

Charity registration number 1058295 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 02266883

**THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	Ms C Cussell	
	Ms S Butcher	
	Ms H Marshallsay	
	Ms A Khan	
	Ms L Carty	
	Ms L Dearlove	
	Ms R Tansey	
	Ms S Janes	(Appointed 20 February 2025)
	Ms D Hurst	(Appointed 22 May 2025)
	Ms L Shah	(Appointed 22 May 2025)
	Ms I Caetano Da Rocha	(Appointed 22 May 2025)
<b>Charity number (England and Wales)</b>	1058295	
<b>Company number</b>	02266883	
<b>Registered office</b>	Chapter House Haven Road Colchester CO2 8HT	
<b>Auditor</b>	Streets Audit LLP c/o The Old Exchange 64 West Stockwell Street Colchester Essex CO1 1HE	
<b>Bankers</b>	NatWest 25 High Street Colchester Essex CO1 1DG	

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# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

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# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The report meets the requirements for a directors' report for Companies Act purposes.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Account 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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

### Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are:

- to provide for the relief of need, hardship or distress among adults, particularly but not limited to women, and children who have suffered or who are in fear of suffering domestic abuse and
- to undertake research and promote education into the causes of domestic abuse and to disseminate the useful results of such research

### Our values

**Courageous:** We are brave and have strength for the people we support. We empower them to have a voice and where they are unable, we will speak the truth and advocate on their behalf. We will protect our women only spaces and challenge violence against women and children in all its forms.

**Trustworthy:** We will develop trusting relationships, providing an emotionally and physically safe environment for the people we support. We will be honest, respectful, and reliable. We will always do the right thing and do what we say we will.

**Inclusive:** We are diverse, welcoming, approachable and inclusive as employers, service providers and people. We promote unity, fairness and respect; challenging ourselves to remove barriers and ensure equal access for those who might otherwise be excluded or marginalised.

**Responsive:** The people we support are at the heart of all we do. We ensure the support we provide is flexible and tailored to the needs of individuals. We are collaborative, understanding, compassionate and sensitive.

**Exceptional:** We are proud to be experts in our field, striving to always be the best we can be, to innovate, lead and to exceed expectations. We are committed to developing and skilling our staff to the highest standards and to be generous with our knowledge to increase awareness and understanding across our partner organisations.

**Communication:** We value each other's knowledge and opinions and understand the benefits of positive and constructive communication. We listen and hear each other, adapting our style and language to the needs of the individual.

**Teamwork:** We value and respect each other and celebrate our differences. We know that we are always stronger, happier and more effective when we work together. We strive to always support each other and learn from each other.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should be undertaking for the purposes of public benefit.

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Our services

Next Chapter provides emergency accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. In addition, our specialist supported safe accommodation (The Nest) supports women who are fleeing domestic abuse and have the additional complexity of requiring drug or alcohol recovery support. The nature of this complexity means that these women are excluded from all other domestic abuse refuges. This type of work requires expert specialist support, so we work in partnership with Open Road (registered charity no. 1019915), Essex Specialist Treatment and Recovery Service (STaRS) and other organisations to provide bespoke trauma informed services. We also have an additional six bedded property that we utilise as dispersed housing for single women who have lower support needs or who are moving on from refuge accommodation but still need some light touch support. During 2024-25 five additional self-contained bedspaces have been added to our dispersed housing portfolio.

Outreach domestic abuse services are also provided to people in the community by our experienced teams of practitioners, and includes safety planning, advice, guidance, regular practical and emotional support, signposting and group programmes.

We are lucky enough to be supported by a team of volunteer mentors who work alongside clients who have completed a programme of support with a practitioner but still need some additional emotional support and a person to regularly check in with them.

Next Chapter covers the areas of Colchester, Tendring, Braintree, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford. We have previously secured our own community outreach base in Colchester which is separate from our refuge locations. We work with Compass who provide our helpline and referral service, alongside Changing Pathways who provide the domestic abuse services to the West and South of Essex and Safe Steps who work out of Southend on Sea.

Our Children and Young People's service supports families, children and young people in the community as well as working with our families in refuge to help them overcome the domestic abuse they have experienced. We use play therapy, group programmes and 1:1 therapeutic support for children who have experienced domestic abuse in their home environment. We also provide support, advice and guidance for the non-abusing parent or carer to help them understand the impact of domestic abuse on their children and young people. We aim for them to leave with their own parenting toolkit to enable them to continue to support the children and young people they care for.

Next Chapter is committed to ensuring that our service is fully inclusive in meeting the needs of all service users.

We recognise that families come from a wide range of backgrounds with individual needs, beliefs and values. Some families experience social exclusion, severe hardship; discrimination and prejudice because of their ethnicity, disability and/or ability, the languages they speak, their religious or personal beliefs, their sexual orientation or marital status. Some women are discriminated against because of their pregnancy and maternity status, or additional complex needs. We understand that all these factors can affect the well-being of families and may adversely impact on their lives.

Volunteers are essential to our service and we sincerely thank all of those who continue to assist us in many ways.

We use social media to engage with supporters of the organisation and the general public.

Facebook      @thenextchaptereast  
Instagram      next\_chapter123

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### **Achievements and performance**

We are delighted to have been recommissioned by Essex County Council and PFCC for five more years of activity, enabling us to continue providing our life-changing services to those across Essex who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse. This decision is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment of our teams, who work tirelessly to support survivors of domestic abuse and help them rebuild their lives.

This renewed contract allows us to sustain the critical services we provide, including vital support for Children and Young People and the addition of 29 new safe accommodation rooms sourced with new partners. It ensures we can further our mission of supporting survivors, creating safe spaces, and advocating for systemic change in Essex.

We were proud to receive our Full National Quality Standards accreditation from Women's Aid this year. The accreditation is external validation of the vital and outstanding work of our teams in evidencing, maintaining and promoting survivor led outcomes centering on the long-term safety and recovery of survivors, as well as the prevention of further harm.

We continue to benefit greatly from the addition of Chapter House, our head office with drop down facilities for staff, meeting rooms, training rooms and space to run groups and meet clients discreetly and safely. A member of our Duty Team is always available during Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm should anyone drop in for advice and we also hold regular facilitated events for our clients.

The last year has been an extremely busy one, receiving our highest level of referrals ever, and we continue to be extremely proud of our staff and their dedication and passion for their work.

### Adult services

During 2024-25 we received 4738 referrals to our service, a rise of 21% on the previous year. Whilst the majority of our clients are female, we did support 306 male clients, another rise of 23% on the previous year. 1824 (38%) clients had children meaning that our support also positively impacted 3946 children over the year. We continue to provide a responsive service to our clients, responding to 99% of referrals within 48 hours, with 98% of clients being contacted within 24 hours. The complexity of our clients remained consistently high during the year with more clients needing mental health support due to the abuse they have suffered, and the delays in the criminal justice system adding to clients need for support which meant that a large majority of clients generally remained in service with us for longer due to those complexities.

127 women and 60 children were accommodated and supported in our refuges.

We continue to receive a high level of self-referrals, with the majority of other referrals coming to us from the Police and via our triage service provided by Compass.

All outcomes around empowerment and self-esteem, health and wellbeing, accommodation, children, legal issues, money issues, safety, support networks and work and learning have been very positive.

### Children and Young People's Services

Our Children and Young People's Services have continued to be shaped to meet needs presented. We have worked with over 3831 clients in the last year, including 2629 children who we have directly supported. On average all directly supported children attend an average of 10 sessions.

Services delivered include one to one support for children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse. Bespoke group work (TRIBE, Hand in Hand and CAPVA recovery programmes), healthy relationship workshops and tailored sessions with children living in the family refuge, as well as early intervention Healthy Relationships workshops in junior and secondary school settings.

We continue to deliver workshops to staff in schools to allow an understanding of domestic abuse, healthy relationships, and the impact of domestic abuse on the whole family.

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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### **Partnerships**

We have worked hard to develop new partnerships and enhance existing ones across all the geographical areas we work in. This has resulted in Next Chapter being well-known and respected as domestic abuse experts amongst professionals in the community and the increasing level of referrals reflects this. We are regularly invited to attend many multi agency meetings in order to provide valued domestic abuse expertise.

### **Our Staff**

We recognise that our staff are our most valuable asset and without them we could not provide the high-quality services that help change the lives of the people we support. Whilst we will never be able to compete with the public and private sector in relation to salary levels, our Trustee Board made a commitment to maintaining our Living Wage Employer accreditation.

We recognise the importance of investing in our staff to ensure they are trained to help them deliver services to our clients. In the last year this has included:-

- 1 member of staff has completed their Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC) qualification.
- 2 members of staff have completed their Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) qualification.
- 1 member of staff in CYP completed their Young Person's Violence Advisor (YPVA) qualification.
- 8 members of staff in Refuge, Community and CYP teams completed the Level 3 Award in Supporting the Survivors of Domestic Violence.
- 2 members of staff have completed New Manager Training.
- 1 member of our Quality and Standards team has completed the Outcome Star trainer qualification enabling us to provide in-house training to all relevant staff.
- All practitioners have completed DASH Training and Outcome Star Training as well as Trauma-informed Practice training.

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Financial review

The commissioned work from Essex County Council and the funding provided by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has provided us with a greater degree of longer-term security in relation to our funding for our adult services. Some of our other key services remain with the challenge of being funded by short-term, project-specific grant funding such as the top-up funding to enable our Specialist Supported Safe Accommodation for women with substance misuse or addiction. In the last year we were successful in securing funding for these services from the Government, Colchester City Council and Essex County Council. We have been successful in achieving partial funding for our Specialist Supported Safe Accommodation from Essex County Council in 2025-26 and will fund the remaining bedspaces from a new model developed in conjunction with Essex Public Health. Our commissioned work will fully fund our Children and Young People's Service from 2025-26.

We would like to thank all our funders who have worked with us to enable us to utilise funding in the most efficient way, which in some cases has enabled us to carry forward income into the next financial year and provide our vital services for a longer period of time.

We are also grateful to all those who provide us with donations. We use donations to provide additional services to our refuge clients such as activities and trips throughout the year. Donations also help us to provide support to both refuge and community clients through our welfare fund. We use the welfare fund to provide clients with home security devices, essential food and other supplies and provide other support where required. In the last year we have also received donations in the form of bequests. We continue to be touched by the thoughtfulness and generosity of everyone who helps us.

The Trustees continue to review the appropriate level of reserves, alongside the use of designated funds to support priority areas of activity and provide future security and contingency for these areas. The Board agreed to make some contributions to designated funds to support future year budgets and also to support clients with no recourse to public funds. In total, designated funds have reduced to just under £650k.

Our designated funds include:

- Over £406k in respect of planned depreciation charges, mostly in respect of our new building.
- £48k remains in our budget support fund after using the majority to support on-going budget pressures in 2024/25.
- £185k towards ensuring we have funds available to support the running of some of our key services not fully covered by longer term funding.

A large proportion of the designated funds are committed, such as the depreciation fund, which means they will be used even though this may be over a longer period of time. Other funds are planned to be used in the shorter term such as the budget support fund which enables the Board to use funds to deal with temporary budget pressures and to support service delivery in a planned way.

Our unrestricted reserves have increased slightly to just under £630k. We are pleased that the current level of reserves exceeds the level determined by the board, based on the expenditure for financial period covered by the report. The Board has agreed to maintain a higher level of reserves than determined by our reserves policy in the short term to provide liquidity for potential property investment.

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### **Risk management**

The trustees confirm that major risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks. A revised Risk Register has been drafted and this is considered by the Board on a regular basis. This analyses risks in the following areas:-

- Governance
- Strategic
- Regulatory and Compliance
- Financial
- Premises
- Operational

The Board currently considers that the main risks facing the Charity are:-

*Capacity in Staff Teams:* The risk of rate of referrals exceeding practitioner capacity is subject to continuous monitoring and discussion with commissioners. The impact and outcomes of our services continue to be evaluated to shape future service delivery. Additional funding from Essex County Council has been provided in 2025-26 to support current high caseloads. Staff wellbeing is prioritised with a comprehensive package of services including subsidised healthcare, enhanced sickness pay and clinical supervision.

*Specialist Supported Safe Accommodation (The Nest) Funding:* The partial funding model rollout for the The Nest is being supported by a programme of communications and marketing, partnership working with Essex County Council Public Health and comprehensive evaluation of impact, outcomes and social return on investment for engagement with key funders and statutory funders.

*Refuge Repairs:* We have experienced some issues with timeliness of repair services. Systems are in place to record and log issues and engagement with relevant stakeholders ensures repairs are prioritised and managed.

### **Plans for future periods**

As detailed in our achievements and performance section, we are delighted to have been recommissioned for a further five years of the Pan Essex Domestic Abuse Commissioning Collaborative (PEDACC) contract. We continue to work hard with the commissioners to respond to the continued challenges both for us as an organisation but also in relation to the impact on the people we support.

The expansion of our safe accommodation in 2025-26 is supported by our partnerships with Colchester City Council and other local providers. This provides us with the opportunity to support more women with lower support needs and those moving on from refuge accommodation. We are also able to further support our male clients through the provision of dispersed housing.

A key objective for 2025-26 is the development of a sustainable funding stream for The Nest. We are working with colleagues in Public Health to achieve this.

In summary, we have been successful in securing funding to continue to deliver services in 2025-26 to 2030-31. We also continue to actively work with our partners and funders to identify opportunities to secure funding for our essential services and to fill any identified gaps in service where we can evidence the need using feedback from our clients and our practitioners.

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Structure, governance and management

#### Organisational structure

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales and is governed by a Board of Trustees who constitute the membership in terms of the Companies Act.

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, incorporated on 13 June 1988, with the registered number 02266883.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defined the objects and powers. The company is governed by its Articles of Association.

The charitable company registered with the Charity Commission on 26 September 1996 with the registered number 1058295.

#### Registered office

The address of the registered office, which is also the principal office is Chapter House, Haven Road, Colchester, CO2 8HT.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms S Taylor	(Resigned 22 May 2025)
Ms S Stephens	(Resigned 28 November 2024)
Ms C Cussell	
Ms S Butcher	
Ms H Marshallsay	
Ms A Khan	
Ms L Carty	
Ms L Dearlove	
Ms R Tansey	
Ms S Janes	(Appointed 20 February 2025)
Ms D Hurst	(Appointed 22 May 2025)
Ms L Shah	(Appointed 22 May 2025)
Ms I Caetano Da Rocha	(Appointed 22 May 2025)

Trustees are recruited to provide the skills needed by the Board. We advertise vacancies on our website, via REACH volunteering, Community 360 and LinkedIn.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

### Management

The trustees delegate the day-to-day management of the charity to the Chief Executive Officer, Beverley Jones and the Senior Leadership Team.

### Policies and procedures for induction and training of trustees

Trustees are provided with an induction into the organisation in relation to our services, their responsibilities as Trustees and the expectations of the role and the organisation undertakes a check with the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) in accordance with the organisations policies and procedures. They are provided with key policies relating to safeguarding, data protection, code of conduct & financial regulations. New trustees are expected to undertake mandatory online safeguarding training and any other training or learning needs that are identified as relating to their position on the board. New trustees are also provided with key documentation around their role and responsibility as a trustee and key organisational documentation such as financial reports, our risk register and business continuity plan as well as current business plans.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### *Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel and any criteria used*

The salary for the role of CEO is set by the Trustee Board, with the Senior Leadership Team level of remuneration recommended to the Trustee Board by the CEO. The setting of pay and remuneration for these key management personnel take into account:

- a. the purposes, aims and values of Next Chapter and our beneficiary needs.
- b. the types of skills, experiences and competencies that Next Chapter needs from its senior staff, the specific scope of these roles and the link to pay.
- c. our current business plan and how the implementation of this plan may affect the number of senior staff it needs to employ or recruit and the nature of these roles.
- d. our ability to pay – this includes the cost to Next Chapter of raising pay, and whether it is sustainable, and how appropriate the level of pay, and any pay increase, is in the context of the charity, as measured against the needs of its charitable purposes and beneficiaries
- e. appropriate available information on pay policies and practices in other organisations that can help make the decision on whether a level of pay is fair and reasonable
- f. the nature of the wider 'employment offer' they can make to potential employees, where pay is one part of a package that includes personal development, personal fulfilment and association with the public benefit delivered
- g. the charity's track record in attracting and retaining committed and motivated employees
- h. the likely impact on and views of beneficiaries, donors, funders, volunteers and potential volunteers, where appropriate
- i. the relationship between the policy and practice for the pay of senior staff and that of the charity's whole workforce, where we ensure that the ratio of senior staff to lowest paid staff does not exceed 1:5 (the ratio is currently 1:3).

#### **Small companies exemption**

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

#### **Disclosure of information to auditor**

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

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

**Ms A Khan**

Chair of Trustees

Dated: 25 October 2025

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Next Chapter (East of England) for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the 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.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees has taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

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 NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Next Chapter (East of England) (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### 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 charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 26 to the financial statements, 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

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##### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

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

##### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

##### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

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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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The engagement partner ensure that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, Employment Law and Data Protection.

We assessed the compliance with laws and regulations identified above through making enquires of management and inspecting correspondence.

These were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We considered the internal controls in place that would mitigate the risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We identified the greatest potential for fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations in the following areas, and the specific procedures performed to address them are described below:

- We obtained an understanding of the income process and the flow of financial information to the general ledger and how this is classified as restricted and unrestricted.
- Cut-off testing was performed at the year-end date by reviewing income which had been accrued for and expenditure which had been recorded after date to identify if any transactions had been recorded in the incorrect period.
- In line with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we reviewed accounting records for any unusual adjustments and performed testing on journal entries.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risk identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risk of material misstatement due to fraud;
- made enquires to management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance for the year.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

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Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

#### **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. 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.

**Michael Greene BSc FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Streets Audit LLP

27 October 2025

**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

c/o The Old Exchange  
64 West Stockwell Street  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO1 1HE

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	42,720	-	42,720	60,456	-	60,456
Charitable activities	5	1,689,485	1,132,021	2,821,506	1,409,899	1,122,528	2,532,427
Other trading activities	4	1,067	-	1,067	510	-	510
Investments	6	11,056	-	11,056	13,399	-	13,399
<b>Total income</b>		1,744,328	1,132,021	2,876,349	1,484,264	1,122,528	2,606,792
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	7	1,959,405	1,228,262	3,187,667	1,589,948	1,189,972	2,779,920
<b>Total expenditure</b>		1,959,405	1,228,262	3,187,667	1,589,948	1,189,972	2,779,920
<b>Net expenditure and movement in funds</b>		(215,077)	(96,241)	(311,318)	(105,684)	(67,444)	(173,128)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		1,483,479	138,020	1,621,499	1,589,163	205,464	1,794,627
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2025</b>		1,268,402	41,779	1,310,181	1,483,479	138,020	1,621,499

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		406,664		455,886
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	316,744		354,752	
Cash at bank and in hand		741,709		882,219	
		<u>1,058,453</u>		<u>1,236,971</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	<u>(154,936)</u>		<u>(71,358)</u>	
Net current assets			903,517		1,165,613
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>1,310,181</u>		<u>1,621,499</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	18		41,779		138,020
<u>Unrestricted funds - general</u>					
Designated funds	20	639,475		998,468	
General unrestricted funds		<u>628,927</u>		<u>485,011</u>	
			1,268,402		1,483,479
			<u>1,310,181</u>		<u>1,621,499</u>

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25 October 2025

Ms A Khan  
Trustee

Company registration number 02266883

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	25		(151,566)		(307,410)
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(33,912)	
Investment income received		11,056		13,399	
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities</b>			11,056		(20,513)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>			(140,510)		(327,923)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			882,219		1,210,142
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			741,709		882,219

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

The Next Chapter (East of England) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Chapter House, Haven Road, Colchester, CO2 8HT.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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 charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

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

#### 1.2 Going concern

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

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### 1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Resources expended and allocation of support costs

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 comprises costs of seeking donations, legacies and grants and their associated support costs.

-Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs directly associated with carrying out activities to provide crisis accommodation for women and their children, who have been made homeless as a result of abuse at the hands of their partner. It aims to promote the purposes of the Charity and their associated support costs.

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

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance and administration personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Charity's programmes and activities.

Cost have been apportioned in relation to staff costs absorbed in each area.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

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

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	10% - 25% straight line
Motor vehicles	33% straight line
Toys and play equipment	25% straight line

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

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

##### *Basic financial assets*

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. A specific provision is made for debts for which recoverability is in doubt.

Cash at bank and in hand is defined as all cash held in instant access bank accounts and used as working capital.

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise all creditors except social security and other taxes, deferred income and provisions.

#### 1.9 Employee benefits

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

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charitable company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The judgements that the trustees have made that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determining whether there are indicators of impairment of the Charity's tangible assets. The factors taken into consideration when making the judgements include the economic benefits the assets will provide to the charity.

The Trustees have not made any material estimates in relation to these financial statements.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 3 Donations and legacies

	<b>Unrestricted funds general 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds general 2024 £</b>
Donations and legacies	42,720	60,456
	<u>42,720</u>	<u>60,456</u>
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	42,720	60,456
	<u>42,720</u>	<u>60,456</u>

#### 4 Income from other trading activities

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>
Fundraising events	1,067	510
	<u>1,067</u>	<u>510</u>

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 5 Income from charitable activities

	General funds	Restricted funds	2025	General funds	Restricted funds	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Refuge:-</b>						
Accommodation	450,356	-	450,356	372,113	-	372,113
EIDAS	10,851	-	10,851	-	-	-
MHCLG - together we can	-	224,872	224,872	-	224,872	224,872
ECC - HSF Energy Costs	-	-	-	-	24,000	24,000
ECC - Safer Accommodation	-	48,000	48,000	-	48,000	48,000
ECC - SSAS	-	84,000	84,000	-	-	-
Neighbourly Fund	1,500	-	1,500	-	-	-
Eastlight Community Homes	-	-	-	-	750	750
<b>Community:-</b>						
EIDAS	1,009,367	-	1,009,367	1,000,786	-	1,000,786
MHCLG - together we can	-	117,443	117,443	-	117,443	117,443
PFCC - MoJ IDVA fund	-	102,930	102,930	-	102,930	102,930
PFCC/MoJ National IDVA Fund (round 2)	-	36,493	36,493	-	36,493	36,493
PFCC - DAPST	-	108,798	108,798	-	108,798	108,798
PFCC - Programmes Support	-	34,785	34,785	-	34,785	34,785
PFCC - Stalking Project	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000	50,000
PFCC - Communications	-	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
Uttlesford DC - HDAP	-	32,923	32,923	-	-	-
Colchester City Council - Male IDVA	-	-	-	-	20,234	20,234
Standing Together (Mental Health DAP)	-	-	-	-	39,009	39,009
Safe Steps - Essex Safe Start Fund	-	27,955	27,955	-	10,569	10,569
Colchester City Council - Global Majority and Comms	-	32,800	32,800	-	-	-
<b>Children &amp; Young People:-</b>						
EIDAS	37,000	-	37,000	37,000	-	37,000
Changing Pathways	149,187	-	149,187	-	-	-
Educational Welfare	31,224	-	31,224	-	-	-
BBC Children in Need (2021-2056/SE)	-	9,970	9,970	-	69,398	69,398
MHCLG - together we can	-	146,641	146,641	-	146,640	146,640
PFCC - MoJ IDVA fund	-	34,310	34,310	-	34,310	34,310
PFCC/MoJ National IDVA Fund (round 2)	-	9,658	9,658	-	9,658	9,658
PFCC - Extra IDVA	-	24,943	24,943	-	12,369	12,369
ECC - DA Act	-	-	-	-	-	-
Big Give	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tendring DC - Police Appointment Car	-	5,500	5,500	-	11,000	11,000
Colchester City Council - C&YP Role	-	-	-	-	15,270	15,270
	<u>1,689,485</u>	<u>1,132,021</u>	<u>2,821,506</u>	<u>1,409,899</u>	<u>1,122,528</u>	<u>2,532,427</u>

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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**6 Income from investments**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>
Interest receivable	11,056	13,399

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 7 Charitable activities

	Refuge	Community	Children & Young People	Total 2025	Refuge	Community	Children & Young People	Total 2024
	2025	2025	2025		2024	2024	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	410,968	1,248,431	475,118	2,134,517	379,158	1,080,912	355,946	1,816,016
Recruitment and promotion	645	-	-	645	-	162	2,732	2,894
Professional fees	5,385	2,395	-	7,780	1,125	100	-	1,225
Travel and motor expenses	1,810	4,658	18,997	25,465	2,211	5,117	15,553	22,881
Premises expenditure	220,524	68,140	-	288,664	221,496	42,867	-	264,363
Other direct project costs	45,176	47,168	4,813	97,157	76,901	24,923	4,239	106,063
	<u>684,508</u>	<u>1,370,792</u>	<u>498,928</u>	<u>2,554,228</u>	<u>680,891</u>	<u>1,154,081</u>	<u>378,470</u>	<u>2,213,442</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	167,109	334,650	121,802	623,561	167,858	284,527	95,060	547,445
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,647	5,302	1,929	9,878	5,878	9,891	3,264	19,033
	<u>854,264</u>	<u>1,710,744</u>	<u>622,659</u>	<u>3,187,667</u>	<u>854,627</u>	<u>1,448,499</u>	<u>476,794</u>	<u>2,779,920</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>								
Unrestricted funds - general	471,001	1,127,457	360,947	1,959,405	480,703	921,715	187,530	1,589,948
Restricted funds	383,263	583,287	261,712	1,228,262	373,924	526,784	289,264	1,189,972
	<u>854,264</u>	<u>1,710,744</u>	<u>622,659</u>	<u>3,187,667</u>	<u>854,627</u>	<u>1,448,499</u>	<u>476,794</u>	<u>2,779,920</u>

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	Support costs	Governance costs	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	419,055	-	419,055	305,864	-	305,864
Depreciation	49,222	-	49,222	48,702	-	48,702
Premises expenditure	13,240	-	13,240	15,890	-	15,890
Communications	36,042	-	36,042	32,018	-	32,018
IT costs	49,484	-	49,484	81,120	-	81,120
Other	42,659	-	42,659	63,851	-	63,851
Recruitment and Promotional	13,859	-	13,859	-	-	-
Audit fees	-	8,900	8,900	-	8,500	8,500
Recruitment and promotional	-	-	-	-	9,600	9,600
General meeting costs	-	217	217	-	248	248
Premises expenditure	-	761	761	-	685	685
	<u>623,561</u>	<u>9,878</u>	<u>633,439</u>	<u>547,445</u>	<u>19,033</u>	<u>566,478</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>623,561</u>	<u>9,878</u>	<u>633,439</u>	<u>547,445</u>	<u>19,033</u>	<u>566,478</u>

The Charity initially identifies the costs of its support and governance functions. The governance and support costs are then apportioned between the charitable activities undertaken in line with the staff costs allocated to each activity.

#### 9 Net movement in funds

2025  
£

2024  
£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	8,900	8,500
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	49,222	47,525
	<u>57,122</u>	<u>56,025</u>

#### 10 Trustees

During the year no trustees (2024: None) were reimbursed for expenses.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year.

Trustee indemnity insurance totalling £488 (2024: £445) was paid on behalf of the Trustees during the year.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2025 Number	2024 Number
77	71
=====	=====

#### Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	2,274,655	1,903,637
Social security costs	218,136	169,649
Other pension costs	60,781	48,594
	=====	=====
	2,553,572	2,121,880
	=====	=====

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Between £60,000 - £70,000	1	1
Between £70,000 - £80,000	1	-
	=====	=====

#### Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	253,218	209,681
	=====	=====

#### 12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Toys and play equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 April 2024	335,000	347,079	5,000	33,194	720,273
Disposals	-	(152,928)	-	(33,194)	(186,122)
At 31 March 2025	335,000	194,151	5,000	-	534,151
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>					
At 1 April 2024	15,075	211,118	5,000	33,194	264,387
Depreciation charged in the year	6,700	42,522	-	-	49,222
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(152,928)	-	(33,194)	(186,122)
At 31 March 2025	21,775	100,712	5,000	-	127,487
<b>Carrying amount</b>					
At 31 March 2025	313,225	93,439	-	-	406,664
At 31 March 2024	319,925	135,961	-	-	455,886

### 14 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	101,088	-
Other debtors	193,623	336,591
Prepayments and accrued income	22,033	18,161
	316,744	354,752

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Deferred income	16	55,723	-
Trade creditors		24,559	9,128
Other creditors		9,060	9,391
Accruals		65,594	52,839
		154,936	71,358

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 16 Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Arising from Deferred income	55,723	-
	<u>55,723</u>	<u>-</u>

Included within deferred income movements is the following grant income::

£50,000 grant received from ECC for the purpose of capital costs associated with the refurbishment of a property which is expected to be acquired in the year ended 31 March 2026. As the charitable company has not acquired this property as of the reporting date, it is concluded that there is an unsatisfied performance condition and so the full amount has been deferred and is expected to be released in the following year.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	55,723	-
	<u>55,723</u>	<u>-</u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	-	-
Resources deferred in the year	55,723	-
	<u>55,723</u>	<u>-</u>
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	55,723	-
	<u>55,723</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 17 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	60,781	48,594
	<u>60,781</u>	<u>48,594</u>

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

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tendring DC - Feel Well Grant	20,246		(20,246)		-	-
Uttlesford DC - Community DAP	32,923		(32,923)	-	32,923	(32,923)
MHCLG (together we can)	11,001	488,955	(499,956)	-	488,955	(488,955)
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - MoJ IDVA Fund - Round 2	-	46,151	(46,151)	-	46,151	(46,151)
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - DAPST	-	108,798	(108,798)	-	108,798	(108,798)
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - Programmes	-	34,785	(34,785)	-	34,785	(34,785)
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - MoJ IDVA Fund - Additional IDVA	-	12,369	(12,369)	-	24,943	(24,943)
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - DA Stalking Perpetrator	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	50,000	(50,000)
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - DA Comms Campaign	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-	-
Active Essex	1,576	-	(73)	1,503	-	-
BBC Children in Need (2021-2056/SE)	-	69,398	(39,880)	29,518	9,970	(39,488)
BBC Children In Need (2020-3151/SE)	1,374	-	(688)	686	-	(686)
ECF (CO-OP)	979	-	(490)	489	-	(489)
MHCLG	32,868	-	(32,868)	-	-	-
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - MoJ IDVA Fund	-	137,240	(137,240)	-	137,240	(137,240)
Community 360 - Feel Well Grant	24,540	-	(1,540)	23,000	-	(23,000)

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 18 Restricted funds

(Continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds		Balance at 1 April 2024	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	Incoming resources	Resources expended	£	Incoming resources	Resources expended	£
NHS Training	6,600	-	-	6,600	-	(1,100)	5,500
Colchester City Council - Male IDVA	12,224	20,234	(32,458)	-	-	-	-
Colchester City Council - C & YP Officer	17,458	15,270	(32,728)	-	-	-	-
Tendring DC - Police Appointment Car	-	11,000	(11,000)	-	5,500	(5,500)	-
HSBC	38,673	-	(5,574)	33,099	-	(3,391)	29,708
ECF - High Sherriffs Fund	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-	-	-
Eastlights Community homes	-	750	(750)	-	-	-	-
Standing Together (Crossing Pathways Initiative)	-	39,009	(6,454)	32,555	-	(32,555)	-
ECC - Safer Accommodation	-	48,000	(48,000)	-	48,000	(48,000)	-
ECC - Household Support Fund	-	24,000	(24,000)	-	-	-	-
Safe Steps - Essex Safe Start Fund	-	10,569	-	10,569	27,956	(38,525)	-
ECC - SSAS	-	-	-	-	84,000	(84,000)	-
Colchester City Council - Global majority and comms	-	-	-	-	32,800	(27,732)	5,068
	<u>205,464</u>	<u>1,122,528</u>	<u>(1,189,971)</u>	<u>138,020</u>	<u>1,132,021</u>	<u>(1,228,262)</u>	<u>41,779</u>

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 19 Restricted Funds Analysis

Tendring District Council (Feel Well Fund): Funding towards DART Project.

Uttlesford District Council: Funding for community DAP within Uttlesford area.

MHCLG (Together we can) (via Colchester City Council): support victims of domestic abuse.

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (MoJ IDVA Fund – Round 2): Funding for additional IDVA and C&YP staffing.

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (DAPST): Funding for staffing for DAPST (domestic abuse problem solving teams)

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (Programmes): Funding for post and resources to deliver support programmes to clients.

Active Essex: Funding Next Chapter Running Club.

BBC Children in Need (2021-2056/SE): Funding towards Young Persons Violence Advisors (YPVA).

BBC Children in Need (2020-3151/SE): Funding towards a new family room in the refuge.

ECF (Co-Op): To fund resources for young people who have experienced domestic abuse.

MHCLG (via Colchester City Council): funding to support victims of domestic abuse.

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (MoJ IDVA Fund): Funding for additional IDVA and C&YP staffing.

Community 360 – Feel Well Grant: Funding to continue DART project (funded alongside Tendring DC).

NHS Training: Funding for delivery of training within GP surgeries.

Colchester City Council: Funding for a male IDVA.

Colchester City Council: Funding for a C&YP Officer.

Tendring District Council (Police Appointment Car): funding for C&YP Officer to support in Tendring area.

HSBC (Supporting our Community Fund): to create a garden counselling room.

ECC (HSF Funds): Funding from Household Support Fund toward energy costs.

ECF (High Sheriffs Fund) - Furnish and equip a client space in our main building.

Eastlights Community Homes - New furniture for refuge.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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#### 19 Restricted Funds Analysis

(Continued)

Standing Together (Crossing Pathways Initiative) - Mental Health DAP.

Safe Steps (Essex Safe Start Fund) - Funding for welfare purchases.

ECC Safer Accommodation: Funding for provision of support in safe accommodation.

ECC SSAS (Specialist supported accommodation service): funding for The Nest for Essex Residents.

Colchester City Council - Global majority and comms: funding for global majority project, male website and 'Everyone Knows Someone' campaign.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 20 Designated funds

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

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Budget support fund	298,551	148,000	(179,968)	266,583	-	(218,583)	-	48,000
Building maintenance fund	15,170	-	-	15,170	-	-	-	15,170
No recourse to public funds	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	(2,763)	-	7,237
Depreciation fund	463,463	-	(42,248)	421,215	-	(14,551)	(406,664)	-
Chapter House Fixed Asset Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	406,664	406,664
IT reorganisation fund	30,000	-	(5,000)	25,000	8,000	(6,193)	-	26,807
Refuge Repairs and Renewals Fund	-	-	-	-	5,000	(3,018)	-	1,982
Rebranding Fund / Promotion Fund	10,000	-	(2,000)	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Childrens and Young People	95,000	-	-	95,000	-	(50,000)	-	45,000
Recovery Refuge	130,500	-	(25,000)	105,500	-	(40,000)	-	65,500
Client Counselling	20,000	-	-	20,000	-	(4,885)	-	15,115
Adult Community Fund	40,000	-	(8,000)	32,000	-	(32,000)	-	-
	<u>1,102,684</u>	<u>158,000</u>	<u>(262,216)</u>	<u>998,468</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>(371,993)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>639,475</u>

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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#### 20 Designated funds

(Continued)

Budget Support Fund is set aside to meet budget pressures arising from increasing costs or loss or uncertainty of income.

The Building maintenance fund is provided for key repair/improvements to our refuge buildings.

Depreciation Fund is provided to pay for future years depreciation charges. This includes our new building.

Chapter House Fixed Asset Fund represents the net book value of our new building.

The IT reorganisation fund is set aside for IT costs.

The Refuge Repairs and Renewals Fund is set aside for refuge equipment purchases outside of the main budget

The Rebranding fund is held for any one off promotional work outside of the main budget.

The Children's and Young Peoples fund of £45,000 is set aside to meet any unforeseen costs and to manage changes in grant income.

The Recovery Refuge fund of £65,500 is set-aside to invest in the service and meet any changing funding issues.

Clients Counselling is set aside to fund client counselling costs.

Adult Community Fund is a fund set aside to meet cost pressures within our adult services (e.g. Community DAP and IDVA teams).

No Recourse to Public Funds is a fund to support clients with no access to public funds.

It is estimated that designated funds will be expended by 2027, however the Chapter House Fixed Asset Fund will be used over the life of the assets.

## THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	-	376,956	29,708	406,664
Current assets/(liabilities)	628,927	262,519	12,071	903,517
	<u>628,927</u>	<u>639,475</u>	<u>41,779</u>	<u>1,310,181</u>

# THE NEXT CHAPTER (EAST OF ENGLAND)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 22 Operating lease commitments

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	185,803	145,024
Between two and five years	297,244	453,431
	<u>483,047</u>	<u>598,455</u>

### 23 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - £3,060 for advertising services was provided on an open market basis by a Trustee).

### 24 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no material debt during the year.

### 25 Cash generated from operations

	2025 £	2024 £
Deficit for the year	(311,318)	(173,128)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(11,056)	(13,399)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	49,222	47,525
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	38,008	(195,449)
Increase in creditors	27,855	27,041
Increase in deferred income	55,723	-
Cash absorbed by operations	<u>(151,566)</u>	<u>(307,410)</u>

### 26 Non-audit services provided by auditor

The relevant circumstances requiring disclosure in accordance with the requirements of APB Ethical Standard - Provisions Available for Small Entities are that, in common with many charities of our size and nature we use our auditor to assist with the preparation of the accounts.