothian	-	130,025	(132,482)	2,457	-
Short Breaks Fund TTL – Edinburgh	-	535,159	(535,013)	-	146
Weir Charitable Trust	-	6,417	(6,417)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-
Hawthorn Brae – Income Fund	30,249	42,945	(33,153)	-	40,041
Holiday Home – Operational Fund	59,215	-	(12,865)	-	46,350
Holiday Home – Capital Fund	527,289	-	(23,239)	-	504,050
	1,456,262	3,865,457	(3,936,044)	-	1,385,675

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
	As restated	*As restated*	*As restated*	*As restated*	*As restated*
EHSCP	576,828	1,861,829	(1,868,438)	-	570,218
MHSCP	171,588	1,087,759	(998,331)	(296)	260,720
Safe and Warm Scheme	-	5,558	(5,558)	-	-
SiRD Programme	-	129,978	(121,407)	-	8,571
Short Breaks Fund TTL – Midlothian	-	67,929	(68,225)	296	-
Short Breaks Fund TTL – Edinburgh	-	309,025	(309,025)	-	-
Hawthorn Brae – Income Fund	29,278	40,006	(39,035)	-	30,249
Holiday Home – Operational Fund	-	71,250	(14,250)	-	59,215
Holiday Home – Capital Fund	546,493	-	(19,204)	-	527,289
	1,324,187	3,573,333	(3,441,258)	-	1,456,262

Purpose of Restricted Funds

Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership (EHSCP)
Funds the provision of carer support and training services in Edinburgh, including information and advice, employment support, short breaks, counselling, and drugs, alcohol and mental health support.

Midlothian Health & Social Care Partnership (MHSCP)
Funds the provision of carer support and training services in Midlothian, including information and advice, employment support, short breaks, counselling, drugs, alcohol and mental health support, and the Midlothian Carer Assistance Fund.

Purpose of restricted funds (continued)

Safe and Warm Scheme
Funding provided by SGN to deliver energy advice and practical support to unpaid carers in Edinburgh and Midlothian.

Support in the Right Direction (SIRD) Programme
Scottish Government funding, administered by Inspiring Scotland, to support unpaid carers in navigating and accessing social care services and support.

Short Breaks Fund TTL (Edinburgh & Midlothian)
Scottish Government funding, administered by Shared Care Scotland, to provide Time to Live short break grants and vouchers to unpaid carers.

Weir Charitable Trust
Funding provided to support the delivery of counselling services for unpaid carers.

National Lottery Community Fund
Funding received to support the development of the iCare (Identifying Carers, Advancing Recognition and Equality) project and associated activities aimed at improving the identification and support of unpaid carers.

Hawthorn Brae - Income Fund
Represents income generated from the operation of Hawthorn Brae, a short-break accommodation facility transferred to VOCAL through an OSCR-approved reorganisation involving EMMS International. Surpluses generated are retained within the fund to support the ongoing maintenance, operation and long-term sustainability of the property.

Holiday Home - Operational Fund
This represents funding provided by Midlothian Council towards the operational costs of Kielder holiday home, including site fees paid in advance. The fund is released as the related operating costs are incurred. The holiday home asset is held within the holiday home capital fund.

Holiday Home - Capital Fund
Represents the unamortised value of grant-funded and donated holiday home assets, including Hawthorn Brae and the holiday homes at Seton Sands. The fund is released to income over the useful economic lives of the related assets through annual depreciation charges.

27. Unrestricted funds

Group	At 1 April 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2026 £
Counselling contributions	27,208	15,955	(9,033)	-	34,130
Wee Breaks	8,631	61,830	(66,381)	-	4,080
General funds	1,458,459	135,150	(49,215)	-	1,544,395
	1,494,298	212,935	(124,628)	-	1,582,605

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Counselling contributions	12,208	-	-	15,000	27,208
Wee Breaks	-	-	-	8,631	8,631
General funds	1,422,848	192,491	(133,249)	(23,631)	1,458,459
	1,435,056	192,491	(133,249)	-	1,494,298

Charity	At 1 April 2025 £ *As restated*	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2026 £
Counselling contributions	27,208	15,955	(9,033)	-	34,130
Wee Breaks	8,631	61,830	(66,381)	-	4,080
General funds	1,458,459	113,759	(31,724)	-	1,540,494
	1,494,298	191,544	(107,138)	-	1,578,704

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024 £ *As restated*	Incoming resources £ *As restated*	Resources expended £ *As restated*	Transfers £ *As restated*	At 31 March 2025 £ *As restated*
Counselling contributions	12,208	-	-	15,000	27,208
Wee Breaks	-	-	-	8,631	8,631
General funds	1,422,848	192,491	(133,249)	(23,631)	1,458,459
	1,435,056	192,491	(133,249)	-	1,494,298

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or funders as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside by the trustees from unrestricted funds for specific purposes.

Purpose of Designated Funds

Counselling Contributions Fund
Represents voluntary donations received from service users in lieu of counselling fees. The fund has been designated by the Trustees for reinvestment in the provision and development of counselling services each year.

Wee Breaks Fund
Represents surpluses generated from the operation of the Kielder and Beaumont holiday homes. The fund has been designated by the Trustees to provide for future maintenance, repairs and replacement expenditure associated with these properties as and when required.

28. Analysis of net assets between funds

	GROUP			CHARITY		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2026:						
Tangible assets	1,100,139	504,050	1,604,189	1,100,139	504,050	1,604,189
Investments	-	-	-	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	482,466	881,625	1,364,091	478,564	881,625	1,360,189
	1,582,605	1,385,675	2,968,280	1,578,704	1,385,675	2,964,379
	£	£	£	£	£	£
				As restated	*As restated*	
At 31 March 2025:						
Tangible assets	1,119,539	527,289	1,646,828	1,119,539	527,289	1,646,828
Investments	-	-	-	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	374,759	928,973	1,303,732	374,758	928,973	1,303,731
	1,494,298	1,456,262	2,950,560	1,494,298	1,456,262	2,950,560

29. Operating lease commitments (Group & Charity)

Lessee
The operating leases represent leases of office equipment and are negotiated over terms of 1–5 years.

At the reporting date, the group had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Within one year	4,977	4,977
Between two and five years	7,478	12,455
	12,455	17,432

30. Related party transactions

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption available in FRS 102 Section 33.11, "Related Party Disclosures", and has therefore not disclosed transactions with its wholly-owned subsidiary undertaking.

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (YE25: none). Transactions with trustees are disclosed within note 14.

31. Cash generated from operations

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
	£	£	£	£
Surplus for the year	17,720	191,317	13,819	191,317
Adjustments for:				
Investment income	(39,763)	(41,600)	(39,763)	(41,600)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	42,638	55,504	42,638	55,504
Movement in working capital:				
Decrease in debtors	150,504	106,549	150,504	106,550
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(95,407)	116,411	(91,507)	116,411
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income	(8,172)	(27,667)	(8,172)	(27,667)
Cash generated from operations	67,520	400,514	67,520	400,515

32. Analysis of changes in net funds

The group had no material debt during the year.

33. Prior period adjustment

During the year, the Trustees identified a prior period error relating to the classification of fund balances. Historic allocations between the Holiday Home Reserve, the Capital Fund and the Hawthorn Brae Income Fund had been incorrectly recorded, resulting in an understatement of restricted funds brought forward. Comparative figures have been restated to reflect the correct classification of fund balances between restricted and unrestricted funds. The adjustment has no impact on the charity's reported surplus or total funds but increases opening restricted funds by £20,607.

	Group and Charity At 31 March 2025		
Changes to the balance sheet	**Previously reported**	**Adjustment**	**As restated**
	£	£	£
Restricted funds	1,435,655	20,607	1,456,262
Unrestricted funds	1,514,905	(20,607)	1,494,298
	2,950,560	-	2,950,560