together for short lives

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements 2025/26



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General information

Board of Trustees

Andrew Heywood Hughes, Chair (appointed 1 April 2025)
Jo Laddie (resigned 31 May 2026)
Jeremy Evans
Lisa Kauffman (resigned 9 May 2025)
Mark Smith
Rob Lightfoot
Sarah Lorking, Treasurer
Stephanie Nimmo (resigned 17 June 2025)
Sue Hogg (resigned 31 May 2026)
Tracy Tait (resigned 17 June 2025)
Kirsty Murra (appointed 1 October 2025)
Sarah Morgan (appointed 1 October 2025)
Brad Mclean (appointed 1 October 2025)
Lynda Brook (appointed 23 April 2026)

Company registered number

07783702

Charity registered numbers

1144022 (Eng & Wales) SCO44139 (Scotland)

Registered office

Brunswick Court, Brunswick Square, Bristol, England, BS2 8PE

Chief Executive Officer

Nick Carroll

Independent auditor

PKF Francis Clark, Peninsula Park, Rydon Lane, Exeter, EX2 7XE

Bankers

NatWest Plc, 32 Corn Street, Bristol, BS99 7UG CCLA,

Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

Investment managers

Sarasin & Partners LLP, Juxon House, 100 St Paul's Churchyard, London, EC4M 8BU

Company Secretary

Nick Carroll

Chair and Chief Executive's Introduction & welcome



Welcome to Together for Short Lives' Annual Report for 2025/26. This has been a year of challenge, change and important progress for children living with serious illness, their families and the services that support them.

Every child deserves many moments of happiness together with their loved ones. But for many families who need palliative care, the system is falling short, leaving parents and siblings feeling isolated and alone, and children missing out on life-changing support.

Too many families of children with serious illnesses feel isolated and unsupported, with inequitable access to emotional, practical, financial and palliative care services across the UK. A postcode lottery in services, combined with disparities linked to ethnicity, socio-economic background and transition to adult services, means many families are unable to access the care they need. Without action, these inequalities will continue to worsen health and wellbeing outcomes for children and their families.

The quality and sustainability of children's palliative care are undermined by workforce shortages, inconsistent training, a lack of national standards, and limited use of data and evidence. At the same time, significant funding gaps, poor population data and inconsistent reporting make it difficult for NHS bodies and providers to plan and deliver services effectively. As demand and complexity increase, these challenges threaten the long-term availability and reliability of care for families who depend on it.

In 2025/26, our work remained focused on changing that reality: supporting families directly, uniting professionals and services across the UK, and campaigning for the funding, accountability and leadership needed to make care more equitable and sustainable.

During the year, our Family Support Hub and programmes such as Kentown, the Butterfly Fund and our energy support partnerships continued to provide practical, emotional and financial help to families facing some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. We also strengthened the professional networks, learning opportunities and evidence base that help the children's palliative care workforce provide the best possible support.

Our UK-wide conference, webinars, communities of practice and work on updated Categories of Children's Palliative Care all contributed to a more connected, confident and resilient sector.



We are proud that our campaigning helped keep children's palliative care high on the political agenda. Through evidence, family voices and the insight of our members, we made the case for urgent action on funding, workforce, commissioning and accountability. The commitment to maintain and increase ring-fenced NHS funding for children's hospices in England from 2026/27 is a significant step forward, and one we will work hard to ensure delivers real and lasting benefit for children and families.

This year was also one of organisational transition. Following a restructure in 2024/25, we have continued to focus on financial sustainability, careful stewardship of resources and the development of a refreshed strategy for the period 2026-2028. We are determined to build a stronger Together for Short Lives: one that is ambitious for children and families, clear about where we can have most impact, and able to work in deep partnership with families, members, funders, policymakers and supporters. With that in mind, one of our key priorities is to create a safe, supportive and inclusive culture that prioritises our staff's wellbeing and enables them to do their best work – this is central to delivering our vision.

None of this work would be possible without the commitment of our staff, trustees, volunteers, members, supporters, corporate partners, trusts, foundations and philanthropists. Most importantly, we thank the families who share their experiences with us, often at moments of profound difficulty, so that together we can drive change.

As we look ahead, our purpose is unchanged: to ensure every child, and their family, has high quality children's palliative and end of life care, when and where they need it. We are grateful to all who stand with us in that mission.

Chair of Trustees
Andrew Heywood Hughes

Chief Executive
Nick Carroll

What we did, what changed & why it matters

Every £1 entrusted to Together for Short Lives helped deliver practical support for families, strengthen children's palliative care services and influence policy for future generations.

Supporting families

1,135 families supported	Helping families navigate some of the most difficult periods of their lives through practical support, improved access to services and greater confidence to cope with the future.
940 families receiving practical assistance	Reducing immediate financial pressures and enabling families to focus on what mattered most – caring for their child.
3,000 families receiving energy support	Helping families manage rising energy costs and improving household resilience for children with complex health needs.
463 Butterfly Fund grants awarded	Providing immediate financial support so bereaved families could focus on remembering their child rather than worrying about money.

Uniting our sector

£821K distributed to children's hospices	Strengthening frontline services and helping ensure sustainable support for children and families across the UK.
9,000+ professional resource downloads	Equipping professionals with evidence, guidance and practical tools to deliver more consistent, high quality children's palliative care.
500+ webinar attendees	Building a more confident, skilled and connected workforce through shared learning and professional development.

Creating lasting change

228 political actions secured	Securing £80m NHS funding over three years for children's hospices in England and a commitment to a new national palliative care framework.
1,723 media mentions	Raising awareness of children's palliative care and amplifying the voices of children and families across the UK.
£4.6m income generated	Enabling continued investment in direct family support, sector leadership and national influencing work.
£511K surplus	Strengthening financial resilience and providing a stronger platform for long-term impact.



Our vision & purpose

Together for Short Lives' purpose is to ensure every child, and their family, has high quality children's palliative and end of life care, when and where they need it.

We are the leading UK-wide charity for children living with serious illness, their families and the services that provide them with palliative care.

Every child deserves many moments of happiness together with their loved ones. But for many families who need palliative care, the system is falling short, leaving parents and siblings feeling isolated and alone, and children missing out on life-changing support.

That's why we're here – to make sure they can access high quality children's palliative care, when and where they need it. Step by step, hand in hand, day by day, so that every family can live as well as possible as they navigate their child's life, death, bereavement and beyond.

Together we support families to live their lives, through the ups and downs, offering practical, emotional and financial help. We listen, we support and, when they're ready, we connect them to the right services and our incredible community – people who really get what they're going through.

Together we unite our sector by prioritising and sharing crucial research, defining the children who could benefit from palliative care and how they can be supported now. We lead on guidance, service models and standards and help professionals to meet, learn and share. We raise vital funds for children's hospice and palliative care services.

Together we campaign to make sure that children with serious illness and their families get the care and support they need. We hear what families and services tell us, rally the community and give people a voice. And where the system falls short, we demand change.

Supporting, uniting, campaigning, together.

We are Together for Short Lives.

How we have sought to create change

The challenges facing children and families and those who support them are complex. To help address them, Together for Short Lives worked during 2025/26 to have impact at three levels – with individual families, with services and professionals delivering care and with the wider health and care system.

System change	**Policy decision makers**	Working with leaders in governments, the health service, commissioning bodies and delivery organisations to constantly improve the funding, quality, consistency and co-ordination of children's palliative care.
	Regional Co-ordination	Facilitating cooperation between different sectors and organisations to deliver a more integrated experience of palliative care for children and their families.
Improved delivery	**Organisational development**	Supporting providers of children's palliative care to ensure they have the funding, resources and expertise needed to provide a sustainable, consistent, high quality service.
	Workforce development	Working with the professional workforce delivering children's palliative care, to ensure they have the network, training, resources, confidence and skills they need to provide the best possible care.
Direct support	**Children with serious illness and their families**	Providing information and support directly to families of children with serious illness, particularly those who are unable to access that support.

Our values

1. We put children and families at the heart of everything we do.

2. We are ambitious about improving the lives of children and families and stand up for what we believe in.

3. We are collaborative and bring people together to deliver the biggest impact.

4. We are inclusive and open to new and different views, approaches and experiences

Our strategic priorities

Our strategy for the period 2023-2026 set out a 10-year challenge. When we developed it, we felt that children and families and those who support them deserved a bold ambition and roadmap for change. For too long, their needs had been overlooked by those planning and developing health and care policy, which has led to this inconsistency. They were big challenges, and they needed big and bold solutions.

The world had been changing at a rapid rate, exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, which is having significant long-term impacts on wellbeing, the health and care system and the financial landscape. To reflect this changing world, our strategy set 10-year strategic ambitions, setting out our vision for how we wanted the world to look different for children and families by 2033.

We prioritised our shorter-term objectives in a series of 2-3 year phases, evaluating and refining them annually to ensure we continued to progress towards our 10-year strategic ambitions. We felt that this would enable us to be an agile organisation which can develop longer-term impactful programmes but adapt more flexibly to the changing environment.

To steer our work over the 10-year period, we set three strategic ambitions to make sure more children and families were able to get the support they need:

1. No family faces the journey alone – to increase reach so that more children and families can **ACCESS** 24/7 palliative care.

2. The best care and support – to improve the **QUALITY** of palliative care so families have the best support.

3. Support today, tomorrow and every day – to strengthen the **SUSTAINABILITY** of children's palliative care so families can rely on support.

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During 2025/26 our operational priorities were as follows:

- Provide practical, emotional and financial help to families facing some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable through our Family Support Hub and programmes including Kentown, the Butterfly Fund and our energy support partnerships.

- Strengthen the professional networks, learning opportunities and evidence base that help the children's palliative care workforce provide the best possible support.

- Hold our UK-wide conference, webinars, communities of practice and work on updated Categories of Children's Palliative Care to bring about a more connected, confident and resilient sector.

- Campaign to help keep children's palliative care high on the political agenda, including a commitment to maintain and increase ring-fenced NHS funding for children's hospices in England from 2026/27.

- Focus on financial sustainability, careful stewardship of resources and the development of a refreshed strategy for the period 2026-2028.

2025/26 marked the final year of the first three-year phase of our strategy. In April 2026, we published our new, refreshed strategy, which reflects the work we have done to adapt and shape Together for Short Lives for our next strategic cycle, the period 2026-2028.

In doing so, we have listened to families of children living with serious illness and the professionals and services who provide them with palliative care, so we can focus on what matters most to them.

While our three strategic ambitions remain unchanged, our refreshed strategy sets out a series of big, bold solutions to achieve them. We set these out in more detail in our Plans for Future Periods.





Together we support

We're here to provide families with practical, emotional and financial support, and simple, clear information that families and professionals can trust.

Because when a child is seriously ill, we know families can feel isolated and worried. Professionals need support to help them overcome the day-to-day challenges they face. Together, we listen and help families to:

- feel heard and empowered
- understand what's going on, what might happen and the choices they have
- find out what services are available and how to contact them
- connect with other families who are going through similar things
- have their say in improving services or speaking up when something doesn't feel right.

Together, we support professionals to get families the practical and financial help they need.

We have a skilled and experienced team that supports thousands of families and professionals every year. We're always honest and clear about what we can offer and how we can help.

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Because we know families and professionals are managing a lot, we've made it easy to get in touch.

They can call our friendly helpline team on **0808 8088 100**

drop us an email at **helpline@togetherforshortlives.org.uk**

or visit our Family Support Hub at **togetherforshortlives.org.uk/get-support**

Through our Family Support Hub and Kentown programmes, we continued to provide direct support to families across the UK, particularly those who may otherwise struggle to access help. Continued growth in demand, increasing complexity of family need and ongoing financial pressures remain significant challenges. These factors have reinforced the importance of developing sustainable funding models, improving triage and referral processes, and strengthening partnerships to keep support accessible and responsive.

During the year, the Family Support Hub supported 1,335 families facing a wide range of challenges, including financial hardship, emotional distress, housing concerns, energy insecurity, bereavement, and difficulties navigating complex health and care systems. Through partnerships and targeted programmes, we were able to provide practical assistance to 940 of those families, making an immediate difference to their daily lives whilst helping to improve longer-term wellbeing and resilience.

Continued growth in demand, increasing complexity of family need and ongoing financial pressures remain significant challenges. These factors have reinforced the importance of developing sustainable funding models, improving triage and referral processes, and strengthening partnerships to ensure support remains accessible and responsive.

Throughout the year, the Family Support Hub continued to raise awareness of the support available to families by attending over 50 national and local events. This included exhibiting at 'Kidz to Adultz' events, attending family events at children's hospices including Derian House and Helen & Douglas House, and supporting Christmas present-giving events alongside Children's Community Nursing teams in Birmingham.

The Family Support Hub also hosted online events for parents and local professionals, attracting more than 100 attendees. These events provided valuable opportunities to meet families directly, listen to their experiences, identify unmet needs, and ensure they were aware of the practical, emotional and financial support available through Together for Short Lives and our partners.

By engaging with families in these settings, the Family Support Hub was able to reach families who may not otherwise have been

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aware of the help available to them. This outreach has helped strengthen referral pathways, increased awareness of the Family Support Hub, and improved access to support for families caring for children with life-shortening conditions, life-threatening conditions and severe medical complexity. It has also provided valuable insight into the challenges families face, helping to inform future service development, partnerships and national influencing work.

Recognising the importance of peer support, we delivered monthly virtual family coffee mornings, providing opportunities for families to connect with others facing similar experiences. Sessions included discussions on topics identified by families, including Personal Independence Payment (PIP) applications, transition to adult services, and navigating complex systems of support. These sessions helped reduce isolation, build confidence and foster supportive peer networks.

Our partnership with SGN and Cadent continued to address the significant impact of energy costs on families caring for children with complex health needs. Through this programme, almost 3,000 families received energy support, including advice, heated blankets, fuel vouchers, support with reducing energy costs, debt management advice, assistance with tariff reviews and Priority Services Register applications. Family Support Hub staff also completed training with the National Energy Action (NEA), increasing their confidence and capability in identifying and responding to energy-related hardship.

We continued our partnership with Make-A-Wish UK, referring 43 families to access wishes and memory-making opportunities. These experiences provide children and families with moments of joy, connection and lasting memories during exceptionally difficult circumstances.

The Butterfly Fund provides practical financial support to families following the death of a child, helping to ease some of the immediate financial pressures they may face during an incredibly difficult time.

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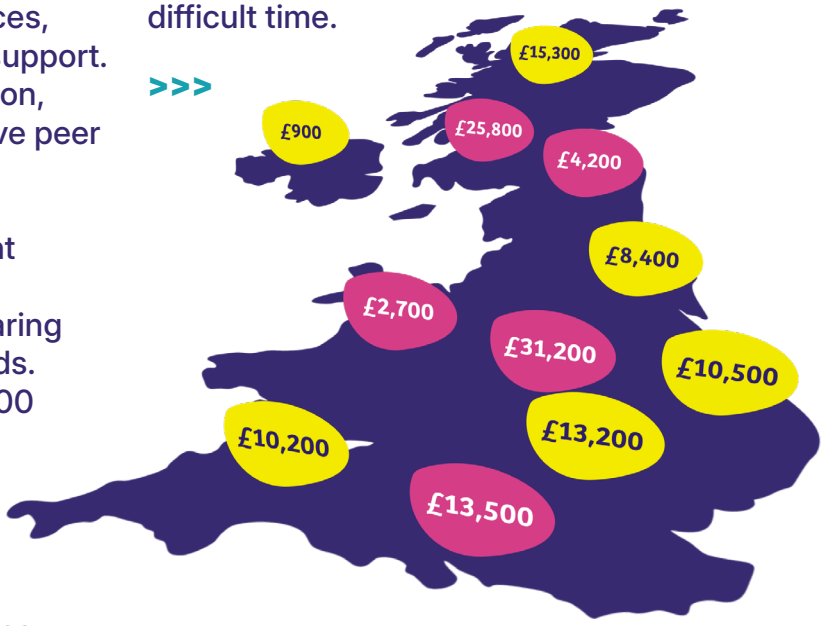

Our Butterfly Fund grants were allocated to families in regions across the UK

During the year, 463 grants were awarded through the fund, supporting families with a range of costs including funeral expenses, memorial items, flowers, travel, and other practical needs associated with bereavement. We have seen an increase in requests for support through the Butterfly Fund over the past year, reflecting both rising financial pressures and the growing number of families seeking help following the death of their child.

While no grant can remove the pain of bereavement, the fund enables families to focus on remembering and honouring their child without the added burden of immediate financial worry.

The pioneering 'Kentown Children's Palliative Care Programme' has filled a critical gap in care and support for children with serious illness and their families, an independent evaluation has found.

The pilot, a collaboration between Together for Short Lives, Rainbow Trust Children's Charity and NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, has brought Nurses, Family Support Workers and Family Service Co-ordinators together to offer a new, innovative and complementary package of clinical, social, emotional and practical support. The care has been delivered in the home and in the community and adapted to meet the needs of each child and family.

This model, the first of its kind across the UK, was funded by The Kentown Wizard Foundation. The three-year pilot ran from 2022 until 2025 in response to families experiencing fragmented care, inconsistent access, and a lack of clear pathways to support.

The evaluation, conducted by Edge Hill University and led by Dr. Kate Knighting, found:

- Holistic impact: over 250 families were referred to the programme, with a third benefiting from integrated nursing, family support, and coordination.

- Deep emotional connection: Families felt genuinely seen and heard through relationship-based care, describing the support as having transformed their ability to navigate complex systems.

- Inclusive and accessible: The programme reached families who had not previously accessed specialist children's palliative care, offering a vital alternative route that embraced the whole family.

One parent, Clara, told us:

"Going through what we went through is hard, we really struggled. We were emotionally drained, mentally exhausted. Before we were referred into the programme, the support we received was mainly medical.

"To have Family Support Worker Brodie, from Rainbow Trust, who is not there in a medical capacity, who is there to support us in any way we need is amazing. Her support and the financial help from Together for Short Lives' Family Support Hub has been incredible. Without this support I would never have got through it."

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Following the success of the first programme, Kentown Support is funding Together for Short Lives and Rainbow Trust Children's Charity to continue delivering a package of integrated community children's palliative care across Lancashire and South Cumbria for a further two years.

Together for Short Lives' Kentown team received 72 new referrals during 2025/26 and maintaining an active caseload of 220 families open to Family Service coordination.

Since September 2025, family service coordinators have used a request form to improve tracking, allocation and response to family support requests. Between September 2025 and 31 March 2026, the team received 197 requests.

Building on learning from the pilot programme, significant preparatory work was undertaken to support the launch of Kentown 2 in Greater Manchester. This has included developing partnerships with local charities, healthcare providers and community organisations to ensure families can access coordinated support tailored to their individual needs.

Together we support

1 The problem

Every child deserves many moments of happiness together with their loved ones. But for many families who need palliative care, the system is falling short. Too many feel isolated and abandoned after their child is diagnosed, lack emotional, practical and financial support, and cannot easily access information and guidance.

2 Why this matters

Without support, children living with a serious illness and their families are less likely to have an opportunity to live as well as they possibly can.

3 How we have helped

Together, we have listened and helped families to:

- **feel heard and empowered.**
- **understand what's going on, what might happen and the choices they have.**
- **find out what services are available and how to contact them.**
- **connect with other families who are going through similar things.**
- **have their say in improving services or speaking up when something doesn't feel right.**

4 What we have done

1,335 families supported

3,000 families received energy support

100+ people attended online and in-person events

463 grants through our Butterfly Fund

50+ events attended

5 Our impact on families' daily lives

- **Improved longer-term wellbeing and resilience.**
- **Less isolation.**
- **More confidence.**
- **Supportive peer networks fostered.**
- **Families met directly, heard and unmet needs identified.**

Together we unite

We are the champion of children's palliative care, working closely with services and professionals across the UK to improve support and drive positive change. Because we know supporting children with serious illness and their families can be rewarding *and* challenging.

Together, we:

- help professionals identify the families who could benefit from children's palliative care
- set the gold standard for children's palliative care.
- provide professionals with the information, resources, research, data and best practice they need.
- connect them with other professionals, services and networks.
- help them to help families with the challenges they face.
- support them in their role and their career.

We are ambitious about what's possible. Our strength lies in our network and the partnerships we have forged with key national bodies across the UK.

Improving the lives of children with serious illness and their families requires a confident, skilled and connected workforce. Through professional education, knowledge sharing, communities of practice and sector leadership, we continued to bring professionals together to improve care and reduce variation in practice across children's palliative care. >>>





Throughout the year, we actively participated in children's palliative care network meetings across the UK, sharing learning, identifying emerging challenges and promoting collaboration between services. These relationships continue to strengthen the collective voice of the sector and support the development of more consistent approaches to care.

We have called on the UK Government to organise children's palliative care services in England into a series of regional operational delivery networks (ODNs) to make the most of the resources we currently have within the sector.

Our webinar programmes provided opportunities for professionals to explore important and often under-discussed topics within children's palliative care. During the year, over 500 professionals registered and attended webinar sessions covering subjects including supporting looked-after children with palliative care needs, cultural barriers and access to support, and spirituality within children's palliative care. By creating safe spaces for discussion and reflection, these sessions helped increase knowledge, confidence and awareness of issues affecting children and families from diverse backgrounds.

The Children's Palliative Care Educators Forum continued to grow as a national community of practice, bringing together educators from across the sector to share resources, expertise and innovation. Alongside regular forum meetings, members actively engaged through a dedicated Teams community, supporting collaboration throughout the year. Similarly, the Leaders of Care Forum and Network Leads meetings provided opportunities for strategic discussion, shared problem-solving and collective leadership across children's palliative care services.

A key highlight of the year was our UK-wide conference, 'Built to Last: Towards a Strong, Sustainable Future', held in Manchester in May 2025. Over two days, more than 300 professionals from across children's palliative care, healthcare, education, research, policy and the voluntary sector came together to explore the future of children's palliative care and how we can build a more sustainable, equitable and resilient system for children and families.

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Alex Mancini, National Neonatal Bereavement Lead, speaking at our conference in 2025

The conference featured a wide range of plenary sessions, workshops, research presentations and practical learning opportunities, covering topics including service sustainability, equity of access, workforce development, family experiences, innovation and system transformation. The event provided a valuable opportunity for professionals to share learning, showcase emerging research, strengthen networks and collectively consider the future direction of children's palliative care. The conference contributed directly to our aim of supporting a skilled, connected and confident workforce, while helping to shape conversations about the future sustainability and development of children's palliative care services across the UK.

Feedback from delegates highlighted the value of bringing together such a diverse range of professionals and perspectives.

> "I found it inspiring, educational and amazing. I really enjoyed it and felt it reignited a flame within my own career path to ensure better and do better."

We also continued to invest in accessible digital learning resources. Our Children's Palliative Care: Learning to Communicate with Families e-learning module supports professionals to develop confidence and skills in having sensitive conversations with children, young people and families.

The module explores communication

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across the illness journey, including uncertainty, difficult conversations and family-centred care. During the year, 298 professionals accessed the module, helping to strengthen communication skills across a range of settings and disciplines.

We have continued to identify, highlight and campaign on gaps in the skills, experience and size of the children's palliative care workforce. We have worked with politicians, policymakers and professional bodies to try to resolve them. During the first phase of our strategic plan:

- the total number of GRID-trained specialist paediatric palliative care consultants increased from 1 WTE in 2022 to 7.2 WTE in 2024.

- there were 973 whole-time equivalent (WTE) community children's nurses (CCNs) employed by the NHS in England in 2024, an increase on the 902 employed in England in 2023.

- the most recent survey of the hospice workforce by Hospice UK has revealed an average vacancy rate of 14.5% in the clinical workforce of children's hospices across the UK; we found that the average vacancy rate for nurses and other non-medical care and support professionals working at the equivalent of NHS Agenda for Change bands 5-9 inclusive was 18.6% in 2022.

Despite this progress, significant workforce gaps remain across a range of clinical and non-clinical roles. Much more work is needed to make sure every family of a child living with a serious illness has access to professionals with the skill and experience to meet their needs.

Throughout 2025/26, our expert resources have continued to provide vital support to professionals and services. They were downloaded over 9,000 times.

A significant piece of work during the year was the completion and publication of the updated Categories of Children's Palliative Care and accompanying professional toolkit. Developed in partnership with the Association for Paediatric Palliative Medicine (APPM) and supported by funding from the True Colours Trust, the new categories provide a contemporary framework to help professionals recognise babies, children and young people who may benefit from a palliative care approach. The toolkit supports professionals in recognising need, assessing complexity, planning care and identifying appropriate support. By providing a shared language and practical framework for decision-making, the categories and toolkit help improve consistency, support earlier identification of need, reduce variation in access to services and strengthen care planning across the UK.

> "These updated categories give professionals across every setting a contemporary shared language to work from. We hope this provides a clear framework for all our colleagues in considering which patients may benefit from palliative care services – including GPs, school nurses, paediatricians, sub-speciality paediatricians, perinatal and neonatal services."
>
> **Dr Laura Nohavicka and Dr Christine Mott, APPM co-chairs. Dr Mott also sits on our Advisory Council.**

The National Fundraising Scheme remains a key part of our fundraising activity, raising vital funds through national corporate partnerships which are distributed to children's hospices across the UK as unrestricted grants. In 2025/26 the scheme generated almost £1 million and we are grateful to all the partners who helped make the scheme such a success during the year, including Center Parcs, ESP Ltd, GBUK, Gravity, Hobbycraft, ILG UK, Lockton Companies LLP, Miss Teen Great Britain and Peninsula Group.

Together we unite

1 The problem

Supporting children with serious illness and their families can be both rewarding and challenging. There are workforce challenges with high vacancy rates, skills gaps, a lack of standards and service models and inconsistent use of data.

2 Why this matters

Too many children and families cannot access the palliative care they need, when and where they need it. Quality and safety of care can be compromised, services have higher recruitment costs, professionals lack confidence and effective work cannot be replicated.

3 How we have helped

Together, we have:

- helped professionals identify the families who could benefit from children's palliative care.
- provided professionals with the information, resources, research, data and best practice they need.
- connected them with other professionals, services and networks.
- helped them to help families with the challenges they face.
- supported them in their role and their career.

4 What we have done

Delivered webinar programme with 500+ attendees

Hosted UK-wide conference with 300+ professionals

Resources widely used, with over 9,000 downloads

Published updated Categories of Children's Palliative Care and toolkit

National Fundraising Scheme raised

£821,000

distributed as grants to children's hospices across the UK

5 Our impact:

- Increased knowledge and confidence on complex and under-discussed topics.
- Professionals' skills with families improved.
- Enabled better collaboration and stronger collective voice for the sector.
- Increased knowledge, confidence and awareness of issues affecting families from different backgrounds.
- Given children's hospices access to vital funds to sustain crucial services for families.

Together we campaign

There are around 99,000 babies, children and young people in the UK with life-threatening and life-shortening conditions. Consistent, high quality children's palliative care can help them and their families make the most of every precious moment together.

Yet workforce shortages, fragile funding and a lack of planning by local NHS bodies means that too few families can access sustainable, high quality palliative care when and where they need it, in hospital, at home or in children's hospices.

But we are making a difference. Together we:

- enable politicians and policymakers to hear from families and services firsthand.
- help them improve outcomes for children and families.
- help them shift more care into the community, facilitating early hospital discharges and preventing unnecessary hospital admissions.
- help the NHS use its resources more effectively.
- give politicians and policymakers access to the evidence they need.

We're determined to improve care and support by offering practical solutions to what we know are complex issues.

In 2025/26, Together for Short Lives strengthened its voice for families of babies, children and young people living with serious illness, and those who support them. We challenged politicians and policymakers to remove barriers to high quality, sustainable children's palliative care. We combined evidence, family experiences and member insight to make the case for urgent action.

We began the year by publishing 'Built to Last: Securing the future of children's palliative care', which examined how children's palliative care that meets national standards is planned, funded and delivered across the UK. The report exposed unacceptable variation and showed how too many families still face a postcode lottery when they need vital care and support. UK-wide and regional media helped us reach wider audiences and increase pressure for change.

Families, supporters and professionals added their voices to our campaign. A total of 1,578 people signed our open letter to the Prime Minister, and 32 parliamentarians attended the launch reception hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Children Who Need Palliative Care. Many went on to table

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"It was where we wanted him to die, surrounded by the love of his family, the green fields, the sound of nature and just peace. But to get to that point cost a lot. I honestly thought that when your child is dying, you would have 24/7 care at home. But it turns out, that just isn't the case."

Clare, whose open letter to the Prime Minister, detailing her family's experience of losing their son Oliver to a brain tumour, formed the backbone of our 'Built to Last' campaign

written questions and raise children's palliative care in the UK Parliament.

During 2025/26, we secured 228 supportive actions from politicians – more than the previous year.

We gave oral evidence to the Commission on Palliative and End of Life Care, submitted evidence to a House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee expert panel, and briefed MPs ahead of debates. These interventions highlighted inconsistent commissioning, workforce shortages, weak accountability and insufficient funding. The expert panel's report reinforced our concerns and helped us press ministers, NHS England and parliamentarians for more accountability for local NHS bodies, stronger leadership and fairer access to care.

Our influencing work shaped policy development. We contributed to the Department of Health and Social Care's engagement on palliative and end of life care delivery goals and responded to the UK Government's call for evidence on the 10-Year Workforce Plan. We argued for a workforce model that recognises the complexity of children's palliative care and supports services in every setting. We welcomed the UK Government's decision to develop a new all-age palliative care modern service framework and made clear that children's needs must sit at its heart. We joined the NHS England Group shaping the framework, consulted members across England, and challenged adult-centred assumptions. We called for meaningful performance measures, clearer accountability and practical action on transition, perinatal care, respite and psychological support.

By 2025, thanks in part to us highlighting this issue and campaigning throughout the first phase of our 2023-26 strategic plan, 19% of local NHS bodies in England formally commissioned 24/7 end of life care at home in line with national quality standards, up from 14% in 2024.

In 2025, 17% of ICBs had a service specification that explicitly stated that a named medical specialist should be in place to lead and coordinate care. This was an increase from the 10% we recorded in 2024.

Together for Short Lives continued to campaign for protected and sustainable NHS funding for children's hospices in England. Our report 'Overstretched and underfunded: The state of children's hospice funding in 2025' set out severe

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Mum Clare addresses politicians, advocating for better funding for children's hospices in March 2025

financial pressures and called on governments across the UK to act. In England, we urged the UK Government to maintain the Children's Hospice Grant beyond 2025/26 and increase it to £30 million by 2030.

As part of our campaign, we met the then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting, and the Minister for Care, Stephen Kinnock, and ensured they heard directly from children's hospice leaders and families. A visit to Noah's Ark Children's Hospice gave ministers first-hand insight into children's hospice care and the pressures services face.

We built support across political parties. At the Liberal Democrat conference, the party adopted a policy calling for an end to the palliative care postcode lottery, guaranteed ring-fenced NHS funding for children's hospices and a review of how children's palliative care gets planned and funded. At the Labour Party conference, we joined partners and families to speak directly to ministers and parliamentarians.

In October, the UK Government confirmed that it would maintain and increase ring-fenced NHS funding for children's hospices in England over three years from 2026/27, with inflationary uplifts each year. This decision marked a significant step forward for children's hospices and the families they support. We continued to work with NHS England as it prepared to communicate allocations and release funding.

In 2022/23, before the first phase of our strategic plan began, the NHS England Children's Hospice Grant was worth £21 million. Thanks to our campaigning, it was worth £26 million in 2025/26.



"We were delighted to welcome Minister Kinnock to Noah's Ark Children's Hospice (pictured above) and meet a family who receive our support and those who provide it. The continuation of this funding, which last year represented 13% of our income, marks a significant step forward in securing a sustainable future for children's hospices."

Sophie Andrews OBE (pictured above with Minister Kinnock), CEO of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice

Across the UK, we supported progress in each nation and region while pressing for further action. In Northern Ireland, the Assembly Health Committee's inquiry highlighted significant underfunding in children's palliative care. In Scotland, we welcomed a new palliative care strategy and delivery plan, and in Wales we signalled our support for a new national service specification that sets clearer standards and priorities for sustainable hospice funding and 24/7 community nursing support.

We also worked on wider policy areas that affect children with serious illness and young people. As the UK Government prepared reforms to special educational needs and disabilities in England, we joined the Disabled Children's Partnership's Fight for Ordinary campaign to defend children's

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rights and promote positive reform. We engaged with ministers, members and sector partners to make sure children with complex health needs did not get overlooked.

We sought amendments to the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill to protect young adults, families, professionals and provider organisations. We called for clearer guidance on eligibility, specialist competence for doctors, comprehensive information for patients, stronger conscientious objection protections and robust monitoring. We also argued that any future review of the law must examine its impact on children's and young people's palliative care.

Throughout the year, Together for Short Lives brought members together to share insight, build influence and strengthen collective action. Our in-person meeting for UK children's hospice leaders created space to share best practice, explore our refreshed strategy and raise concerns directly with us. We also strengthened engagement with organisations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland so our advocacy reflected different systems, priorities and pressures.

Our media work helped put families' experiences at the centre of public debate.

When the Children's Commissioner for England warned of a hidden crisis in community and social care for children unable to leave hospital, we supported her report and responded to media interest. We used these opportunities to show how gaps in community support, social care and palliative care leave families without the help they need.

Throughout 2025/26, we were mentioned in over 1,723 separate media articles, 26% more than 2024/25, reaching a much wider audience. In total, our social media posts appeared on audiences' screens 9.5 million times – a huge increase on the 3.4 million we achieved in 2024/25.

By combining campaigning, policy expertise, evidence and the voices of families and members, Together for Short Lives secured tangible progress in 2025/26. We helped win a stronger funding commitment for children's hospices, shaped national conversations about palliative and end of life care, and kept children with serious illness high on the political agenda. We will now build on this momentum to secure lasting change, so that every child, and their family, has high quality children's palliative and end of life care, when and where they need it.

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"My carers now know Aidan like the back of their hand. They're like a second mum to him. But while the ICB has been fantastic at providing care on an individual level, it really shouldn't be a battle like it has been.

"The thing is, you're constantly dealing with people who aren't experienced in medically complex children or don't fully understand the medical side of things. As a result, parents like us are often left in a position where, unless you know exactly what to ask for, you simply don't get it.

"There is an urgent need for someone to help join everything up and take on a coordinating role, someone who can see the bigger picture of what's going on for my family and help ensure children like Aidan get the support they deserve."

- Zoe, Aidan's mum

Together we campaign

1 The problem

Workforce shortages, fragile funding and a lack of planning by local NHS bodies.

2 Why this matters

Too few families can access sustainable, high quality palliative care when and where they need it, in hospital, at home or in children's hospices.

3 How we have helped

Together, we have enabled politicians and policymakers to hear from families and services firsthand – and given them access to helpful evidence. We have set out how they can:

- improve outcomes for children and families.
- transfer care into the community, facilitating early hospital discharges and preventing unnecessary hospital admissions.
- help the NHS use its resources more effectively.
- supported them in their role and their career.

4 What we have done

Mobilised supporters

1,578 signatures on open letter to the Prime Minister

Engaged policymakers

228 228 supportive political actions

Published report highlighting variation and postcode lottery in children's palliative care across the UK

Helped shape new all-age palliative care modern service framework (MSF) with NHS England

1,723 media mentions (+26% YoY)

5 Our impact:

- 24/7 end-of-life care at home commissioning among local NHS bodies in England rose from 14% (2024) → 19% (2025).
- ICBs commissioning named clinical lead increased from 10% → 17%.
- UK Government confirmed continued and increased ring-fenced NHS funding for children's hospices in England (from 2026/27).
- Overall, this increased from £21m (2022/23) → £26m (2025/26).
- Children's needs embedded in emerging MSF.



We make lasting change happen by bringing together the people and organisations that care about our cause. We turn ideas into action and energy into results. We celebrate our impact and speak openly about the challenges we face, showcasing the true impact of what we achieve together.

Our supporters – individuals, businesses and charitable trusts – are amazing. They are a powerful community, ensuring that families can live as well as possible as they navigate their child's life, death, bereavement and beyond.

They're making a difference today, tomorrow and for years to come, by helping us to support families directly, unite the sector, and demand world-class care and support.

We receive no government or NHS funding, so their support makes all this possible.

Together, our supporters mean that we can:

- be there to answer the phone when a parent feels lost or alone.
- provide expert information and support, plus financial help when times are tough.
- work with professionals and policy makers so that families get the best care when they need it most.
- directly fund crucial children's hospice and palliative care services.

Following the significant restructure of the organisation in 2024/25, key members of the fundraising team left through redundancy or as a natural consequence of this period. In November 2025, an Interim Head of Fundraising joined the organisation for an initial six-month period to lead the team through change and develop a long-term income generation strategy focused on sustainable unrestricted income and funding for strategic projects and programmes.

This refreshed strategy will focus primarily on deepening and expanding strategic corporate partnerships, further strengthening relationships with charitable trusts and philanthropic supporters, and stewarding our treasured supporters. Following investment from reserves, this role, now Associate Director of Fundraising, has been extended for two years from May 2026.

Despite significant staff changes and a challenging fundraising environment, fundraised income for the period totalled £4.3m against a budget of £5m. Income from corporate partnerships remained steady at £1.1m, 8% below budget, while income from charitable trusts and foundations exceeded expectations, totalling £1.1m, 14% ahead of budget. Income from philanthropy and public fundraising was affected by a prolonged period of team instability and a strategic decision to move away from regular giving and acquisition-based fundraising appeals.

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However, this year we received unique support by the donation of Downton Abbey memorabilia from Gareth Neame and Carnival Films, which raised over £1m at Bonhams Auction House.

We are indebted to our corporate supporters, whose financial and practical support make it possible for us to stay financially strong long into the future and be there for families when they need us most.

In 2025, we were selected to be the Charity of the Year partner of Lockton Companies. Thanks to the dedication, generosity and enthusiasm of colleagues across Lockton, over £250,000 was raised for Together for Short Lives and children's hospices across the UK. A fundraising highlight was the Lockton Arch to Arc challenge, where colleagues conquered the world's toughest triathlon, starting at March Arch in London, running 897 miles to Dover, before swimming 21 miles across the English Channel and cycling 181 miles to the Arc de Triomphe. This phenomenal effort raised over £87,000 for our partnership supporting children's hospices.

We're proud of our partnership with ILG UK which raised £58,000 for Together for Short Lives and children's hospices through raffles, a Three Peaks Challenge and various pop-up shops.

With no direct government funding, we rely entirely on those who believe in our vision and stand with us. We are fortunate to have support from several visionary Trusts and Foundations, whose commitment to the children's palliative care sector has remained unwavering including the True Colours Trust and the Albert Hunt Trust. Key supporters for our Family Support Hub whose multi-year grants have helped us to plan and deliver our services with confidence include the CareTech Foundation and Fishmongers Company Charity. Their commitment has created real impact on us as an organisation, and most importantly, on the families we serve.



Introducing the Downton Catalyst Fund

Thanks to the incredibly generous donation from the Downton Abbey memorabilia auction, our Trustees have been able to set up a dedicated Downton Catalyst Fund. It gives us the freedom to take on projects that shine a brighter light on children's palliative care, and to explore new ways of generating income so Together for Short Lives can stay financially strong long into the future.

"The world of Downton Abbey is beloved around the globe for its timeless storytelling. These iconic set items hold a special place in that history, and we are proud to see them help support the vital work of Together for Short Lives."

– Gareth Neame, Downton Abbey Executive Producer



Kaddu is supported by a nurse at Jessie May Children's Hospice in 2025

What's next for Together for Short Lives?

Thanks to the support from our partners and those who believe in our purpose, we are able to think boldly and ambitiously about our plans for the next year.

NHS and voluntary sector children's palliative care professionals in hospitals, children's hospices and the community go above and beyond to meet the needs of children living with serious illness and their families. Yet families continue to face a series of challenges in accessing high quality, sustainable support when and where they need it because the system does not work for them.

We have listened to families of children living with serious illness and those who support them, hearing their stories and gathering data to build our insight of the state of children's palliative care across the UK. We have Grouped these insights by our three strategy priority areas of access, quality and sustainability.

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How we will deliver the next stage of our strategy

Focus area	Who we will reach	What we will do
Direct support	**Children living with serious illness and their families**	Providing information and support directly to families of children living with serious illness (signposting and referring into existing services and working to fill gaps in provision).
System change	**Policy and decision makers; regional co-ordination**	A renowned Centre for Evidence and Practice, collaborating, commissioning and sharing significant research and evidence to drive clinical excellence and policy design. Working with leaders in governments, the health service, commissioning bodies and delivery organisations to improve the funding, quality, and consistency of children's palliative care.
Income generation	**Children's hospice member organisations**	**The children's hospice partnership fund:** a leading fundraising scheme, working together with children's hospices to secure national corporate partnerships.

What our strategy means for you

For families of children living with serious illness - and professionals - who we will reach through our direct support, we will:

1. Map the resources and support available to families of children living with serious illness across the whole system, then develop support tools for families where we can add value, and signpost and refer to others where support is already available.

2. Consult families to assess what they need and want, including the support they need with the cost of living and the additional costs of caring for their child.

3. Provide equitable access to our Family Support Hub, making sure those with the greatest need can receive our direct service offer, which will include support with energy costs.

4. Pilot artificial intelligence tools (alongside the skills, knowledge and experience of our sector) to develop new guidance and resources for families, professionals and services.

5. Improve the way we involve families in co-creating our services, our resources and our projects.

For families – and the professionals and services who support them – who we will reach with our work to change the system, we will:

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1. Lead the sector to set shared research priorities (and establish a Centre for Evidence and Practice that improves the sector's evidence base).

2. Complete and roll out the new Categories of Care (with the Association of Paediatric Palliative Medicine (APPM)). Defining which children may benefit from palliative care, what services should be provided, and what standards professionals should be educated to.

3. Lead the sector to develop a whole-system vision for the future of UK children's palliative care.

4. Develop and implement an effective membership offer that provides clear value across the whole sector.

5. Ensure balanced and equitable representation for children, families, professionals, and service providers through sector wide consultation (and a strengthened Advisory Council) so that our policy positions and campaigns reflect their views and bring about the change they need.

6. Lead the development of guidance on service models and workforce standards; sharing best practice in planning, funding and providing children's palliative care across hospitals, community and children's hospice settings.

7. Develop and implement the most effective way for our sector to meet, learn and share through UK-wide events, both online and in-person.

Developing impactful ways for our supporters to connect with our cause, we will:

1. Conduct a review to reframe our National Fundraising Scheme as a strategic programme that generates income for children's hospices. We will Identify ways of diversifying our sources of income for the programme and explore opportunities to utilise social impact finance and volunteering to enhance the programme.

2. Develop a strategy to recruit and retain an active community of patrons and ambassadors to help us deliver our income generation aspirations.

3. Explore UK-wide opportunities to raise funds for our non-children's hospice member organisations and teams.

4. Develop a new income generation strategy and case for support that recognises and prioritises funding needs across the breadth of Together for Short Lives.

5. We will inspire you to support us. And we will show you the amazing impact you are having on families.

For politicians and policymakers, we will:

1. Help you make sure the families you serve receive high quality, sustainable children's palliative care they need, when and where they need it – in ways which reduce pressure on the NHS and deliver the best possible value for taxpayers' money.

Working together as staff and Trustees, delivering this strategy well depends on how we work. We will:

1. Produce a plan for improving and maintaining the wellbeing of our staff, making sure they have the skills they need and develop continuously.

2. Revise the way our Board of Trustees governs the charity.

3. Implement a new process for approving projects and campaigns that ensures they achieve impact, are sustainable and are co-created with families.



A call to action

Contact us, join us and support us.

Together we will make sure that children living with serious illness and their families get the care and support they need, when and where they need it.

Your voice has power. Because the number of children living with serious illness is so small compared to adults, your support will help those in power hear our calls for change.

With your support, our refreshed strategy will mean that they can access high quality children's palliative care, when and where they need it.

Financial review and reserves

Overview

2025/26 was a year of transition and strengthening for Together for Short Lives. Alongside continuing to deliver vital support for children with life-shortening conditions and their families, Trustees remained focused on improving the Group's long-term financial resilience and ensuring resources were directed towards activities that deliver the greatest impact.

Total income for the year, excluding gains on investment revaluation, was £4,594k (2024/25: £6,028k), with total expenditure of £4,171k (2024/25: £6,596k), resulting in an overall net surplus before revaluation of £423k.

The financial outcome reflects a combination of prudent financial management, the benefits of organisational restructuring undertaken during the previous year and several one-off items including the exceptional proceeds from the Downton Abbey auction. While these one-off items strengthened the reported surplus, Trustees remain focused on maintaining a sustainable underlying operating position that supports delivery of the Group's long-term strategy.

Financial resilience

Throughout the year, Trustees continued to place significant emphasis on strengthening the Group's financial resilience. This has included careful stewardship of expenditure, active monitoring of cashflow and liquidity, regular review of reserves, and prudent management of investment assets.

Alongside these measures, the Group completed a significant organisational restructuring and commenced delivery of a refreshed income generation strategy designed to diversify income sources and improve long-term financial sustainability. Trustees continue to review financial performance throughout the year against agreed plans and forecasts to ensure the Group remains well positioned to respond to future opportunities and challenges whilst continuing to deliver its charitable objectives.

Income

2025/26 saw the end of the income generation element of the partnership with Morrisons. Over the course of the three year partnership, over £10m was raised and spent on providing better services and experiences for children with life-shortening illness and their families. The Group's income has continued to mainly be provided through Corporate Donations, Legacies, and Investment Income, as well as support from Trusts and Grants. In addition, Together for Short Lives has benefitted from an incredible one off donation of £1m as a result of the sale of Downton Abbey memorabilia.

During the year, total income of £4,593k was derived from:

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• Voluntary income, including donations (£3,008k), legacies (£210k), and grants (£35k), totalling £3,253k.

• Trading Activity income including the auction of Downton Abbey Memorabilia (£1,019k) and the hosting of the Together for Short Lives conference (£110k) totalling £1,233k.

• Charitable activities income, including training, services, and membership fees, totalling £47k.

• Other income, including investment income and sundry receipts, totalling £61k.

The Management and Trustees are grateful for the continued commitment of donors, funders, and partners whose support underpins the Charity's work and enables us to deliver impact where it is needed most.

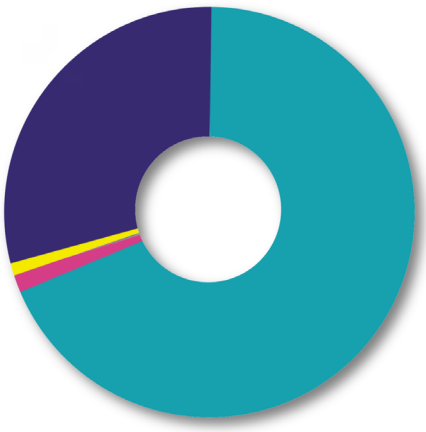
While total income reduced compared with the previous year, this largely reflects the completion of the Morrisons partnership, partially offset by the exceptional proceeds from the Downton Abbey auction together with continued strong support from corporate partners, trusts, foundations and individual supporters. The diversification of future income streams remains a key strategic priority for Trustees.

Expenditure

Total expenditure in the year amounted to £4,171k (previous year: £6,596k). This reflects the costs of delivering our charitable activities, supporting our workforce, and sustaining the infrastructure required to operate effectively. Expenditure is analysed as follows:

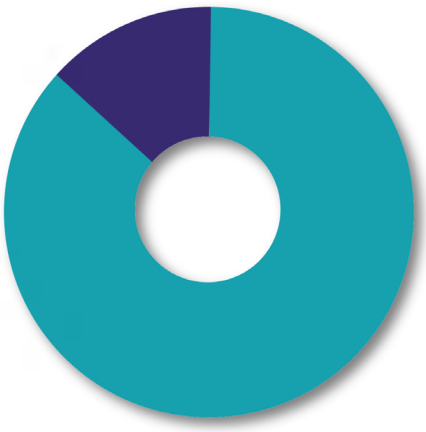
• Expenditure on charitable activities: £3,640k.
• Cost of raising funds: £531k.
• Governance costs, which are included within support costs: £57k.

Trustees remain committed to ensuring that expenditure is aligned with strategic priorities and delivers the greatest possible benefit for children and families.



Income
£4,594,000

Voluntary income	£3,253,000
Trading activity	£1,233,000
Charitable activities	£47,000
Other income	£61,000



Expenditure
£4,171,000

Charitable activities	£3,640,000
Cost of raising funds	£531,000

Reserves Policy

The Charity should hold sufficient unrestricted and designated resources (cash and investments) to cover its unrestricted operating costs for a period of at least 12 months. Where there are funds held in excess of this level, Trustees consider whether any excess holding is appropriate, or whether additional expenditure should be considered to enable the charity to further its charitable aims. As an absolute minimum, the Board of Trustees has approved the management of the Charity and its funds such that it always retains sufficient free funds to cover the close down costs of the organisation. Fixed Asset Reserves have been discounted from the calculation due to the minimal amount of cash that is expected to be realised from the Charity's fixed asset base.

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves position of the Charity at 31 March 2026 and have confirmed that the organisation remains a Going Concern and is, therefore, in alignment with the current Reserves Policy.

Investment Performance

The Group holds investments as part of its long term financial strategy. At the balance sheet date, total investments were valued at £2,385k (previous year: £2,497k). Investment decisions are made in line with the charity's investment policy, which balances risk, ethical considerations, liquidity, and return. During the year, investment income amounted to £61k.

During the year, the Group transferred its portfolio of long term investments (mainly held as stocks and shares) to a liquidity reserve (comprising cash, gilts, bonds) for the duration of 2025/26 and until the organisation reaches a position of financial stability. This decision was taken to minimise the level of financial risk being taken during the period of organisational transition, maintain the level of capital within the portfolio, and generate a fixed known level of return. This investment approach will not generate capital growth that will outstrip the rate of inflation and is, therefore, not considered to be a long term investment strategy. It is, however, the most prudent approach given the financial position faced by Together for Short Lives. Once the Group reaches a point of financial sustainability this position will be reviewed and a more risk averse approach may be taken.

Designated and Restricted Funds

At the end of the financial year:

- Restricted funds totalled £357k, comprising funds held for specific purposes agreed with funders and donors.

- Designated funds totalled £1,042k, including £1,023k within the Downton Catalyst Fund, and £19k for Capital Assets.

- Undesignated funds totalled £1,964k

See note 17 for more information about the allocated purpose of these restricted and designated funds.

Throughout the year, all restricted funds have been applied in accordance with their specific purposes or continue to be carried forward for use in future periods. There are no restricted funds with a negative balance at the end of the financial year.

Principal Risks

The Charity encourages risk management across all levels of the organisation. The Charity's Risk Register is reviewed monthly at every Senior Leadership Team meeting. Key issues and changes are reviewed quarterly by the Board of Trustees and its sub-committees. The Register identifies the major risks to which the Charity is exposed together with the actions and systems in place to mitigate or reduce the exposure to those risks.

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The principal risks and uncertainties at the time of writing, and plans and strategies for managing them are:

- **Financial Sustainability.** This year we have made further reductions to our cost base, and have improved our management of financial expenditure to reduce unnecessary expenditure. A robust budget setting process was followed, resulting in further reductions in non-pay budgets for 2026/27. A new Income Generation strategy has been introduced with the aim of delivering increased income for 2026/27 and beyond.

- **Staff Retention and Resilience**. Loss of key staff is always a risk but particularly so in the wake of a reduction of staff numbers. We are particularly mindful of workload concerns affecting wellbeing. Regular one to ones, wellbeing sessions, introduction of a new staff forum, our Employee Assistance Programme and acting on staff survey feedback are some of the measures we take to mitigate the risk.

- **Adverse publicity.** Risk assessments are in place for all our key programmes and events which may have reputational impact. We have a robust and regularly reviewed Crisis Management policy and plan in place. We keep our Patrons and Ambassadors Strategy under regular review.

- **Cyber Security.** We have introduced a more robust Data Protection strategy and policy during the year, including increased training for staff on managing their devices and commonly used attack methods such as phishing and supplier fraud. We have also worked directly with our IT supplier to attain Cyber Essentials accreditation and ensure that the necessary technical precautions are in place, and have invested in cyber security insurance.

- **Demand for Family Support Services.** The demand for practical, emotional and financial support for children with life-shortening conditions and their families continues to grow, alongside increasing complexity of need. This creates a risk that demand may outpace available capacity. To mitigate this risk, we continue to strengthen our triage and referral processes, target support where it is needed most, develop sustainable funding models and work collaboratively with partners across the health, social care and voluntary sectors to maximise capacity and improve access to support.

Going Concern

The Trustees have assessed Together for Short Lives' ability to continue as a Going Concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements. This assessment has taken into account the charity's financial forecasts, current cash position, committed funding, and the principal risks and uncertainties that may affect future income and expenditure. The Trustees have reviewed a range of scenarios, including potential variations in voluntary income and cost inflation, and are satisfied that Together for Short Lives has adequate reserves and liquidity to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The Trustees therefore have a reasonable expectation that Together for Short Lives has adequate resources to continue operating and meeting its obligations for the foreseeable future and have therefore adopted the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements. Every financial decision taken during the year has been guided by a single principle: ensuring that Together for Short Lives remains financially strong enough to continue improving the lives of children with life-shortening conditions and their families, both today and into the future.

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Structure and governance

Objectives of the charity

The objectives of the Charity are promoting for the public benefit the support of children and young people with life-limiting conditions such that:

• children and young people and their families have as fulfilling lives as possible; and

• children and young people receive the best care at the end of life.

Constitution

Together for Short Lives is a registered charity and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 4th October 2011. The constitution of the charity is set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act.

The Charity has one wholly owned subsidiary charity: Together for Short Lives (Trading) Ltd (Company number 06434214), a company which is registered in England and Wales and is used for fundraising activities.

Board of trustees

The Charity is governed by its Board of Trustees, which is detailed on page 3. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

Trustees may hold office for three years. At the end of their first term, they can be re-elected for one further three-year term. Any Trustee who has served two terms of office is not eligible for re-appointment as a Trustee unless there are exceptional reasons. The charity aims to appoint trustees across a wide and diverse range of backgrounds, skills, and regions.

Induction and training of trustees

On appointment, new trustees receive an induction pack containing key information about the Charity and its governance structure. New trustees are encouraged to meet with other existing trustees and are invited to meet with the Senior Leadership Team and other staff.

Ongoing training for trustees is given as required; in general, all trustees are encouraged to maintain or enhance their knowledge, especially in areas in which they are not expert. There is a trustee development session at each full Board meeting exploring issues such as current trends in fundraising, governance, and children's palliative care policy and practice.

Sub committees of the board

The trustees perform their governance role via the full Board which meets at least four times a year. During the year the committee structure of Together for Short Lives has been revised, resulting in two committees being formally constituted as committees of the Board of Trustees:

- Finance and Income Generation Committee

- Impact and Service Improvement Committee

The Board of Trustees is responsible for approving the Terms of References for these Committees on an annual basis.

The recorded actions and minutes of committee meetings are submitted to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting. There is a written scheme of delegation that sets out which decisions are made by the Board, committees, or staff and this is reviewed regularly. The committees therefore have certain delegated authority within their areas of responsibility, and these are subsequently reported to the Board for information. However, in

other areas, they are only able to make recommendations to the Board.

Committees can co-opt to their membership other individuals who may bring expertise to that committee.

Board effectiveness

During 2025/26, the Board continued to strengthen its effectiveness and governance arrangements to support delivery of the charity's refreshed strategic direction. This included the appointment of a new Chair of Trustees, the recruitment of additional trustees to broaden the Board's skills and experience and a review of the committee structure to strengthen oversight of finance, income generation, impact and service improvement. Alongside the development of the charity's refreshed strategy for 2026–2028, these changes have enhanced the Board's capacity to provide effective stewardship, constructive challenge and long-term strategic leadership.

Advisory council

The Advisory Council has no legal responsibility within the corporate governance structure of Together for Short Lives. It is, however, an integral part of the strategic and operational planning for the Charity. The Advisory Council ensures that our work is better informed by those with lived experience of children's palliative care and those working to deliver it across the UK. Young people, parents of children with life-limiting conditions and representatives from across the children's palliative care sector contribute their expertise and communicate their views on issues affecting children's palliative care to inform and advise the work of Together for Short Lives.

Remuneration for key management staff

The charity aims to ensure that appropriate remuneration packages are set to attract, retain and motivate an appropriate calibre of employees. External salary benchmarking is undertaken to compare roles with similar positions within the charity and not for profit sector.

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Decisions on setting pay levels are made as follows:

- For the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, the Board of Trustees.
- For all other staff, the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer.
- The Board has final approval of all pay rises across the organisation.

Safeguarding

Together for Short Lives is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults who come into contact with our organisation. We recognise our legal, ethical, and regulatory responsibilities and strive to create a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all beneficiaries, staff, volunteers, and partners.

The organisation has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy Safeguarding Lead (Deputy DSL) who are responsible for embedding safeguarding policy, practice, and culture throughout our work. All safeguarding concerns are recorded and reviewed by the DSL and Deputy DSL, and then reported to the Senior Leadership Team, Impact and Service Improvement Committee and escalated to the Board of Trustees, ensuring robust oversight.

All staff complete mandatory Level 1 safeguarding training, staff within the Family Support Hub, including the Kentown Team, undertake Level 2 safeguarding training, while the CEO, DSL, Deputy DSL undertake additional Level 3 safeguarding training in line with

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best practice and our service responsibilities. We carry out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for all new staff, including enhanced checks for those working directly with families via our helpline and community outreach roles.

During 2025–2026, Together for Short Lives recorded nine safeguarding concerns raised through our internal processes. All concerns were reviewed by the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with our Safeguarding Policy and Standard Operating Procedure, and none required referral to the police or local authority. One concern was raised against the organisation. This was handled in accordance with our Managing Allegations Policy and relevant procedures; it did not require external agency involvement, and all appropriate processes were followed. We remain committed to maintaining a culture of vigilance, transparency, and continuous improvement in our safeguarding practice.

On review of the records of concern submissions, the organisation saw an increase in the number of safeguarding concerns related to family members experiencing severe psychological distress. A notable proportion of these concerns involved parents or carers disclosing suicidal ideation - a reflection of the profound and sustained emotional burden carried by families needing our support. These disclosures were responded to in line with existing safeguarding processes, with immediate support, onward referral and information sharing with relevant statutory agencies where appropriate. Every concern was recorded, reviewed and escalated according to our current safeguarding procedures. Where individuals were identified as being at immediate risk, the organisation followed established protocols for contacting emergency services and ensuring the safety of the individual and their family.

The increase in these concerns highlighted both the severity of distress experienced by families in our communities and the importance of ensuring that staff are appropriately skilled, supported and confident to respond. It also underlined the need for a more structured and comprehensive safeguarding framework across the organisation.

In response to these emerging concerns, the organisation initiated a safeguarding review during the year. The review examined current policies, procedures and staff knowledge across the organisation, with the aim of identifying gaps, strengthening consistency and ensuring that our safeguarding practice reflects both statutory requirements and the specific context in which we work. The review identified that while existing safeguarding processes had been followed appropriately, the organisation would benefit from a more comprehensive, structured and strategically-led approach to safeguarding, one that reflects the breadth of our work with families, staff and partners across the UK. This includes ensuring that safeguarding responsibilities are clearly defined at all levels of the organisation, that operational procedures are consistent and accessible, and that staff receive the training and support they need to fulfil their safeguarding duties with confidence.

Membership

The charity operates a membership scheme, currently under review, for organisations and professionals working in the children's palliative care sector. We have a paid membership of 50 organisations (which includes all children's hospice services in the UK) and 27 individual care professionals.

Membership Scheme	Number of Memberships
Associate - Abroad	32
Associate - Friend of	21
Associate - Student	8
Individual	27
Organisation - Extra large	20
Organisation - Large	11
Organisation - Med	12
Organisation - Small	7
Team	12
Grand Total	150

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Working relationships

Because collaboration is at the heart of how we work, we partner with our members and stakeholders across the whole system to achieve our purpose for children living with serious illness and their families.

As part of the Ambitions Partnership for Palliative and End of Life Care, we work closely with Hospice UK and other UK-wide palliative care charities in England to support professionals and services and press for better access to high quality, sustainable children's palliative care.

As steering Group members of the Disabled Children's Partnership, we campaign to make sure that children in England living with serious illness, alongside other disabled children, can access the education, health and social care they need and which is set out in national policy.

We are members of Heard's Narrative Change Hub, a network for communications professionals in the children's palliative care sector that reach a wide audience. Members of the hub have a shared desire to collectively change public perceptions of our sector in order to improve understanding of, support for and engagement with children's palliative care services.

Overall, during 2025/26, we worked with the following organisations:

- Association of Paediatric Palliative Medicine (APPM)
- British Association of Perinatal Medicine
- Care Quality Commission
- Charitable trusts and foundations who support us
- Charity Commission
- Children and Young People's Cancer Coalition
- Children and Young People's Health Policy Influencing Group (HPIG)
- Children's hospices
- Children's palliative care networks
- Contact
- Council for Disabled Children
- Dingley's Promise
- Disabled Children's Partnership
- European Association of Palliative Care
- Family Fund
- Family Support Hub partners
- Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity
- Harry's Pals
- Heard
- Hospice UK
- House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee
- ICPCN
- Individual supporters
- It's Never You
- Kentown Support
- Marie Curie
- Media outlets
- MPs and peers
- National Bereavement Alliance
- National Child Death Mortality Database
- National Voices
- NHS England
- Non-hospice voluntary sector providers of children's palliative care
- Our corporate partners
- Our major donors
- Our patrons and ambassadors
- Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity
- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)
- Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care (SPPC)
- Sue Ryder
- The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children Who Need Palliative Care
- The Ambitions Partnership for Palliative and End of Life Care
- The National Council for Child Health and Well-being
- True Colours Trust
- UK Government Department of Health and Social Care
- WellChild.

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Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Together for Short Lives 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 and charity law require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. 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 judgments 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 charitable company 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable Group's auditors are unaware, and

- that the trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any information needed by the charitable Group's auditors in connection with preparing their report and to establish that the charitable Group's auditors are aware of that information.

Small Company Provisions

The directors have prepared this report in accordance with the special provisions of Statutory Instrument 2008/409 under the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

This report was approved by the trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Heywood Hughes,
Chair

Date

Independent auditors' report to the members of Together for Short Lives

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Together for Short Lives for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes including a summary of 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 Group and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of the Group's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for 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 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 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is

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materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 the audit:

· the information given in the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

· the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the directors' 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 the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the directors' report).

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company; or
- the parent charitable company 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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 40, the trustees (who are also the directors of the 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 the 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 the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial

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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.

As part of our audit planning, we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that is applicable to the Charity. We gained an understanding of the Charity and the industry in which the Charity operates as part of this assessment to identify the key laws and regulations affecting the Charity. As part of this, we reviewed the Charity's website for indication of any regulations and certification in place and discussed these with the relevant individuals responsible for compliance. The key regulations we identified were Charity Legislation, compliance with safeguarding, health and safety regulations and The General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR"). We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

We discussed with management and trustees how compliance with these laws and regulations is monitored and discussed policies and procedures in place. We also identified the individuals who have responsibility for ensuring that the Charity complies with laws and regulations and deals with reporting any issues if they arise. As part of our planning procedures, we assessed the risk of any non-compliance with laws and regulations on the Charity's ability to continue trading and the risk of material misstatement to the accounts.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved the following:

- Enquiries of management regarding their knowledge of any non-compliance with laws and regulations that could affect the financial statements. As part of these enquiries, we also discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud, of which there were none.
- Reviewed filings with the Charity Commission and whether there were any serious incident reports made during the year, of which there were none.
- Discussed with the Health and Safety Officer if any incidents have been reported during the year under The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 ("RIDDOR").
- Review of the Group's GDPR policy and enquiries to the Data Protection Officer as to the occurrence and outcome of any reportable breaches.
- Reviewed legal and professional costs to identify any possible non-compliance or legal costs in respect of non-compliance.
- Reviewed board minutes.

As part of our enquiries, we discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud, of which there were none. We evaluated the risk of fraud through management override. The key risks we identified were management bias in accounting judgements and estimates. We also evaluated the risk of fraud through misapplication of grant funding. In response to the identified risk, as part of our audit work, we:

- Audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing

journal entries and other adjustments or appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business of which there were none.

• Reviewed estimates and judgements made in the accounts for any indication of bias and challenged assumptions used by management in making the estimates.

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. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate omissions, collusion, forgery and misrepresentations, or the override of controls. We are also less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: 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, section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and 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 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 and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Neil Hitchings (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
PKF FRANCIS CLARK, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
Centenary House
Peninsula Park
Rydon Lane
Exeter
EX2 7XE

Date

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

		General unrestricted funds 2026	Designated funds 2026	Restricted funds excluding NFS 2026	Restricted funds NFS 2026	Total funds 2026	Total funds 2025
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:							
Donations and legacies	2	1,396,987	-	1,051,934	804,511	**3,253,432**	5,259,241
Other trading activities	2	141,321	1,019,134	-	72,268	**1,232,723**	620,497
Investments	2	34,116	3,676	18,964	4,474	**61,230**	106,850
Charitable activities	2	36,772	-	10,000	-	**46,772**	30,872
Other income	2	56	-	-	-	**56**	10,435
TOTAL INCOME	2	1,609,252	1,022,810	1,080,898	881,253	**4,594,213**	6,027,895
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising funds		489,096	-	-	41,940	**531,036**	607,227
Charitable activities		951,223	-	1,849,403	839,269	**3,639,895**	5,988,411
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4	1,440,319	-	1,849,403	881,209	**4,170,931**	6,595,638
Net income/(expenditure) before revaluation		168,933	1,022,810	(768,505)	44	**423,282**	(567,743)
(Losses)/gains on revaluations of investment assets	13	87,541	-	-	-	**87,541**	21,734
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		256,474	1,022,810	(768,505)	44	**510,823**	(546,009)
Transfers between funds	17	61,533	(16,308)	(45,181)	(44)	**-**	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		318,007	1,006,502	(813,686)	-	**510,823**	(546,009)
Total funds at start of year		1,645,610	35,503	1,170,248	-	**2,851,361**	3,397,370
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		**1,963,617**	**1,042,005**	**356,562**	**-**	**3,362,184**	2,851,361

All activities relate to continuing operations. The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Full comparatives for the year to 31 March 2026 are shown in notes 2 and 4.

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	11		**4,875**		-
Tangible assets	12		**14,320**		35,503
Investments	13		**2,384,697**		2,497,156
			2,403,892		2,532,659
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		-		8,232	
Debtors	14	**337,557**		371,859	
Cash at bank		**1,364,323**		2,562,591	
		1,701,880		2,942,682	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	15	**(743,588)**		(2,623,980)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**958,292**		318,702
NET ASSETS			**3,362,184**		2,851,361
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds NFS	17		-		-
Restricted funds excluding NFS	17		**356,562**		1,170,248
Designated fund			**1,042,005**		35,503
Other unrestricted funds	17		**1,963,617**		1,645,610
TOTAL FUNDS			**3,362,184**		2,851,361

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on and signed on their behalf, by:

Sarah Lorking, Treasurer

Andrew Heywood Hughes, Chair

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Charity Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	£	2025 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	11		**4,875**		-
Tangible assets	12		**14,320**		35,503
Investments	13		**2,389,697**		2,502,156
			2,408,892		2,537,659
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	**340,988**		882,441	
Cash at bank		**1,352,375**		2,051,487	
		1,693,363		2,933,928	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	15	**(740,071)**		(2,620,226)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**953,292**		313,702
NET ASSETS			**3,362,184**		2,851,361
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds NFS	17		-		-
Restricted funds excluding NFS	17		**356,562**		1,170,248
Designated fund			**1,042,005**		35,503
Other unrestricted funds	17		**1,963,617**		1,645,610
TOTAL FUNDS			**3,362,184**		2,851,361

The charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption provided by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 from presenting its own Statement of Financial Activities

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 2026 and signed on their behalf, by:

Sarah Lorking, Treasurer

Andrew Heywood Hughes, Chair

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

The surplus of the parent charity for the year was £510,823 (2025: £546,009 deficit).

Company registration number: 07783702

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	2026	2025
		£	£
Cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	a	**(1,446,368)**	451,121
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest income	2	**14,917**	17,035
Investment income	2	**46,313**	89,815
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	12	**(4,875)**	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	11	**(8,255)**	(1,645)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets		**-**	1,738
Net (purchase)/sale of investments	13	**200,000**	850,000
Cash flows from investing activities		**248,100**	956,943
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(1,198,268)**	1,408,064
Cash and short term investments at the beginning of the year		**2,562,591**	1,154,527
TOTAL CASH AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR		**1,364,323**	**2,562,591**

a. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

		2026	2025
		£	£
Net income/(expenditure)		**510,823**	(546,009)
Depreciation charge	12	**29,351**	41,250
Interest income	2	**(14,917)**	(17,035)
Investment income	2	**(46,313)**	(89,815)
Loss/(gain) on investments		**(87,541)**	(21,734)
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	12	**87**	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	14	**34,302**	1,170,786
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15	**(1,880,392)**	(86,396)
(Increase)/decrease in stock		**8,232**	74
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		**(1,446,368)**	451,121

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1. Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Together for Short Lives 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.

1.2. Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The review of our financial position has included forecasting income, expenditure and cashflow, access to available unrestricted funds and detailed planning for potential future events, The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the Group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period in excess of 12 months from the approval date of these financial statements.

1.3. Company Status

Together for Short Lives is a company limited by guarantee, registered as a company in England and Wales (company number 7783702). The members of the company are the trustees named on page 3. In the event of the Together for Short Lives being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of Together for Short Lives.

1.4. Income

All income is recognised once the Group has entitlement to income, it is probable that income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. Donations and legacies

Donations and gifts are included in full in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities when there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind represent assets donated for distribution or use by the Group. Assets given for distribution are recognised as income only when distributed. Assets given for use by the Group are recognised when receivable. Gifts in kind are valued at the amount actually realised from the disposal of the assets or at the price the Group would otherwise have paid for the assets.

Grants

Grants are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which the Group has entitlement to the income, the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably and there is probability of receipt.

Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities is recognised as earned as the related services are provided. Income from other trading activities is recognised as earned as the

related goods are provided.

Investment income

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis once the amounts can be measured reliably.

1.5. 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 classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds
- Expenditure on charitable activities

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned based on staff time attributable to each activity.

Expenditure on raising funds for children's hospice services through the National Fundraising Scheme (NFS) is included under "Expenditure on charitable activities", as these are costs that we incur in supporting the children's palliative care sector and so are part of delivering our charitable purpose.

1.6. Allocation of costs

Staff costs are allocated between direct charitable expenditure and support costs based on the time spent on these activities. Other costs are allocated directly to the relevant heading.

1.6.1. Employee benefits

Short term benefits

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Employee termination benefits

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis and in line with FRS 102.

Pension scheme

Together for Short Lives operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees. The assets of the scheme are held independently from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pensions costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable during the year.

1.7. Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

1.8. Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

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1.9. Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of Together for Short Lives and its subsidiary undertaking Together for Short Lives (Trading) Ltd. The company has taken advantage of the exemption contained within 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to present its own Income and Expenditure Account.

1.10. Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.
Monies held in deposit accounts are classified as investments within current assets.

1.11. Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible assets are initially recorded at cost. Expenditure on fixed assets costing £1,000 or less is written off as incurred. Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less amortisation. Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Website development - 33.3% straight line

1.12.Tangible fixed Assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Expenditure on fixed assets costing £1,000 or less is written off as incurred. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold improvements - Straight line over the period of the lease
Fixtures and fittings - 25% straight line
Office equipment - 33.3% straight line

1.13. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.14. Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based upon estimated selling price less further costs expected to be incurred to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow-moving items.

1.15. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.16. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity'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 that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. 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 if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

2. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Designated funds 2026	Restricted funds excluding NFS 2026	Restricted funds NFS 2026	Total funds 2026	Total funds 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies						
Donations	1,176,967	-	1,026,474	804,511	**3,007,952**	5,177,138
Legacies	210,020	-	110	-	**210,130**	63,337
Grants	10,000	-	25,350	-	**35,350**	18,766
	1,396,987	-	1,051,934	804,511	**3,253,432**	5,259,241
Other trading activities						
Licensing	5,470	-	-	-	**5,470**	486,482
Fundraising events	25,576	1,019,134	-	72,268	**1,116,978**	133,991
Conferences	110,275	-	-	-	**110,275**	24
	141,321	1,019,134	-	72,268	**1,232,723**	620,497
Investments						
Bank interest	8,311	896	4,620	1,090	**14,917**	17,035
Investment income	25,805	2,780	14,344	3,384	**46,313**	89,815
	34,116	3,676	18,964	4,474	**61,230**	106,850
Charitable activities						
Membership fees	29,759	-	-	-	**29,759**	27,792
Conferences	7,013	-	10,000	-	**17,013**	3,080
	36,772	-	10,000	-	**46,772**	30,872
Other income	56	-	-	-	**56**	10,435
Total income	**1,609,252**	**1,022,810**	**1,080,898**	**881,253**	**4,594,213**	6,027,895

2. ANALYSIS OF INCOME (CONTINUED)

Comparative analysis for 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Designated funds 2025	Restricted funds excluding NFS 2025	Restricted funds NFS 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies						
Donations	731,468	-	3,326,385	1,119,285	5,177,138	5,185,988
Legacies	63,332	-	-	5	63,337	3,795
Grants	-	-	18,766	-	18,766	12,675
	794,800	-	3,345,151	1,119,290	5,259,241	5,202,458
Other trading activities						
Licensing	-	-	486,482	-	486,482	910,461
Fundraising events	44,383	-	29,304	60,304	133,991	620,302
Conferences	24	-	-	-	24	-
	44,407	-	515,786	60,304	620,497	1,530,763
Investments						
Bank interest	17,035	-	-	-	17,035	12,613
Investment income	89,815	-	-	-	89,815	116,606
	106,850	-	-	-	106,850	129,219
Charitable activities						
Membership fees	27,792	-	-	-	27,792	30,204
Conferences	3,080	-	-	-	3,080	8,531
	30,872	-	-	-	30,872	38,735
Other income	10,435	-	-	-	10,435	495
Total income	987,364	-	3,860,937	1,179,594	6,027,895	6,901,670

3. NET INCOME FROM TRADING ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY

Together for Short Lives owns 100% of the called up share capital of Together for Short Lives (Trading) Ltd., a trading company registered in England and Wales, company number 06434214. A summary of the trading results of Together for Short Lives (Trading) Ltd. for the year ended 31 March 2026 is shown below. All taxable profits have been transferred to the charity.

	2026		2025	
	£		£	
Turnover	**1,087**		517,532	
Administrative expenses	**1,209**		(43,365)	
Profit after tax		**2,296**		474,167
Payment under gift aid		**(2,296)**		(474,167)
Retained profit carried forward		**-**		-

As at 31 March 2026 the total share capital and reserves for the company was £5,000 (2025: £5,000).

4. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Direct costs				
	Grants	**Other costs**	**Support costs**	**Total**	**Total**
	2026	**2026**	**2026**	**2026**	**2025**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Raising funds					
Raising funds for our core work	-	307,442	181,654	**489,096**	554,417
Raising funds for NFS income	-	27,317	14,623	**41,940**	52,810
	-	334,759	196,277	**531,036**	607,227
Charitable activities					
National Charitable Activities	-	1,188,788	510,660	**1,699,448**	1,879,114
Cost of generating income for children's hospice (NFS)	-	154,797	82,865	**237,662**	299,254
Cost of generating income for children's hospice (Morrisons)	-	172	-	**172**	155,349
Grants – National fundraising scheme (NFS)	601,650	-	-	**601,650**	774,448
Grants – Morrisons	440,315	-	-	**440,315**	1,955,988
Grants – Butterfly Fund	124,500	-	-	**124,500**	192,300
Grants – Cost of Living Fund	3,000	-	-	**3,000**	5,100
Grants – Kentown Partners	464,870	-	-	**464,870**	726,858
Grants – Energy Grants	68,278	-	-	**68,278**	-
	1,702,613	1,343,757	593,525	**3,639,895**	5,988,411
	1,702,613	**1,678,516**	**789,802**	**4,170,931**	**6,595,638**

4. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)

Comparative analysis for 31 March 2025

	Direct costs Grants	Other costs	Support costs	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising funds					
Raising funds for our core work	-	391,774	162,643	554,417	957,944
Raising funds for NFS income	-	38,187	14,623	52,810	59,274
	-	429,961	177,266	607,227	1,017,218
Charitable activities					
National Charitable Activities	-	1,432,101	447,013	1,879,114	1,928,544
Cost of generating income for children's hospice (NFS)	-	216,389	82,865	299,254	335,883
Cost of generating income for children's hospice (Morrisons)	-	155,349	-	155,349	312,474
Grants – National fundraising scheme (NFS)	774,448	-	-	774,448	378,781
Grants – Morrisons	1,955,988	-	-	1,955,988	2,833,477
Grants – Butterfly Fund	192,300	-	-	192,300	73,200
Grants – Cost of Living Fund	5,100	-	-	5,100	22,050
Grants – Kentown Partners	726,858	-	-	726,858	727,548
	3,654,694	1,803,839	529,878	5,988,411	6,611,957
	3,654,694	2,233,800	707,144	6,595,638	7,629,175

5. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total	Total
	2026	2025
	£	£
Staff costs	**426,392**	496,539
Depreciation	**29,351**	41,250
Governance costs (see note 7)	**57,496**	76,590
Other administrative costs	**276,563**	92,766
	789,802	707,145

6. GRANTS PAYABLE

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds excluding NFS	Restricted funds NFS	Total funds	Total funds
	2026	2026	2026	**2026**	2025
	£	£	£	**£**	£
National Fundraising Scheme (NFS)	-	-	601,650	**601,650**	774,448
Morrisons	-	440,315	-	**440,315**	1,955,988
Kentown Project	-	464,870	-	**464,870**	726,858
Butterfly Fund Grants	-	124,500	-	**124,500**	192,300
Relief Fund Grants	-	3,000	-	**3,000**	5,100
Energy Grants	-	68,278	-	**68,278**	-
	-	**1,100,963**	**601,650**	**1,702,613**	3,654,694

Grants payable under the National Fundraising Scheme are made to member charities providing children's palliative care services across the UK in line with donor wishes.

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total	Total
	2026	2025
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	**13,049**	18,151
Meeting costs	**1,176**	2,957
Trustees travel reimbursed	**632**	5,828
Wages and salaries	**35,444**	41,275
Employers NI	**4,891**	5,696
Pension costs	**2,304**	2,683
	57,496	76,590

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

	2026	2025
This is stated after charging:	**£**	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**29,351**	41,250
Auditors' remuneration	**13,049**	18,151
Operating lease payments	**21,821**	21,846

9. AUDITOR'S RENUMERATION

	2026	2025
	£	£
Fees payable to the group's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	**13,000**	14,300
Fees payable to the charity's auditor in respect of: Together for Short Lives (Trading) Ltd.	**1,750**	3,851
Non audit services	**6,250**	-

10. STAFF COSTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**1,244,022**	1,660,315
Social security costs	**146,749**	167,446
Pension costs	**76,192**	101,744
Restructuring payments	**79,717**	5,325
	1,546,680	1,934,830

The restructuring payments (including PILON) were made to employees following departmental restructuring.

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

	2026	2025
	34	43

The number of higher paid employees was:

	2026	2025
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**1**	2
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	**-**	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	**1**	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	**1**	-
	3	4

Key management remuneration

Key management personnel comprise the Executive Team, who have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Group were £471,491 (2025: £280,440).

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration (2025 £nil).

During the year, no trustees received any benefits in kind (2025 £nil).

During the year, five trustees received reimbursement for travel expenses totalling £1,849 (2025: £5,992).

11. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group and Charity	Website development	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 April 2025	-	-
Additions	4,875	**4,875**
At 31 March 2026	4,875	**4,875**
Amortisation		
At 1 April 2025	-	-
Charge for the year	-	-
At 31 March 2026	-	-
At 31 March 2026	4,875	**4,875**
At 31 March 2025	-	-

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group and Charity	**Leasehold property improvements**	**Fixtures and fittings**	**Office equipment**	**Total**
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2025	119,193	18,512	196,325	**334,030**
Additions	-	-	8,255	**8,255**
Disposals	(88,699)	-	(88,579)	**(177,278)**
At 31 March 2026	30,494	18,512	116,001	**165,007**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2025	109,344	18,512	170,671	**298,527**
Charge for the year	7,069	-	22,282	**29,351**
Disposals	(88,699)	-	(88,492)	**(177,191)**
At 31 March 2026	27,714	18,512	104,461	**150,687**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2026	2,780	-	11,540	**14,320**
At 31 March 2025	9,849	-	25,654	35,503

13. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Group	Money Market Fund	Listed securities	Total	Total
	2026	2026	2026	2025
	£	£	£	£
Market value				
At 1 April	408,302	2,088,854	**2,497,156**	3,325,422
Additions	-	4,090,979	**4,090,979**	-
Disposals	-	(4,290,979)	**(4,290,979)**	(850,000)
Revaluations	-	87,541	**87,541**	21,734
At 31 March	**408,302**	**1,976,395**	**2,384,697**	2,497,156

All the fixed asset investments are held in the UK.

Charity	Investment in subsidiary	Money Market Fund	Listed securities	Total	Total
	2026	2026	2026	2026	2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Market value					
At 1 April	5,000	408,302	**2,088,854**	2,502,156	3,330,422
Additions	-	-	**4,090,979**	4,090,979	-
Disposals	-	-	**(4,290,979)**	(4,290,979)	(850,000)
Revaluations	-	-	**87,541**	87,541	21,734
At 31 March	5,000	408,302	**1,976,395**	2,389,697	2,502,156

14. DEBTORS

	Group		Charity	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	**36,992**	105,826	**35,913**	55,347
Amounts owed by Group undertakings	**-**	-	**4,510**	577,611
VAT debtor	**3,436**	-	**3,436**	-
Other debtors	**15,386**	2,365	**15,386**	2,365
Prepayments and accrued income	**281,743**	263,668	**281,743**	247,118
	337,557	371,859	**340,988**	882,441

15. CREDITORS

	Group		Charity	
	2026	**2025**	**2026**	**2025**
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	**34,913**	34,245	**34,913**	34,245
Other taxation and social security	**26,211**	47,593	**26,211**	47,593
VAT creditors	**-**	93,699	**-**	96,986
Other creditors	**33,173**	334,220	**33,173**	334,220
Accruals and deferred income	**649,291**	2,114,223	**645,774**	2,107,181
	743,588	2,623,980	**740,071**	2,620,225

16. ANALYSIS OF DEFERRED INCOME

	Group		Charity	
	2026	**2025**	**2026**	**2025**
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April	**188,928**	20,398	**188,928**	20,398
Released to income in the year	**(188,928)**	(20,398)	**(188,928)**	(20,398)
Deferred in the year	-	188,928	-	188,928
Deferred income at 31 March	-	188,928	-	188,928

Deferred income in 2025 relates to the Simply Learning to Talk Project.

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Brought forward at 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains / (losses)	Carried forward at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds						
Downton Catalyst Fund	-	1,022,810	-	-	-	**1,022,810**
Fixed asset fund	35,503	-	-	(16,308)	-	**19,195**
	35,503	1,022,810	-	(16,308)	-	**1,042,005**
General funds						
General funds	1,645,610	1,609,252	(1,440,319)	61,533	87,541	**1,963,617**
Total unrestricted funds	1,681,113	2,632,062	(1,440,319)	45,225	87,541	**3,005,622**
Restricted funds: National Fund-raising Scheme						
Restricted NFS	-	881,253	(881,209)	(44)	-	-
Other restricted funds						
Butterfly Fund	16,884	165,264	(101,950)	15,000	-	**95,198**
Family information and support	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-	-
Disney	175,099	3,461	(1,084)	-	-	**177,476**
Morrisons (Hospices)	-	(1,454)	1,454	-	-	-
Morrisons (Projects)	759,840	(2,834)	(696,825)	(60,181)	-	-
Kentown	90,481	525,531	(616,012)	-	-	-
SGN	89,259	172,470	(252,978)	-	-	**8,751**
Cadent	-	55,516	(55,516)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	38,685	152,944	(116,492)	-	-	**75,137**
Total restricted funds	1,170,248	1,962,151	(2,730,612)	(45,225)	-	**356,562**
Total funds	**2,851,361**	**4,594,213**	**(4,170,931)**	-	**87,541**	**3,362,184**

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Designated funds

Fixed asset fund

This fund relates to fixed assets and therefore is not available to cover the ongoing costs of the Group. The balance is equal to the net book value in the accounts of fixed assets held by the Group.

Downton Catalyst Fund

During 2025/26 Together for Short Lives received a significant one-off donation of £1.0m. The Trustees took the decision, along with the donors wishes, that while this money should not be restricted, it should be placed in a Designated Fund to enable the organisation to undertake pieces of work that would enhance the profile and importance of Children's Palliative Care within the sector, or support income generation opportunities to enable Together for Short Lives to be financially sustainable for years to come.

Restricted funds

Restricted NFS

The National Fundraising Scheme (NFS) is concerned with raising funds for distribution to children's hospice services. Further details on the income and costs of the scheme can be found in notes 2, 4 and 6.

Butterfly Fund

This fund provides grants of £300 to bereaved families and is fully funded by a number of supporters.

Disney

This fund enables us to work with Disney to create Moments that Matter for seriously ill children and those closest to them, raise awareness of our work and children's palliative care, and raise funds to directly support children's hospice services and Together for Short Lives.

Morrisons (Hospices) and Morrisons (Projects)

During 2026/27 the final monies were received from Morrisons and distributed to hospices on an unrestricted basis to help with the deliver of core services. This change in use was kindly approved by Morrisons in recognition of the financial pressures facing the hospice sector.

Kentown

This fund supports the delivery of the Kentown programme of work in Cumbria and Lancashire.

SGN

This fund enables us to support families in South Eastern England with Fuel Poverty, Carbon Monoxide advice, and guidance relating to the importance of the Priority Services Register.

Other restricted funds

Other restricted funds are immaterial amounts granted for restricted purposes, these include grants awarded by NHS England, The Scottish Government and Hospice UK.

Fund transfers

The transfers from the general fund to the fixed asset designated fund is required to maintain the balance in the designated fund equal to the net book value of fixed assets in the balance sheet. The transfers from the National Fundraising Scheme (NFS) fund and restricted funds to the general fund represents the share of NFS net income and restricted income that will go towards the core work of the charity. The proportion of income that is used for our core work varies among the different corporate partners but is usually 15% of the total net income raised.

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Comparative analysis for 2025

	Brought forward at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains / (losses)	Carried forward at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds						
Designated fund – legacy	902,275	-	-	(902,275)	-	-
Fixed asset fund	76,846	-	-	(41,343)	-	35,503
	979,121	-	-	(943,618)	-	35,503
General funds						
General funds	1,035,480	987,364	(1,354,190)	955,222	21,734	1,645,610
Total unrestricted funds	2,014,601	987,364	(1,354,190)	11,604	21,734	1,681,113
Restricted funds: National Fundraising Scheme						
Restricted NFS	-	1,179,594	(1,179,594)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds						
Butterfly Fund	82,392	87,327	(152,832)	-	-	16,884
Family information and support	14,866	-	(14,866)	-	-	-
Disney	139,689	50,000	(14,590)	-	-	175,099
Morrisons (Hospices)	-	1,522,229	(1,522,229)	-	-	-
Morrisons (Projects)	838,987	915,922	(955,139)	-	-	759,840
Kentown	57,595	1,013,169	(980,283)	-	-	90,481
SGN	77,457	166,040	(154,238)	-	-	89,259
Other restricted funds	171,783	106,184	(227,677)	(11,604)	-	38,685
Total restricted funds	1,382,769	5,040,532	(5,241,448)	(11,604)	-	1,170,249
Total funds	3,397,370	6,027,895	(6,595,638)	-	21,734	2,851,361

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds excluding NFS	Restricted funds NFS	Total funds
	2026	2026	2026	2026
	£	£	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	4,875	-	-	**4,875**
Tangible fixed assets	14,320	-	-	**14,320**
Fixed asset investments	2,384,697	-	-	**2,384,697**
Current assets	1,345,318	356,562	-	**1,701,880**
Creditors due within one year	(743,588)	-	-	**(743,588)**
	3,005,622	**356,562**	**-**	**3,362,184**

Comparative analysis for 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds excluding NFS	Restricted funds NFS	Total funds
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	35,503	-	-	35,503
Fixed asset investments	2,497,156	-	-	2,497,156
Current assets	1,772,433	1,170,249	-	2,942,682
Creditors due within one year	(2,623,980)	-	-	(2,623,980)
	1,681,112	1,170,249	-	2,851,361

19. PENSION COMMITMENTS

Employer's pension contributions paid in the year ended 31 March 2026 were £76,192 (2025: £101,744). Amounts shown in creditors at the balance sheet date in respect of pension contributions outstanding were £8,512 (2025: £12,957).

20. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2026 the Group had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as fol-

	Land and buildings	
Group and charity	**2026**	2025
	£	£
Within 1 year	**20,975**	27,020
Between 2 and 5 years	**104,876**	-
	125,851	27,020

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Several trustees of Together for Short Lives are also either trustees or employees of member charities. Some of these charity members benefit from grants under the National Fundraising Scheme (NFS), but the trustees do not benefit personally. Trustees set the rules of the scheme which determine how the money raised is shared among members, but they are not involved in specific decisions about how NFS money is distributed.