

Marches Family Network Trustees Annual Report 2025

Anything is possible when everyone is included



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Marches Family Network's Annual Report

Message from the Interim Chair

"This year has been a time of growth and resilience for Marches Family Network. I am proud to see the dedication of our staff, trustees, and volunteers, who continue to put the children and young people at the heart of everything we do. Together, we have strengthened our services, built new opportunities, and ensured that families feel supported and included. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, your commitment makes all the difference."

Message from the Manager

"It has been inspiring to watch our young people thrive this year, whether through our Play+ and KITE sessions, or exciting Young Explorer trips. Each activity reflects our mission to provide safe, inclusive spaces where children and young adults can learn, grow, and enjoy new experiences. I want to thank our families, staff, and supporters for their trust and encouragement. With your continued support, we look forward to building on these achievements in the year ahead."



Marches Family Network's Purpose and Aims



Marches Family Network's Purpose and Aims

Our Charity's purpose is set out in the objects contained in the Charity's Constitution:

The objects of the charity are, for the public benefit:

To advance social activities for children and young people under the age of 26, with a disability, whilst providing breaks for carers, including supporting the empowerment of their families, by any means considered charitable by law. All of whom must be residents in the County of Herefordshire or the immediate neighbourhood thereof.

We use our 4 main aims to help us achieve this purpose.

Background

Play is critical in giving children and young people the best start in life, improving outcomes for both them and their families. It is central to helping them understand the world around them and their place within it. For children and young people with special needs, access to play is arguably even more important, supporting their physical cognitive, and emotional development.

Life can be stressful for children and young people who face frequent medical interventions and therapies. Play offers them the chance to be happy, to thrive, and to live fully in the present moment.

By removing the barriers of inaccessibility, Marches Family Network allows families to relax and enjoy their respite, secure in the knowledge that their child or young person is well cared for, supported and included whilst they are attending our sessions.



Our Aims:

Through our work we aim to:

1. Empower children and young people with disabilities and their families
2. Support children and young people with disabilities to reach their full potential
3. Raise disability awareness
4. Promote social inclusion

Empower children and young people with disabilities and their families

We empower children, young people, and their families by providing opportunities, skills, and support that enable them to thrive both in our sessions and in their wider lives.

Providing choice and control

We plan our sessions so that children and young people can choose activities that interest them and set their own pace, building their sense of ownership and autonomy.

Building skills and confidence

Through activities like arts, sports, being creative, and community trips, we help children and young people try new things, develop their abilities, and recognise their own achievements.

Promoting inclusion and equality

All of our sessions are fully accessible, with trained staff who meet complex medical and personal care needs. This ensures that every child and young person can participate on equal terms with their peers.

Encouraging independence

We give all of the children and young people safe opportunities to make decisions, take on small responsibilities, and explore new environments,

Marches Family Network's Purpose and Aims

increasing their readiness for life beyond our sessions.

Strengthening family networks

By running family sessions and trips, and parent/carer wellbeing activities, we help parents and carers connect with others in similar situations, share experiences, and feel less isolated

Supporting emotional wellbeing

We create safe, understanding spaces where children, young people and families feel valued, listened to, and respected, helping them build resilience and self-belief

Support children and young people with disabilities to reach their full potential

We support children and young people with disabilities to reach their full potential by creating inclusive, accessible opportunities that nurture their abilities, confidence and independence.

Individualised support

We provide tailored care, including 1:1 support where needed, so each child and young person can participate fully and progress at their own pace.

Skill development

Our varied activities, ranging from sports and arts to life skills and teamwork, help children and young people discover talents, learn new skills, and develop their personal strengths.



Confidence building

By encouraging children and young people to try new experiences in a safe and supportive environment, we help them believe in their own abilities and celebrate their achievements with them

Access to the community

We run trips and activities that remove barriers, enabling children and young people to explore new places, interact with peers and feel included in society.

Promoting independence

We provide opportunities for decision-making, problem solving, and taking responsibility, helping the children and young people prepare for future challenges.

Positive role models

Our trained staff act as mentors, modelling inclusive attitudes and empowering children to set and work towards their own goals.

Raise disability awareness

We believe that understanding and inclusion start with awareness. Through our work, we aim to:

Challenge stereotypes

Through showing the abilities, individuality, and potential of children and young people with disabilities.

Promote equality

Ensuring that disabled children and young people have the same opportunities for play, learning, and community participation as their peers.

Educate the community

Providing information, training, and real-life stories that help the public see beyond a disability to the

Marches Family Network's Purpose and Aims

child or young person.

Lead by example

Demonstrating best practice in accessibility, inclusive activities and personalised care.

By raising disability awareness, we help build a society where every child and young person feels accepted, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Promote social inclusion

We believe every child and young person deserves to feel valued, connected, and part of their community.

We promote social inclusion by:

Providing accessible activities

We design sessions and trips where every child and young person, regardless of their ability, can take part fully and confidently.

Supporting participation in community life

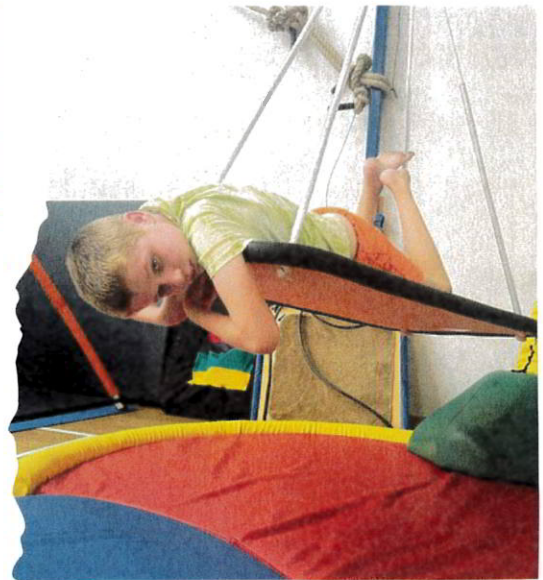
By offering opportunities such as forest schools, swimming, bowling, and cultural visits, so our children and young people can share the same experiences as their peers.

Removing physical and social barriers

We ensure that venues, activities and resources are adapted to all needs.

Building friendships and peer support

By creating safe spaces where children and young people can connect, have fun, and form long lasting relationships.



Confidence building

By encouraging children and young people to try new experiences in a safe and supportive environment, we help them believe in their own abilities and celebrate their achievements with them

Encouraging confidence and independence

By helping the children and young people try new activities, develop their skills, and feel proud of their achievements.

Engaging with local communities

Raising awareness and fostering understanding so that inclusion becomes the norm, not the exception.

Through these actions, we help children and young people not just access the world around them, but truly belong in it.

This session has allowed us to go out without judgement and be with other families. My kids are not the odd ones out.

Marches Family Network's Vision, Mission and Values



Marches Family Network's Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

We are dedicated to creating social opportunities where every disabled child and young person is valued, families feel supported, and communities become more inclusive.

Anything is possible when everyone is included.

Mission

Marches Family Network believes that no disabled child or young person should be excluded because of their disability. We aim to include and empower all disabled children and young people and their families by offering person centred care and support in order to promote quality services, which will enhance their quality of life

Values

Inclusivity: Ensuring all disabled children and young people, regardless of their abilities, have access to enriching experiences.

Community: Building strong connections among families, staff, volunteers, and the broader community.

Integrity: Operating with transparency, honesty, and respect in all endeavours.

Excellence: Striving for the highest quality in services offered.



Marches Family Network's Achievements



Marches Family Network's Achievements

During the financial year 2024/25, we raised nearly £285k, with £207k of that income generated through grants - representing 73% of our total income for the year. In addition, we secured a further £42k in donations.

Amid continued economic uncertainty - including the UK's cost of living crisis and wider geopolitical shifts - marginalised communities, especially disabled individuals and their families, have faced a disproportionate impact. These challenges have also shaped the fundraising landscape, making strategic planning and adaptability even more critical than ever before.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported Marches Family Network this year. Your generosity has allowed us to deliver 49 respite sessions, 11 youth club evenings, 9 family trips, 9 family sessions, and 10 parent/carer wellbeing sessions. We are humbled by your belief in our mission and shared commitment to transforming the lives of disabled children, young people, and their families.

We would like to extend a thank you to all of our supporters who raised funds for Marches Family Network through fundraising events, such as the London Landmarks Half Marathon. The time, effort and dedication that you showed had a massive impact on the lives of families registered with us.



Feedback and Learning

At Marches Family Network, feedback is at the heart of how we grow, improve, and secure funding for the future. We actively listen to the children and young people we support, as well as their families, to understand what's working well and where we can do better.

During 2024/25, feedback was gathered after sessions, and via parent/carer online feedback forms. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, with families praising the quality of care, the variety of activities offered, and the dedication of our team. Alongside this, valuable suggestions were shared, helping shape our evolving plans and ensuring our services continue to meet the needs of those we support.

By learning directly from our community, we make sure that every step forward is guided by the voices that matter most.

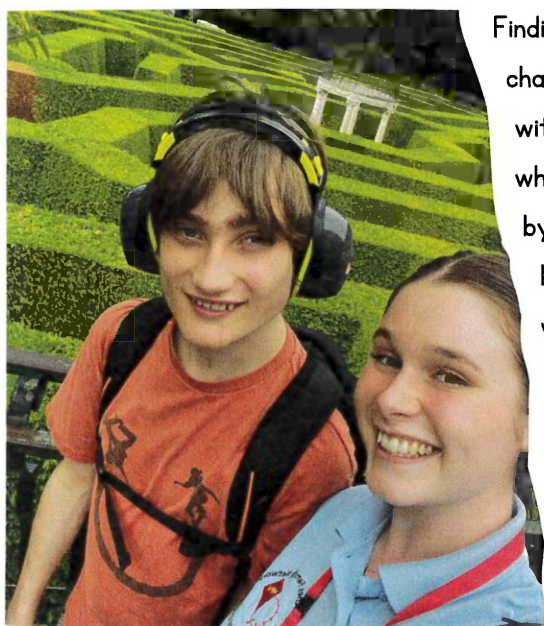
Marches Family Network's Achievements

Benjie's Story - A charity of help and hope



The impact that Marches Family Network can have on a young person and their family is difficult to explain. One of our families was happy to explain just how crucial the support from Marches Family Network is, to both her son, as well as herself and her husband.

"Benjie has been attending Marches sessions since he was 6 years old. He is the most charming young man, but of course, as his mother, I am biased. He can be calm and kind, but also very anxious and very challenging. There are times when his anxiety and challenging behaviour takes over, and it can be very difficult to manage as a family. Benjie has a learning disability, fine and gross motor difficulties, sensory difficulties, misophonia, hyperacusis, and oral dyspraxia, which means he uses mainly signs and symbols and a talking computer to communicate. As a family we rely on skilled support to keep going.



Finding support that can cope with Benjie's complex needs has always been a challenge, having been excluded in the past from a support agency working with children with special needs. However, the Marches sessions are a place where I know that he will have a good time. I know he will be looked after by 2 members of staff, in a professional and most positive manner. I know that they will be able to manage, no matter what challenges Benjie will present along the way. I know that with the help of Marches support, Benjie can recover and get better from episodes of anxiety and depression, that all his needs are met, but especially his need for social interaction and adventure.

Benjie is a very sociable young man. Without Marches Family Network, he would be extremely isolated - his complex needs make it impossible to access mainstream sessions. Hardly a day goes by where he does

not talk about the Marches sessions, the memories he has made, the special trips he has been on - doing things I would not have dreamed of doing with him! He wakes up in the morning, and asks about Marches - when is the next session, and when can I see and talk to all my friends again. Marches is such an important part of his life.

For us parents, it's a well needed break, to recharge our batteries, to have some time together to talk, to be able to catch up with daily life, to be able to keep on going. The summer holidays are manageable because of the wonderful and skilled support; it would be extremely difficult without Marches. How would we be able to keep Benjie engaged and happy without them? I am dreading the day when he is too old for it, he just loves being part of the group.

These last summer holidays have been hard, with Benjie becoming depressed for a period of time. Despite his difficulties, he went on all of his Marches sessions, and I believe it is what helped him out of his depression again; seeing other people, having fun, regaining a sense of normality, and knowledge that his life can be really good."

Marches Family Network's Staff



Marches Family Network's Staff

All of our staff, volunteers and Trustees are at the heart of Marches Family Network and we are deeply grateful for their dedication and enthusiasm in every role they hold.

Office Staff

Lucy Burden, Steve Cameron, Rae Chambers, Meg Chambers, Max Duelli, Eva George, Vicki Hamer, Kelly Turner, Lucy Wilding, Kerry Williams, Elio Wilson



Session Leaders

Lucy Burden, Meg Chambers, Max Duelli, Sam Price, Elio Wilson

Senior Youth Workers

Jake Bufton, Lucy Burden, Evie Cobb, Rebecca Cutler, Max Duelli, Millie Eaton, Eva George, Rebecca Haskett, Jennie Holloway, Sarah Meadmore, Ben Morgan, Donna-Marie Price, Sam Price, Jake Robbins, Ellie Roberts, Hazel Schramm, Sophie Stockton, Abby Stone, Molly Tyler, Paige Walters, Lauren Waygood

Youth Workers and Volunteers

Maisie Andrews, Billie Bantham-Jones, Laura Brian, Sophia Cheneler, Amber Cheung, Charlotte Colbert, Zosia Cooper, Alice Daniels, Olivia Davies, Ffion Harper, Alicia Haskett, Isabella Hughes, Asher Jenkins, Olivia Kendrick, Larissa Matthews, Rosie Morton, Anya Nicholas, Courtney Parry, Jessica Pitt, Alison Pritchard, Kieran Sagu, Isabella Scoles, Archie Seabourne, Kinjell Singh, Jessica Smith, Elio Wilson

We run a rolling recruitment programme for both volunteers and youth workers, and we welcome interest from anyone who would like to make a real difference in the lives of disabled children and young people.

Marches Family Network's Challenges in 2024/25



Marches Family Network's Challenges in 2024/25

Securing income

While demand for our service continues to grow, securing sufficient and sustainable income remains a significant challenge. To meet the increasing needs of children, young people, and their families, we must diversify our funding streams, strengthen relationships with existing supporters, and explore new income opportunities. This will ensure that we can maintain current services, expand where needed, and invest in our staff and resources for long-term impact.

Staff resourcing

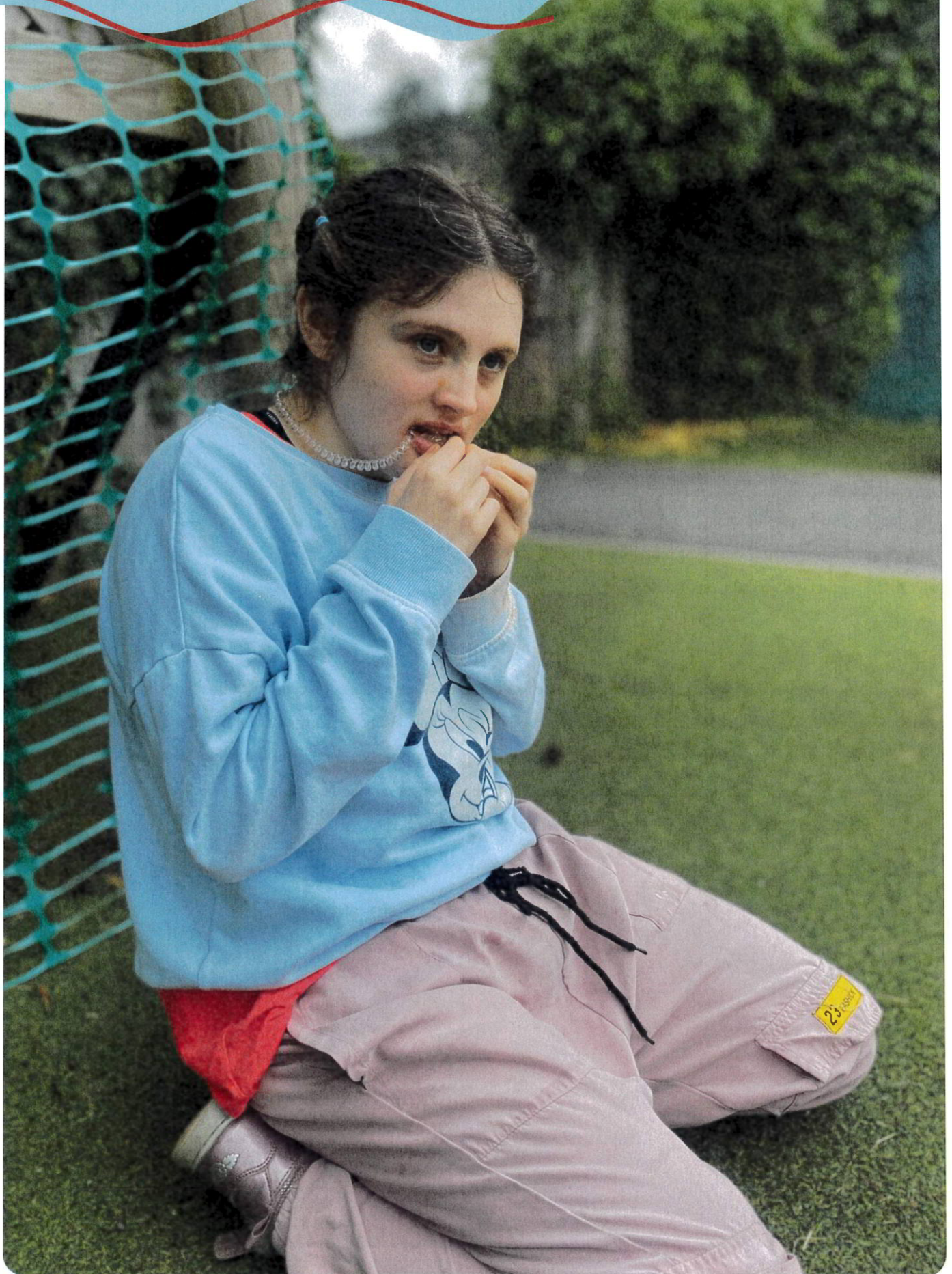
One of the most significant challenges we faced during the year was staff capacity. With a relatively low whole-time equivalent (WTE) for our office team (4.28), we often lack the manpower to deliver everything we would like to. To address this, the Trustees have explored the creation of additional roles in key areas such as staff training, fundraising, and marketing, enabling us to better meet the needs of an ever-changing environment.

Suitable premises

Whilst we are extremely grateful to everyone who generously allows us to hire their venue, each space has its own particular limitations which affect which children and young people we can accommodate. Our dream is to have a venue of our own - a space we can design from the ground up to meet the diverse needs of the children and young people we support, bringing everything under one roof.



Marches Family Network's Financial Review



Marches Family Network's Financial Review

Going Concern

Marches Family Network continues to prepare its financial statements on the basis that it is a going concern.

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis, as they have no intention of liquidating the charity or ceasing its operations. They have concluded that the charity's financial position supports this approach and that there are no material uncertainties that could cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue operating for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements ('the going concern period').

Funds

At the end of the financial year, the charity had reserves of:

Restricted reserves of £17,000 (2024: £21,500)

Designated reserves of £138,788 (2024: 144,555)

Unrestricted reserves of £8,504 (2024: 30,348)

The designated reserves are:

Three months operating costs of £53,788 (£2024: £59,555)

New premises of £85,000 (2024: £85,000)

Reserves Policy

The Trustees believe that maintaining an appropriate reserve will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. To this effect, a general reserve is maintained in order to meet our policy requirements of having 3 months' running costs set aside. Additional reserves have been accumulated to strengthen and support the funding cycle of the charity and support the consistent provision of services.

The level of reserves is reviewed by the Trustees on a quarterly basis.



Structure, Governance and Management



Structure, Governance and Management

Marches Family Network became an incorporated company on 23rd March 1995 and received charity status on 8th June 1995. The charity is a company limited by guarantee not having share capital. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £10.

The management of the company is the responsibility of the board of Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act. They are elected under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Charity is managed by Charity Manager, Rae Chambers, who reports directly to the board. They are responsible for providing governance and oversight to ensure the charity remains true to its mission, compliant with legal duties, and accountable to its stakeholders. Trustees use their professional expertise to support decision-making whilst also seeking external guidance where necessary.

The Trustees meet monthly to ensure effective development, implementation, and review all of the charitable activities. All significant expenditure decisions are authorised by the Trustees, while income and outgoings are overseen by the manager, who provides regular financial reports to the Trustees.

The charity continues to seek new Trustees to strengthen the board's experience and diversity. Applications from potential Trustees are sought through many routes and are always welcome. All applications are reviewed, and successful applicants are then offered training and support, along with detailed information as provided by the Charity Commission, to ensure that they fully understand the role of Trustees and are in a position to fulfil their role in a knowledgeable and professional manner.

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

Effective risk management is central to everything we do – from ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people attending our sessions, to setting the strategic direction for our charity.

Child safety is always our highest priority. We take every precaution to protect the children and young people in our care through thorough training, comprehensive risk assessments, and robust policies and procedures.

The Board of Trustees holds ultimate responsibility for overseeing risk and have established systems in place to mitigate significant risks.

We maintain separate risk assessments, each of which outlines the likelihood and potential impact of identified risks.

The larger risks that have been identified and their mitigating actions are:

- Our income is insufficient to cover our costs – The planned number of sessions will be reduced
- Lack of funding for operational costs, when funding received has spending restrictions placed upon it – Speak to funders to encourage funding of core costs and diversify income streams.
- Insufficient Trustees – Rolling programme of Trustee recruitment

Structure, Governance and Management

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless that are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Company will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charitable Company's transactions and 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 annual report was approved by the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Fiona Ironside



Interim Chair of Trustees

Date: 6 October 2025



Financial Statements and Notes to the Accounts



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Marches Family Network ('the Charitable Company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charitable Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charitable Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 you examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charitable Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charitable Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent's examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company and the Charitable Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: 

T Lunt

Dated: 05/12/2025

BA FCCA MTPI

WR Partners

Chartered Accountants
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donation and legacies	3	109,522	139,977	249,499	295,049
Charitable activities	4	28,639	-	28,639	25,303
Investments	5	6,564	-	6,564	4,226
Total Income		<u>144,725</u>	<u>139,977</u>	<u>284,702</u>	<u>324,578</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	14,551	-	14,551	6,689
Charitable activities	7	155,300	144,477	299,777	256,648
Total expenditure		<u>169,851</u>	<u>144,477</u>	<u>314,328</u>	<u>263,337</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(25,126)</u>	<u>(4,500)</u>	<u>(29,626)</u>	<u>61,241</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		174,903	21,500	196,403	135,162
Net movement in funds		(25,126)	(4,500)	(29,626)	61,241
Total funds carried forward		<u>149,777</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>166,777</u>	<u>196,403</u>

The statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 28 to 39 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

			2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets	Note			
Tangible assets	12		2,485	5,667
			<u>2,485</u>	<u>5,667</u>
Current assets				
Stocks	13	1,307		707
Debtors	14	21,180		22,050
Cash at bank and in hand		300,573		289,548
		<u>323,060</u>		<u>312,305</u>
Current liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(158,768)</u>	<u>(121,569)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>164,292</u>	<u>190,736</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>166,777</u>	<u>196,403</u>
Total net assets			<u>166,777</u>	<u>196,403</u>

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	16	17,000	21,500
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	16	138,788	144,555
General funds	16	10,989	30,348
Total unrestricted funds	16	149,777	174,903
Total funds		166,777	196,403

The Charitable Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs F Ironside
Interim Chair

Date: 6 October 2025

The notes on pages 28 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. General information

Marches Family Network (1047075) is a charitable company incorporated within England and Wales and its registered office and principle place of business is Mortimer House, Holmer Road, Hereford, HR4 9TA.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Marches Family Network 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.

2.2 Income

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

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Office staff costs and depreciation are recharged to sessions based upon the total number of session hours.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charitable Company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charitable Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged on items purchased at £1,000 or above, so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Motor vehicles	-	25% reducing balance
Office equipment	-	25% straight line

2.5 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Debtors

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

Cash at bank and in hand

- 2.7 Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Liabilities and provisions

- 2.8 Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charitable Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.9 Financial instruments

The Charitable Company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 Pensions

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charitable Company to the fund in respect of the year.

2.11 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 Charitable 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 Charitable 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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	42,272	-	42,272	14,424
Grants	66,867	139,977	206,844	279,950
Similar incoming resources	383	-	383	675
	<u>109,522</u>	<u>139,977</u>	<u>249,499</u>	<u>295,049</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>54,159</u>	<u>240,898</u>	<u>295,049</u>	

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Parents fees	26,739	26,739	24,515
Other	1,900	1,900	788
	<u>28,639</u>	<u>28,639</u>	<u>25,303</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>25,303</u>	<u>25,303</u>	

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Investment income	6,564	6,564	4,226
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>4,226</u>	<u>4,226</u>	

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

6. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Stationery, postage and misc costs	1,666	1,666	540
Wages and salaries	12,139	12,139	5,766
NI	536	536	210
Pension costs	210	210	173
	<u>14,551</u>	<u>14,551</u>	<u>6,689</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>6,689</u>	<u>6,689</u>	

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Charitable activities	<u>155,300</u>	<u>144,477</u>	<u>299,777</u>	256,648
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>33,055</u>	<u>223,593</u>	<u>256,648</u>	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
	<u>106,296</u>	<u>193,481</u>	<u>299,777</u>	256,648
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>90,296</u>	<u>166,352</u>	<u>256,648</u>	

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Activites 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	72,687	72,687	64,645
Vehicle expenses	837	837	790
Resources, materials and equipment	1,193	1,193	1,081
Travel and subsistence	380	380	707
Entertainment and activities	24,545	24,545	17,687
Venue hire	6,654	6,654	5,386
	<u>106,296</u>	<u>106,296</u>	<u>90,296</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>90,296</u>	<u>90,296</u>	

Analysis of support costs

	Activities 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	130,003	130,003	110,211
Depreciation	3,182	3,182	3,533
Rent and rates	16,019	16,019	17,226
Computer costs	5,800	5,800	5,007
Insurance	2,271	2,271	2,177
Repairs and renewals	681	681	484
Training costs	13,285	13,285	11,633
Stationery, printing and postage	810	810	1,197
Telephone	1,980	1,980	1,610
Bank charges	402	402	325
Sundries	3,873	3,873	1,796
Advertising	729	729	1,001
Subscriptions	298	298	242
Recruitment	977	977	1,159
Legal and professional	9,774	9,774	5,500
Accountancy	2,359	2,359	2,340
Bad debt written off	244	244	-
Governance costs	794	794	911
	<u>193,481</u>	<u>193,481</u>	<u>166,352</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>166,352</u>	<u>166,352</u>	

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

9. Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £1,200 (2024 - £1,110), and accounts preparation and filing with regulatory bodies of £1,158 (2024 - £1,200).

10. Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	205,863	174,295
Social security costs	5,847	3,605
Contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	3,865	3,105
	<u>215,575</u>	<u>181,005</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charitable Company during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Employees	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Total benefits paid to management personnel were £46,913 (2024: £38,257) made up from salaries, Employer's NI and Employer's pension contributions.

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024: £NIL)

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024: £NIL)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At April 1 2024	<u>6,780</u>	<u>4,615</u>	<u>13,013</u>	<u>24,408</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>6,780</u>	<u>4,615</u>	<u>13,013</u>	<u>24,408</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	<u>5,082</u>	<u>3,430</u>	<u>10,229</u>	<u>18,741</u>
Charge for the year	<u>424</u>	<u>826</u>	<u>1,932</u>	<u>3,182</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>5,506</u>	<u>4,256</u>	<u>12,161</u>	<u>21,923</u>
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,274</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>852</u>	<u>2,485</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,698</u>	<u>1,185</u>	<u>2,784</u>	<u>5,667</u>

13. Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>1,307</u>	<u>707</u>

14. Debtors

Due within one year	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	(1,183)	299
Prepayments and accrued income	22,363	21,751
	<u>21,180</u>	<u>22,050</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	20,683	4,478
Other taxation and social security	2,568	2,266
Other creditors	5,845	10,244
Accruals and deferred income	129,672	104,601
	<u>158,768</u>	<u>121,569</u>

The deferred income relates to income received that has been raised for use during the following financial year.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

16. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Winding up costs	59,555	-	-	(5,767)	53,788
Premises	85,000	-	-	-	85,000
	<u>144,555</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,767)</u>	<u>138,788</u>
General funds					
General funds	<u>30,348</u>	<u>144,725</u>	<u>(169,851)</u>	<u>5,767</u>	<u>10,989</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>174,903</u>	<u>144,725</u>	<u>(169,851)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,777</u>
Restricted funds					
Play+	10,000	30,767	(29,767)	-	11,000
Core Cost	-	36,824	(36,824)	-	-
Young Explorer	-	12,543	(12,543)	-	-
KITE	11,500	18,752	(24,252)	-	6,000
Family trips	-	12,803	(12,803)	-	-
KITE Under 8s	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Youth Club	-	12,605	(12,605)	-	-
Parent Care & Wellbeing	-	5,906	(5,906)	-	-
Family Sessions	-	6,777	(6,777)	-	-
	<u>21,500</u>	<u>139,977</u>	<u>(144,477)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,000</u>
Total of funds	<u>196,403</u>	<u>284,702</u>	<u>(314,328)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,777</u>

Material restricted funds that had over £10,000 income in the year comprise of:

Play+ - Play+ helps children with complex disabilities to take part in activities with their friends, these sessions are accessible to those young people who require a minimum of one-to-one support.

Core Costs - the everyday expenses of running the charity, not attributable to a project.

Young Explorer - Young Explorer sessions enable children and young people to access activities and events in their local communities and further afield, helping to increase confidence, independence and social skills.

KITE - KITE sessions include holiday play activities and Saturday clubs for children and young people with disabilities.

Family Trips - Family Trips are sessions that the entire family are invited to attend. Families are supported at new venues by MFN staff, enabling them to access venues that they may otherwise be unable to attend.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

16. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - current year (continued)

Material restricted funds that had over £10,000 income in the year comprise of: (continued)

Youth Club - an evening group for secondary school age children and above, to enable them to build upon their social and communication skills whilst accessing their local community and learning life skills.

Designated funds comprise of:

Wind up costs - 3 months operational costs.

Premises - funds set aside for new premises.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

16. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2024 £</i>
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Winding up costs	45,000	-	-	14,555	59,555
Premises	85,000	-	-	-	85,000
	<u>130,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,555</u>	<u>144,555</u>
General funds					
General funds	<u>959</u>	<u>83,688</u>	<u>(39,744)</u>	<u>(14,555)</u>	<u>30,348</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>130,959</u>	<u>83,688</u>	<u>(39,744)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>174,903</u>
Restricted funds					
Play+	4,203	47,008	(41,211)	-	10,000
Core Cost	-	99,583	(99,583)	-	-
Young Explorer	-	28,779	(28,779)	-	-
KITE	-	46,046	(34,546)	-	11,500
Family trips	-	3,426	(3,426)	-	-
KITE Under 8s	-	6,300	(6,300)	-	-
Youth Club	-	1,522	(1,522)	-	-
Parent Care & Wellbeing	-	4,573	(4,573)	-	-
Family Sessions	-	3,653	(3,653)	-	-
	<u>4,203</u>	<u>240,890</u>	<u>(223,593)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,500</u>
Total of funds	<u>135,162</u>	<u>324,578</u>	<u>(263,337)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>196,403</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,485	-	2,485
Current assets	306,060	17,000	323,060
Creditors due within one year	(158,768)	-	(158,768)
Total	<u>149,777</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>166,777</u>

Analysis of new assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	5,667	-	5,667
Current assets	290,805	21,500	312,305
Creditors due within one year	(121,569)	-	(121,569)
Total	<u>174,903</u>	<u>21,500</u>	<u>196,403</u>

18. Pension commitments

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charitable Company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the entity to the fund and amounted to £3,865 (2024 - £3,105) during the year. The value of £nil (2024 £nil) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

19. Related party transactions

There were two related party transactions in the year ending 31 March 2024.

The Trustee F. Ironside has a family member that uses the services of the charity and pays for these services at standard rates. There are no outstanding balances for these services.

R Chambers, the Manager, and R Wilson, Trustee, have family members employed by the charity, receiving combined remuneration of £43,831 (2024: £26,526).

Reference and Administrative Information



Charity No. 1047075
Company No. 03036897

Registered Office

Marches Family Network
Mortimer House
Holmer Road
Hereford
HR4 9TA

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

Accountants

WR Partners
Chartered Accountants
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

Company Secretary

Rae Chambers

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year:

Andrew Carpenter (Chair) (Resigned 3 October 2024)

Fiona Ironside (Interim Chair) (Appointed 27 January 2025 and Interim Chair 31 March 2025)

Rick Mather (Vice Chair) (Resigned 23 January 2025)

Vince Mojares (Appointed 22 July 2025)

S Outterside (Resigned 2 June 2024)

K Turner (Treasurer and Chair to 14 March 2025)
(Resigned 11 April 2025)

R Wilson

C Wozencroft (Resigned 13 August 2024)



Contact Information:

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Anything is possible when everyone is included

