ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026











REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1188736

The Parasol Project CIO

INCLUDE INVOLVE INSPIRE

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number: 1188736

Registered Charity Number up until 2022: 1055914

Registered Office: Tower Playbase, Maltfield Road, Northway, Oxford, OX3 9RG

Email: info@parasolproject.org / **Website:** www.parasolproject.org / **Phone:** 01865 742816

Trustees: **Anna Hemphill (Chair)**
Anne Schuster
Amanda Kerr
Jerry Bloomfield

Key Management Personnel: Dan Norey - Executive Director

Contents of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Executive Summary 2

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 3

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parasol Project CIO 12

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 13

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026 14

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 - Executive Summary

The Parasol Project CIO ("the charity") has now been in operation for 30 years. Parasol facilitates school holiday activities primarily for disabled children and young people. More recently, the Parasol Adult service has been developed in response to demand for Parasol-style activities for young adults who are too old to attend our Teen services. We have also developed community facing projects that supported disabled participants in delivering services that make a positive contribution to our local community. For two years we piloted several activities with Parasol Adults and Northway community residents, then, in September 2023, we secured three-year funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to run a full (36-week) term-time Community Hub programme. Excitingly, this year we secured another three-year grant from the National Lottery to continue developing relationships in and across Parasol and Northway communities.

We now deliver five services year-round (Child; Teen; Adult; Community; and Volunteering).

This year we supported 286 Parasol beneficiaries. Of those, 61% have some form of disability or Autism. In the spirit of inclusion, the remainder were other disadvantaged children and young people, particularly those at risk of social exclusion. All of these groups of children/young people experience significant issues due to their circumstances and benefit greatly from being involved in the activities offered by The Parasol Project. Additionally, 321 Northway residents were involved in our Community Hub Project. In total, this year the Charity supported 607 individuals.

During 2025/26, our income was **£479,607** and expenditure was **£462,214**. This resulted in a surplus of **£17,393** for the year. Reserves at the end of the year to March 31 2026, stood at £109,242 (£91,849 in 2024/25), an increase compared to the previous year. As a small charity, Parasol depends on raising funds on a year-by-year basis, to provide the vital funding that tops up the regular yearly grant funding received from Oxfordshire County Council of £101,000 and £10,000 from Oxford City Council. Each year, we are also in receipt of £36,413 from the Healthy Activity and Food (HAF) fund, £85,980 in activity fees, and more recently £145,000 (£435,000 over three-years 2026-2029) from the National Lottery Community Fund. Together, all these funds provide a certain amount of financial stability for the charity (see page-13 for the full Statement of Financial Activities).

In 2025-2026 we delivered:

Parasol Child and Teen Services – Happens during school holidays and half terms:

- 40 days of Holiday Playscheme at Tower Playbase for an avg. no. of 32 children (5-12yrs) each day.
- 40 days of Holiday Choice Days for an avg. no. of 38 teens and young adults (13-18yrs) each day.

Parasol Disabled Adult and Community Hub Services – Happens during term-time (Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri):

- 116 Lunch Clubs sessions (Tues/Wed/Thurs) for 111 Northway residents (up to 70 individuals a session).
- 37 Stay and Play sessions for 198 individuals: 97 parents/carers and 101 toddlers (avg. no. 35 a session).
- 37 Social Action Group sessions (gardening, litter picking etc.) for 54 individuals (avg. no. 11 a session).
- 38 Knit and Natter Club sessions for 14 individuals (avg. no.7 a session).
- 38 Youth Club sessions attended by 59 individuals (avg. no. 20 per session).
- 38 B-Active Wellbeing Club (dance fitness, line dancing or spinning) for 17 individuals (avg. 10 a session).
- 38 B-Creative Club (making/crafting/trading) sessions for 11 individuals (avg. no. 6 a session).
- Produced/delivered six community Newsletters (once every 2-months) to 1,500 Northway residents.
- 171 individuals attended 4 celebration events (Family Day, Children's Day, Volunteers Day, Easter Day).

Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme – Happens year-round:

- This year Parasol trained and supported 87 young people. They completed 6,364 hours of volunteering.
- 23 volunteers attended a 5-day team building outdoors adventure residential at Kilvrough Manor in Wales.
- 31 volunteers completed at least 1 AQA accreditation in volunteering (29 completed at least 2).
- 14 volunteers are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Bronze (3), Silver (8), Gold (3).
- 12 volunteers went on into employment this year: 8 with Parasol and 4 others elsewhere.
- 6 Workforce Volunteers prepared/served lunch at OXSRAD Sports Centre twice a week (for 36wks).

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Our vision: The Parasol Project wants to see a world where every disabled child and young person can enjoy the same rights and opportunities as their non-disabled peers, including access to out of school play, social and creative activities.

Our mission: To support young disabled people to have 'full and effective participation and inclusion in society' (UN Convention on the Rights of the Person with Disabilities), to unlock their potential and enable them to be more confident, independent and compassionate individuals.

Our values: We believe that disabled children and young people should enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other children and young people as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including access to activities that suit their needs, abilities and aspirations. Disabled peoples' engagement with culture and the arts alongside and on equal terms with their non-disabled peers is an important element of an inclusive society.

The importance of inclusivity: The inclusive nature of our projects and services inspires both disabled and non-disabled people to want to attend. Bringing in a diverse mix of people, especially those who also understand what it means to need a supportive environment, continues to be a good way to drive positive change. Slowly attitudes begin to align, with disabled and non-disabled individuals increasingly embodying our inclusive culture (respect for difference, and focusing on people's strengths and abilities rather than their disabilities). In the safe and supportive environment, differing groups develop connections and respect as they share and take ownership of activities. This has a powerful and positive impact on all stakeholders.

1. Objectives and Activities

As set out in the charity's constitution, The Parasol Project's objectives are to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupations for children and young people with physical or learning difficulties, alongside their non-disabled peers. Such facilities are to be comparable to those available to the children and young people's non-disabled siblings and contemporaries and are to promote: (1) their educational, physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing, and, (2) equal opportunities.

In planning the work of the Charity, the Trustees take due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit, including the guidance "Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)". The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity meets that guidance in that it offers its activities to any child or young person with physical or learning difficulties and makes every effort to reach out to those families who for economic and/or social reasons find it challenging to provide appropriate and inclusive leisure or recreational activities for their children. The Trustees are happy that participants in the charity's activities are from a very wide spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, particularly those at risk of social exclusion.

Our Activities:

- **Our Child and Teen Services** (commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council) happen during school holiday. Activities include arts; crafts; residentials; adventure sports; fitness; music; film; bushcraft; cooking and healthy eating (details on page 5).
- **Our Adult and Community Services** (funded by the National Lottery) happen during term-time. Activities include: a Social Action Group; three Lunch Clubs; three B-Active Clubs; a Stay and Play Group; and a Knit and Natter Group (details on pages 6 and 7).
- **Our Volunteering Service** (funded variously) provides hundreds of opportunities to gain volunteering and work experience on all activities listed above (details on page 8).

2. Beneficiaries of the Work

This broad range of activities enable Parasol to provide support to beneficiaries of all ages from the community around us. Many live in a variety of challenging circumstances, and may have significant challenges, physical and learning disabilities, autism and some also have behaviour that challenges. These children, young people and young adults can face a series of practical and complex barriers which often results in exclusion from active participation in society. This can have a profound impact on their lives. In the spirit of inclusion, the Charity also works with other disadvantaged children (e.g., siblings of disabled children, children in care, young carers and young refugees). All of these groups of children benefit greatly from being involved in the activities offered by The Parasol Project.

3. Equal Opportunities Statement

The Parasol Project is committed to providing equality of opportunity for the children, young people, adults, volunteers, professional practitioners, families and carers with whom it works. It values and respects their diversity. Parasol welcomes difference in its staff and volunteers. It is also working to create equal access to opportunities for paid employment and voluntary involvement while continuing to base selection and promotion solely on the ability to meet the requirements of the post. This is irrespective of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, religion, disability, gender, sexuality, age, marital status, responsibility for dependents, economic status or political views. The Parasol Project is committed to taking active steps to address and eliminate unfair or unlawful discrimination or prejudice where these are identified in the organisation's procedures or practices.

4. Quality Assurance

All policies are reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and up to date. We have a quality assurance system and policies for health and safety, children and vulnerable adults' protection, safeguarding, equal opportunities, whistleblowing and handling of disclosure information. We are committed to improving quality and minimising risk while delivering excellent value for money in all aspects of our work. We are conscious of the need to strike a realistic balance between administration and service delivery, and to ensure that whilst having a good protective framework of systems and procedures, we nevertheless devote most of our energies and resources to deliver an effective range of services. The effectiveness of our services are regularly monitored and evaluated (consultation with stakeholders), firstly to acknowledge what we do well and secondly, to review and learn from what is not working so well. This ensures we use our resources effectively and provide the best service to our beneficiaries.

5. Background of the Charity

The Parasol Project was launched as an independent unincorporated charity in 1996 and was set up by parents of disabled children in order to fill a gap in provision. On March 24 2020, a new charity, The Parasol Project CIO, was registered at the Charity Commission. This charity has a constitution based on that recommended by the Charity Commission and objectives that allow Parasol to work with young adults. On April 1, 2022, the assets & liabilities and activities of the original charity were transferred to The Parasol Project CIO and the Charity's activities have continued as before. Our profile and reputation has continued to grow during this time in the field of youth volunteering, community outreach and inclusive practice.

6. The Parasol Project Staff

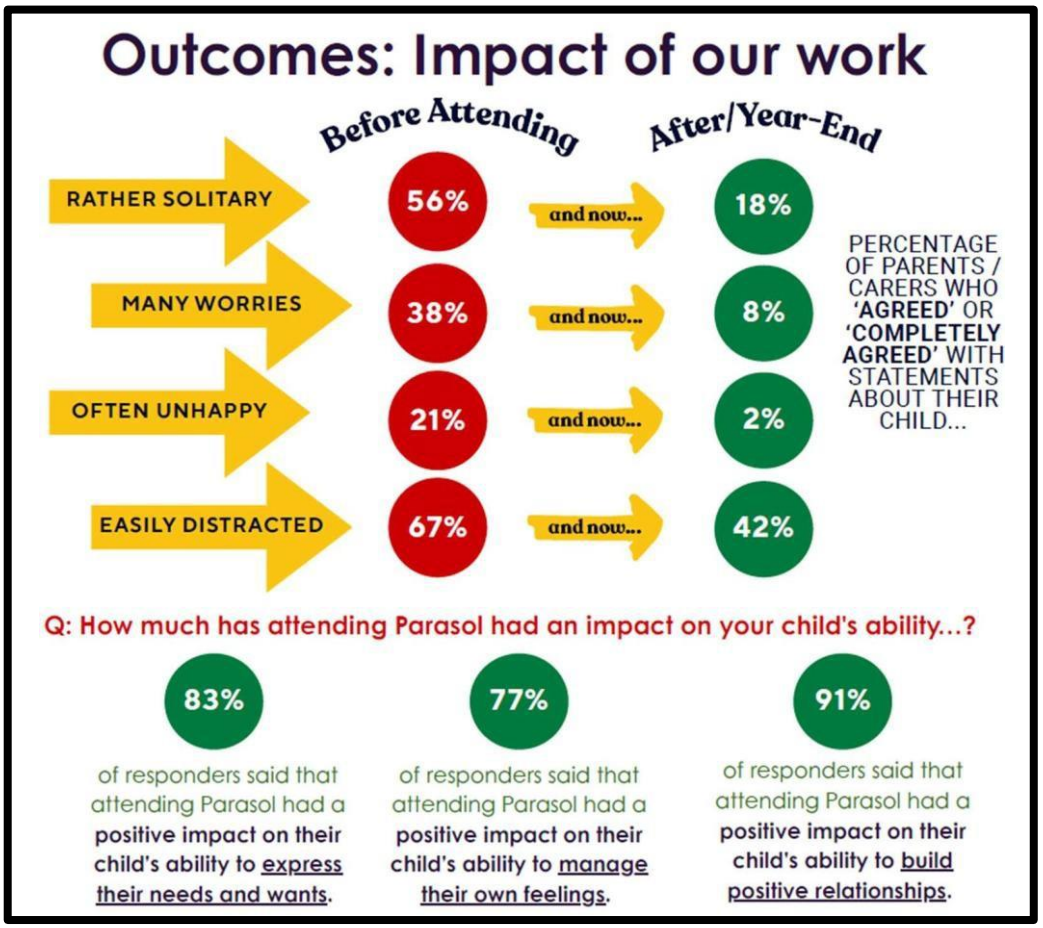
The Parasol Project has capacity to deliver its activity programme with support from highly skilled and experienced staff. Our leadership team of permanent staff include many who have worked for Parasol for over a decade. Our team of Enablers (support staff) ensure activities are safe and supportive by handling personal care needs, supporting young people in managing challenging behaviour and modelling positive communication. In an average year Parasol maintain a team of around 40 Enablers to support our holiday and term time activities.

7. Achievements and Performance (2025-2026)

Children's Service (Holiday Playscheme) & Teen Service (Choice Days)

- 40 days of Holiday Playscheme at Tower Playbase for an avg. no. of 32 children (5-12yrs) each day.
- 40 days of Holiday Choice Days for an avg. no. of 38 teens and young adults (13-18yrs) each day.

Our Child and Teen services primarily happen during school holidays. This year, our team of enthusiastic Enablers and Volunteers supported 286 Parasol beneficiaries. Of the 286, 61% have some form of disability, the remainder are from other disadvantaged groups, particularly those at risk of social exclusion. Activities include: arts/crafts; residentials; adventure sports; fitness; bushcraft; growing food; cooking; healthy eating.



IMPACT: Early in 2026, 116 parents / carers completed an evaluation survey. A significant percentage 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that attending Parasol had positively impacted their child's wellbeing (see image to the left).

Children and young people's feedback. Over 80% of the responders felt that Parasol had helped them: (1) feel good about themselves; (2) feel happier; (3) more confident; and (4) more independent - *'often'* or *'all of the time'*. *"My self-esteem has improved." – "I'm more open." – "More positive." – "More able to face challenges." – "More comfortable around other people."*

Parents/Carers Feedback	Parents/Carers Feedback
Best thing about your child being involved?	**What would you like to tell our funders?**
"All the amazing opportunities." *"[Name] has recently been made a 'role model' and he has really taken to heart that he is responsible for setting a good example and feels proud to be trusted. He feels very comfortable in a place where his autism doesn't make him stand out and other kids have similar difficult situations."* ***"The inclusion, enabling him to just be treated as himself."*** *"It's a safe inclusive space."* ***"The staff genuinely care."*** *"It has been amazing to watch his development."* ***"It has been an absolute lifeline for [my child] to enjoy life, make friends, and gain new skills."*** *"She is more positive, responsible and confident."*	*"It is really hard to put in to words just how much impact being involved in Parasol has had on our family. The support and opportunities that Parasol has given our children has changed our lives. Being volunteers has given them the confidence to believe in themselves and do things they never would have imagined before."* ***"An amazing organisation."*** *"Yes, for once, instead of talk about supporting SEN children there is a place that truly does that (and supports us parents)."* ***"Parasol is very special, and the fact that both disabled and non-disabled children can attend is amazing."*** *"If Parasol did not exist, people with disabilities would not be able to live a fulfilled life which we all need and deserve."* ***"Parasol has been life changing for all of our family. Thank u."*** *"Parasol has a waiting list, that's how good it is!"*

The Parasol Project CIO

Parasol Adult and Community Services (Northway Community Hub Project)

During 2025-2026, Parasol Disabled Adult and Community Services programme facilitated…

- 116 Lunch Club sessions (Tues/Wed/Thurs) for 111 Northway residents (up to 70 people a session).
- 37 Stay and Play sessions for 198 individuals: 97 parents/carers and 101 toddlers (avg. no. 35 a session).
- 37 Social Action Group sessions (gardening, litter picking etc.) for 54 individuals (avg. no. 11 a session).
- 38 Knit and Natter Club sessions for 14 individuals (avg. no.7 a session).
- 38 Youth Club sessions attended by 59 individuals (avg. no. 20 per session).
- 38 B-Active Wellbeing Club (dance fitness, line dancing or spinning) for 17 individuals (avg. 10 a session).
- 38 B-Creative Club (making/crafting/trading) sessions for 11 individuals (avg. no. 6 a session).
- Produced/delivered six community Newsletters (once every 2-months) to 1,500 Northway residents.
- 171 individuals attended 4 celebration events (Family Day, Children's Day, Volunteers Day, Easter Day).

Our 2023-2026 term-time Community Hub Programme (funded by the National Lottery) was an outstanding success. Overall, year on year we exceeded proposed outputs with the number of participants, *proposed 184* (actual: 248, 303 and 429 in year-3); the number of volunteers, *proposed 30* (actual: 44, 43 and 54 in year-3); number of activities/sessions delivered, *proposed 289* (actual: 291, 357 and 364 in year-3); and we exceeded number of weeks, *proposed 36* (actual: 38 in year-2 and 38 in year-3). The average number of people attending one or more of the weekly Community Hub activities was 155, 176 and 196 in year-3; much higher than we had originally anticipated.

IMPACT: According to the 132 community hub participants / survey responders (in 2026), this project had a positive impact on individuals wellbeing '*often*' or '*all of the time'*. More specifically…

- 86% of survey responders/participants stated that this project **increased their sense of community**;
- 87% of survey responders stated that this project **increased their sense of belonging;**
- 84% stated/ticked that this project **improved their mental wellbeing; and,**
- 86% stated/ticked that this project **improved their emotional wellbeing.**

What is the best thing about this project?	What, if anything has changed about how you feel about yourself and your life?
"Meeting new people." - "The free food." *"The friendly atmosphere." - "Feeling a sense of community."* ***"The positive vibes, the community spirit." - "The sense of belonging."*** *"Getting involved in projects."- "Being able to all eat together as a group."* ***"Excellent toddler stay and play group."*** *"It provides lots of exciting opportunities that help build skills."* ***"Facilities that make everyone feel included."*** *"Bringing community together is important."* ***"The staff. All of the staff are so lovely, they make you feel welcome and you know you will never get judged here!"*** *"The way it brings people together who may not have had the chance to otherwise, and helping to provide a sense of community to the people."* ***"It's very inclusive, making sure everyone feels included. It also provides a wide variety of fun activities, that helps improve people skills."*** *"The support given to [my daughter, who attends the playscheme] throughout the year, I find everyone very inspiring and helpful."* ***"It is a very good service! We feel very lucky to have this so close by. All the toys, sensory room and messy play has been so good. Been able to use this since [my son] was 6 weeks old. It has helped his development."*** *"Creates a place where people of all ages / backgrounds / disabilities can come and feel part of a community. It creates a safe place to be yourself and make friends."*	***"I feel better, happier!"*** *"Less alone."* ***"I feel more part of things."*** *"More connected with the community."* ***"I feel part of the community."*** *"I'm more confident in social situations."* ***"I have more fun."*** *"More confident talking to people."* ***"My social skills have improved."*** *"I can understand people better."* ***"I've met people and made friends."*** *"I'm very happy and it has given me something to look forward to."* ***"It's massively improved my confidence, and it gives me something to do."*** *"I look forward to the food. Food brings people together."* ***"It has given me lots of opportunities I wouldn't have accessed otherwise."*** *"I've been able to connect with more people on Northway Estate."*

The Parasol Project CIO

Details of the Community Hub Achievements

Developing the 'Moving On' provision as part of our community hub programme for disabled adults. This aspect of the project has enabled us to address the much needed (and much requested) development of an inclusive daytime/term time programme. A 'moving on' after college (and before independent living) programme for Parasol disabled beneficiaries (aged 18+). This project provides a place where Parasol adults can come together, gain work experience and develop their potential to thrive (e.g., as volunteer cooks providing 'free' nutritious lunches for 35 to 70 local Northway residents each day, three days a week).

The inclusive nature of the project inspired both disabled and non-disabled people to want to attend. Bringing in a diverse mix of people, especially those who also understand what it means to need a supportive environment, continues to be a good way to drive positive change. Slowly attitudes align, with Northway residents increasingly embodying our inclusive culture (respect for difference, and focusing on people's strengths and abilities rather than their disabilities). Each new person adding to the inclusive environment.

Once in the hub, as trust and connections grew, we invited individuals on to other hub activities. The free accessible activities provided the framework that gave shape and momentum to the project. The Lunch Clubs (providing free food) acted as a welcoming entrance point for engagement. The volunteering aspect of the project brought the building to life, offering opportunities for individuals to gain practical skills, work experiences, a sense of purpose/belonging whilst making a positive difference to their community. And, having two part-time coordinators (one inward facing/direct delivery and one outward facing/community outreach) helped build relationships between and across both communities. Overall, this project supported two differing communities (Northway residents and Parasol beneficiaries) to come together, share experiences, build relationships, have fun, develop a sense of safety, belonging and trust. Residents voiced that our premises serve as a neutral, welcoming hub where they feel safe to participate, confident that their viewpoints are heard and valued.

Attendance and feedback highlighted which activities the community considered valuable. In order of most impactful: (a) the weekly Lunch Clubs. Due to demand, we were able to expand into three weekly Lunch clubs (Tues/Weds/Thurs) instead of the originally proposed one and now (in year-3) we regularly provide a free lunch for 125+ people a week. (b) the weekly Stay and Play Group which had 198 unique attendees by year-3 (97 parents/carers and 101 babies/toddlers). As this project activity has grown, simple ideas matured into for example, the very successful children's free Swap Shop. Within the group, the local NHS health visiting service provide a well-baby clinic once a month (c) the weekly Knit-n-Natter group has organically grown into a peer support and consultation space; (d) the 4 free events (Family Day, Easter Day, Children's Day and the Volunteers Celebration Day) have been well attended, welcomed and much enjoyed.

The volunteering aspect of this project went well. For example, the Steering Group (planned activities, events); the Cooking Team (planned what to eat, prepared, and served the food); the Social Action Team (gardened, litter-picked, delivered the six yearly newsletters); the Editorial Group (consulted with community members, then produced regular newsletters); community members led sessions (crafting, singing); and the remaining volunteers helped activities run smoothly. We consistently encouraged individuals to share their skills and expertise with us, and slowly, over time, community capacity building grew.

Developing positive relationships with local organisations went well. For example, we worked informally alongside another charity OXSRAD (an inclusive sports/recreation centre/charity on a neighbouring estate Marston). They provided us with facilities (e.g., their studio to do Line Dancing and Spinning) at a reduced cost. In exchange, we provided support and advice. Reciprocity, with the added bonus of connecting two neighbouring communities: (OXSRAD in Marston and Parasol in Northway). In 2025, we began a relationship with Northway Community Centre. We hired their space for a weekly dance group and are currently in talks with them about hiring their venue more. Our focus with other organisations is on complimenting, not competing; building relationships, so that we can use our collective knowledge and experience to: support individuals in need; offer activities; and encourage community cohesion.

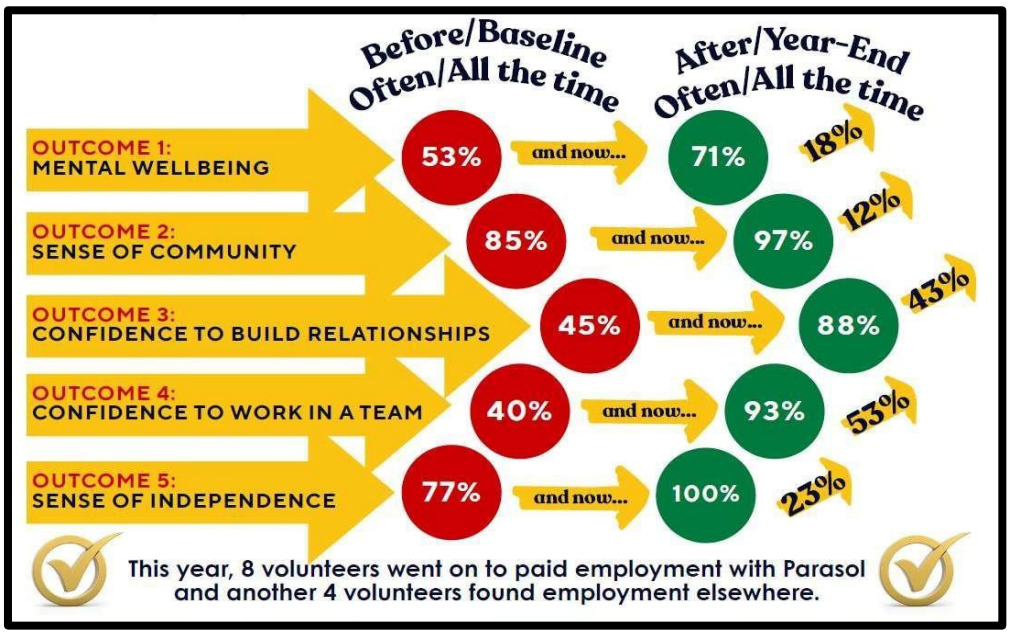
Developing this project has been fruitful. The trustees are delighted to share that we have been awarded continuation funding from the Lottery Reaching Communities Programme (2026-2029). This will provide many things including a dozen weekly community facing activities. This will help us to continue building strong relationships between both communities (Parasol beneficiaries and Northway residents).

The Parasol Project CIO

Parasol Youth Volunteering Service

- This year Parasol trained and supported 87 young people. They completed 6,364 hours of volunteering.
- 23 volunteers attended a 5-day team building outdoors adventure residential at Kilvrough in Wales.
- 31 volunteers completed at least 1 AQA accreditation in volunteering (29 completed at least 2).
- 14 volunteers are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Bronze (3),Silver (8), Gold (3).
- 12 volunteers went on into employment this year: 8 with Parasol and 4 others elsewhere.

The Parasol Youth Volunteering Project was designed specifically to include, involve and inspire those who are rarely afforded volunteering opportunities. The programme puts scaffolding support and opportunities in place to help individuals build their capabilities, confidence, identity, resilience and self-worth. Volunteers receive basic training, undertake AQA Accreditations, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, take part in supervision and importantly, are supported/supervised on any number of Parasol activities they choose to volunteer on.



IMPACT: Our findings show that now, post-intervention (after a year of volunteering), more volunteers feel: optimistic; useful; cheerful; relaxed; loved; confident; interested in others; have energy to spare; deal with problems well; think clearly; feel good about themselves; feel close to others; more able to make up their own minds; and, more interested in new things '*often*' or '*all of the time*.' (see image details).

Volunteers Work Experience: Volunteers also gained invaluable work experience at various locations outside Parasol, including: South Oxford Family Room; the Children's Hospice (Helen and Douglas House); Oxford Food Hub; Oxford United Football Club; OXSRAD Sports Centre; and Oxford Pegasus Theatre.

Volunteers undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Awards: In order to extend opportunities for our young people we became a registered Duke of Edinburgh provider in July 2023. This new element is working well.

Growing Volunteers into Employees: Each year a significant number of our volunteers go on into employment either with Parasol or elsewhere. Effectively producing home grown employees. For example, during 2025-2026, 12 volunteers went on into employment (8 with Parasol and 4 elsewhere).

Volunteers Feedback - What is the best thing about volunteering?
"Feeling like I'm making a difference." - "Helping people gives me a sense of pride."
"I feel more confident, more comfortable in helping others." - "Feeling like I'm part of a community."
"I feel satisfied, feel less stressed, and more occupied, happy, contributing to society in a positive way."
"I feel like part of a community and I'm proud of my role." - "Provided work experience that will help my future."
"I have a role - when my doctor asked if I had a job, I was able to say I have a voluntary work placement. Feels good!"

Summary: With the five key/expected outcomes achieved, and the fact that each year a significant percentage of volunteers go on into employment with Parasol or elsewhere, it could be argued that, learning the skills of working in a team, work experience and volunteering for your community, provides a valuable pathway for disadvantaged/disabled young people to reach their potential, as they move into adulthood.

9. Financial Review

The Trustees now present their report with the financial statements of the Parasol Project CIO ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 October 2019).

During 2025-2026, our income was **£479,607** (£429,500 in 2024/25) and expenditure was **£462,214** (£437,365 in 2024/25). This caused a surplus of **£17,393** for the year.

Reserves at the end of the year to March 31 2026, stood at £109,242 (£91,849 in 2024/25), an increase compared to the previous year.

As a small charity, Parasol depends on raising funds on a year-by-year basis, to provide the vital funding that tops up the regular yearly grant funding received from Oxfordshire County Council of £101,000 (secured until 2027 with a likely extension to 2031) and £10,000 from Oxford City Council. Each year, we are also in receipt of £36,413 from the Healthy Activity and Food (HAF) fund, £85,980 in activity fees, and more recently £145,000 (£435,000 over three-years 2026-2029) from the National Lottery Community Fund. Together, all these funds provide a certain amount of financial stability for the charity (see page-13 for the full Statement of Financial Activities).

10. Future Plans

Holiday activities: Parasol are commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council SHORT BREAKS to continue to provide 80 holiday activity sessions (40 child, 40 teen) up to April 2027 with a likely extension to 2031.

Supported places: We plan to continue accessing the government's Healthy Activities and Food (HAF) programme in order to provide free places to families in receipt of free school meals during Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays.

Efficiency: In order to manage our increased output, we are working to automate systems wherever possible to increase efficiency, maintain high standards and reduce costs wherever possible.

Fundraising: We are continuing to raise funds towards creating a multimedia space by installing a ceiling mounted projector and screen at our Playbase venue. We are also exploring the possibility of funding a summer house in the garden to provide a breakout space during holiday activities and additional office space during term time.

Community facing activities: Our National Lottery funding for our COMMUNITY HUB project came to an end (Sept 2023-August 2026). It was an extremely successful project (see pages 6 & 7 for details). We are delighted to share that we have been awarded three-year continuation funding (2026-2029). Thus, from Sept 2026 we will be working on phase-2 of this project which is in two parts. Part-1 we will provide 448 'free' activities/events, each year for three-years (18 different elements: 12 weekly activities; 1 monthly steering group; 4 yearly events; and the 18th element will continue to be the volunteering arm of this project). Importantly, this project enables us to support disabled adults that have graduated through our Teen service. It allows Parasol to continue developing opportunities for sustainability via our 'Moving On' from college and before independent living day service three days a week. This is an invaluable service as it provides opportunities for individuals to gain work experience and life skills as they volunteer on the community hub programme.

Part-2 is around organisational development. From Sept 2026, this new grant will allow us to address several weaknesses in our organisation, to make our charity fit-for-purpose. This includes: (a) EVOLVING our back-office infrastructure as it is outdated and inefficient; (b) ENGAGING new personnel with specific skillsets (e.g., HR & Admin person and a Director of Development). Once our back-office infrastructure is upgraded and new personnel are in place, we will: (c) EXPAND the places/spaces we deliver this programme. We will also (d) increase promotion (to let more people learn about and participate in this project) and be more targeted in our outreach (to find those most in need and encourage participation). All these actions will help us become a more efficient and effective Community Hub for Northway.

11. Reserves

The Charity's total reserves at March 31 2026 were £109,242 (£91,849 in 2024/25). Of these reserves, £104,203 (£73,800 in 2024/25) are restricted. These funds as set out in Note 14 are only available for specific purposes. £5,039 (£18,049 in 2024/2025) are unrestricted funds and are available to be used to support any aspect of the Charity's total expenditure. This is an overall increase in reserves compared to last year. It is vital that we continue to identify further funding for the ongoing financial health of the Charity next year.

The Trustees continue to be concerned about reserves and are well aware that the charity remains vulnerable to any changes in the availability of funding to small entities such as The Parasol Project. The Trustees have set a target of £100,000 of unrestricted reserves (this represents approximately 6 months running costs). As can be seen from the financial outcomes for this year, to March 31 2026, an increase in expenses can have an impact on reserves. This is challenging for Parasol as a large proportion of its expenditure relates to staffing which is vital for projects to run.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the financial reports produced by the Operations Manager during the year ahead. We will continue to look for more sources of longer-term funding to ensure that the Charity can boost its core funding and that the level of the reserves can be rebuilt to one that provides the Executive Director and his staff team with security in making day to day financial decisions. The Trustees continue to be aware of the Charity Commissioners' guidance in "Charity Reserves: Building Resilience" and indeed this guidance is what underlies their goal of establishing unrestricted reserves of £100,000.

The trustees recognise that unrestricted reserves at the year-end of £5,039 were below their target level. The reduction from £18,049 in the previous year reflects a deliberate decision to utilise unrestricted resources to support fundraising and development activities associated with securing major grant funding for the charity's services. This investment in the charity's future sustainability contributed to the successful award of significant grant funding, increasing total funds to £109,242 at the year end. The trustees continue to monitor reserves closely and aim to rebuild unrestricted reserves over the coming years.

12. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Parasol Project CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation registered by the Charity Commission and governed by a constitution dated March 24 2020. Anyone over the age of 18 years old and corporate bodies may become members of the charity. Stakeholders are welcome to request a copy of the constitution from the Executive Director.

Appointment of New Trustees

The Board seeks to widen its membership and at the same time broaden the skills set that the Board has to draw upon. Among others, new Trustees with skills in fundraising, charity law and human resources would be particularly welcome. Potential Trustees are very welcome to have an informal conversation with the Chair of Trustees and to attend a trustees meeting to provide insight into the role.

13. Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

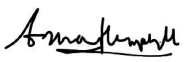
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on: 19th October 2026 and signed on behalf by:



Anna Hemphill – Trustee (Chair)

The Parasol Project CIO

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parasol Project CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended March 31 2026 which are set out on pages 13 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J L Bull FCA
Chartered Accountant
Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford OX1 3LE

Date:

The Parasol Project CIO

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted 2026 £	Total Funds 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Income							
Donations and Legacies	2	53,672	335,831	389,503	6,311	343,717	350,028
Charitable Activities	3	89,386	-	89,386	76,672	-	76,672
Investments	4	718	-	718	2,800	-	2,800
Other					-	-	-
Total		143,776	335,831	479,607	85,783	343,717	429,500
Expenditure							
Cost of Raising Funds	6	13,357	-	13,357	12,878	1,100	13,978
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	7 & 8	143,429	305,428	448,857	81,832	341,555	423,387
Total		156,786	305,428	462,214	94,710	342,655	437,365
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(13,010)	30,403	17,393	(8,927)	1,062	(7,865)
Transfer Between Funds					-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(13,010)	30,403	17,393	(8,927)	1,062	(7,865)
Reconciliation of Funds:							
Total Funds Brought Forward	14 & 15	18,049	73,800	91,849	26,976	72,738	99,714
Total Funds Carried Forward	14 & 15	5,039	104,203	109,242	18,049	73,800	91,849

The Parasol Project CIO

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	3,223	4,082
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	12	7,213	8,671
Funds on Deposit		11,907	11,773
Cash at Bank and in Hand		99,657	79,660
		118,777	100,104
Less: Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within a year	13	(12,758)	(12,337)
Net Current Assets		106,019	87,767
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		109,242	91,849
Net Assets		109,242	91,849
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted Income Funds	14	104,203	73,800
Unrestricted Income Funds	15	5,039	18,049
		109,242	91,849

The financial statements on pages 13 to 23 were approved by the Trustees on 19th October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Anna Hemphill

Chair of the Board

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2026

1. Accounting Policies

a. Accounting Basis

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on October 2019 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Parasol Project meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b. Going Concern

At the balance sheet date, the charity held net unrestricted funds of £5,039, with total net funds of £109,242, the majority of which were restricted and therefore not available for general expenditure.

During the year, the charity's activities were focused on securing a significant grant award to support its future charitable objectives. As a consequence, management and fundraising resources were directed towards this process and a number of the charity's usual unrestricted fundraising activities were not undertaken during the year. This resulted in a reduction in unrestricted reserves at the year end.

As a result of their efforts, the charity successfully secured a substantial multi-year restricted grant. Since the year end the charity has also received an unrestricted donation of £50,000. The trustees expect fundraising activity to return to more normal levels during 2026/27, resulting in an improved level of unrestricted income to support the charity's ongoing operations.

In making their assessment of the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, the trustees have considered the current financial position, the successful outcome of recent funding applications, the receipt of significant unrestricted funds after the year end and the planned resumption of normal fundraising activities. Based on this assessment, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in its activities for the foreseeable future and, accordingly, continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

c. Depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and valued at historical cost. From April 2019 the cost of fixed assets are being written off using the straight line method of depreciation, a change from the previously utilised reducing balance method. The rates of depreciation are:

Office equipment and fittings	25% per annum
Plant and Machinery	25% per annum
Sensory Room Equipment	25% per annum
Leasehold Improvements	10% per annum

d. Income Recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.
Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has been notified of both the amount and settlement date.
Legacies are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.
Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be reliably measured by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank or deposit taking institution.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2026

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

e. Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 7.

f. Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

g. Cost of Raising Funds

The cost of generating funds consists of staff costs, subscriptions to on-line fundraising sites, fundraising advertising and associated costs.

h. Charitable Activities

The cost of charitable activities includes governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 8.

i. Volunteer Time

The value of services donated by volunteers is not reflected in the accounts.

j. Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity. It is not, therefore, liable for tax on income derived from its charitable activities.

k. Presentational currency and rounding

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling (£), which is the functional and presentation currency of the charity. Amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

l. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Income Funds

Unrestricted Funds are funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. These comprise a general fund plus designated funds set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees to provide for planned projects and other known contingencies.

Restricted Income Funds

These are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor. Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

m. Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees.

2. Donations and Legacies

	2026 £	2025 £
Local Authority Grants	107,989	119,363
Other Grants (£1,000 and over)	279,131	226,399
Small Grants and Donations (Including Gift Aid)	2,383	4,266
Total	389,503	350,028

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2026

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Fees received	89,386	-	89,386	76,672
	89,386	-	89,386	76,672

4. Investment Income

The Charity's investment income of £718 (2025 - £2,800) arises from bank interest received of £210 and £508 room hire

5. Net Incoming Resources

This is stated after charging:

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation	859	859
Independent Examiner's Fees:		
Independent examination	2,330	2,220
Accountancy fees	1,258	1,194
Additional assistance in prior year	2,216	4,148

6. Cost of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Staff	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Admin Fees	221	-	221	225
Fundraising	13,136	-	13,136	13,753
	13,357	-	13,357	13,978

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2026

7. Analysis of Governance and Support Costs

	General Support	Governance	Total	Basis of Apportionment
	£	£	£	
Equipment and Other Asset Costs	-	-	-	
Building and Accommodation Costs	6,223	-	6,223	Allocated as a %
Office Costs	5,104	-	5,104	Based on Project
Salaries, Teacher Fees & Consultants	112,121	-	112,121	Salary Costs
Other Staff Costs	9,140	-	9,140	
Independent Examination and Accountancy Fees	-	5,804	5,804	Governance
Bad debts	2,054	-	2,054	
	134,642	5,804	140,446	

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2026

8. Charitable Expenditure Analysis

	Total	Choice Days	Residential	Playbase	Volunteer Project	Youth Group	Child Term	Adult Parasol	Governance	Training	Community	Building
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salary Costs	**215,933**	46,427	8,300	66,454	28,038	10,880	274	48,158	-	-	5,833	1,569
Choice Day Expenses	**47,916**	36,901	11,015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult Parasol Expenses	**18,175**	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,175	-	-	-	-
Playbase Expenses	**5,658**	-	-	5,658	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teen Youth Group Expenses	**4,751**	-	-	-	-	4,751	-	-	-	-	-	-
Volunteer Project	**1,136**	-	-	-	1,136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Project	**4,900**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,900	-
Building	**9,942**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,942
Independent Examination	**5,804**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,804	-	-	-
Support costs	**134,642**	28,614	5,115	40,957	17,280	6,706	169	29,681	-	1,558	3,595	967
Year ended 2026	**448,857**	111,942	24,430	113,069	46,454	22,337	443	96,014	5,804	1,558	14,328	12,478
Year ended 2025	**423,387**	119,212	10,849	72,824	46,325	20,339	871	96,474	7,562	1,568	11,884	35,579

9. Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Staff	-	-	-	-
Independent Examiner's Fee	2,330	-	2,330	2,220
Accountancy Fee	1,258		1,258	1,194
Additional assistance in prior year	2,216	-	2,216	4,148
	5,804	-	5,804	7,562

10. Total Resources Expended

	Staff Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Charitable Activities	328,047	120,810	448,857	423,387
Cost of Generating Funds	-	13,357	13,357	13,978
	328,047	134,166	462,214	437,365

Staff Costs Comprise:

	2026 £	2025 £
Salaries Staff	304,917	256,822
Social Security Costs	17,122	8,392
Pension Costs	6,008	3,958
	328,047	269,172

The average number of staff during the period was 5 (2025 - 5) full time. 26 (2025 - 56) part time and sessional workers have supported the charity's holiday activities and weekly youth and dance groups.

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum (2025 - no more than £60,000).

The total remuneration of the key management personnel - the Executive Director - including employer's National Insurance and Pension contributions was £37,823 (2025 - £44,026).

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2026

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Improvements	Sensory Rm Equipment	Plant and Machinery	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
As at April 1 2025	8,592	16,609	15,134	2,060	42,395
Additions in the Year	-	-	-	-	-
As at March 31 2026	8,592	16,609	15,134	2,060	42,395
Depreciation					
As at April 1 2025	4,510	16,609	15,134	2,060	38,313
Provision in the Year	859	-	-	-	859
As at March 31 2026	5,369	16,609	15,134	2060	39,172
Net Book Value at 31 March 2026	3,223	-	-	-	3,223
Net Book Value at 31 March 2025	4,082	-	-	-	4,082

12. Debtors and Prepayments

	2026	2025
	£	£
Activity Fees Receivable	7,213	8,671
	7,213	8,671

13. Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Tax, National Ins & Pensions	5,540	3,658
Independent Examiner's Fees	4,489	3,925
Accruals and Accounts Payable	2,729	4,754
	12,758	12,337

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2026

14. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2025	Income in the Year	Expenditure in the Year	Transfers	Balance at March 31 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Volunteer Project	41,517	46,583	(56,059)	-	32,041
Building and Sensory Room	-	1,768	(1,768)	-	-
Holiday Activities	28,043	150,303	(153,928)	-	24,418
Teenage Services	-	29,214	(15,535)	-	13,679
Adult Services	-	71,039	(66,092)	-	4,947
Northway Community Fund	4,240	36,924	(12,046)	-	29,118
	73,800	335,831	(305,428)	-	104,203

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income in the Year	Expenditure in the Year	Transfers	Balance at March 31 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Volunteer Project	29,375	42,526	(30,384)	-	41,517
Building and Sensory Room	8,202	1,574	(24,036)	14,260	-
Holiday Activities	750	173,667	(146,374)	-	28,043
Teenage Services	-	10,280	(10,280)	-	-
Adult Services	-	5,637	(66,167)	60,530	-
Northway Community Fund	34,411	110,033	(65,414)	(74,790)	4,240
	72,738	343,717	(342,655)	-	73,800

Represented by:

	Fixed Assets £	Cash and deposits £	Total £
Balance at March 31 2026	3,223	100,980	104,203
Balance at March 31 2025	4,082	69,718	73,800

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2026

Unrestricted Income Funds

15.

	2026	2025
	£	£
Balance at April 1 2025	18,049	26,976
Incoming Resources	143,776	85,783
Expenditure	(156,786)	(94,710)
Balances at March 31 2026	5,039	18,049
Represented by:		
Current Assets	17,797	30,386
Creditors and Deferred Income	(12,758)	(12,337)
	5,039	18,049

16. Financial Commitments

As at 31 March 2026 (2025 - Nil) there are no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases.

17. Trustee's Remuneration

No Trustee (2025 - Nil) received or waived any emoluments during the year.

No out of pocket expenses (2025 - Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in the year.

No related party transactions outside the course of normal business occurred in the year (2025 – Nil).