

Charity number: 1092668
Company number: 04216137

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Directors' report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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Charity number 1092668

Company registration number 4216137

Registered office Sorrel Drive Resource Centre
29-41 Sorrel Drive
Eastbourne
BN23 8BH

Independent Examiner Dominic Hill Associates Limited
Archer House
Britland Estate
Northbourne Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN22 8PW

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is an incorporated association governed by its memorandum and articles of association, together with its constitution.

The following persons served as directors/trustees during the year;

Mrs. S Beesley BA (hons) – Chair
Mr. MK Phillips -Treasurer
Mrs. AH D Holder MBE
Mrs. A Leeves
Mrs. S Maylam
Mrs. R Petraitis-Williams BEM
Mrs. C Phillips
Mrs. V Archer
Mrs. E Wells

Trustees are appointed at the AGM with there being a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve. At the AGM one third of the trustees must stand down, often the longest serving trustees stand down first, but may choose to stand for re-election. All trustees must be members of East Sussex Foster Care Association and members can nominate themselves for election.

Charitable Objectives and Activities

The East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA), as defined in its Memorandum of Association, exists to promote charitable purposes for the benefit of the community, primarily within the County of East Sussex. Its principal aims are to advance public understanding of substitute care and to support the education, training, and wellbeing of foster carers, their families, and the children they care for. This includes the provision of facilities and services intended to improve social welfare and enhance quality of life.

The East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) exists to support East Sussex foster carers and their families in achieving the best possible outcomes for the children in their care. The Association works in close collaboration with statutory bodies and voluntary sector partners to deliver a range of services, including training, advocacy, peer support, and events designed to strengthen the fostering community.

Membership is made up of registered foster carers approved by East Sussex County Council. The Association is governed by a Board of Trustees, consisting primarily of individuals elected from within the membership, along with a number of co-opted trustees who are long-standing supporters of the Association and bring professional experience from relevant fields such as education, social services, and other child-focused sectors.

Activities, Achievements, and Performance

During the reporting period, East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) continued to deliver meaningful support to a wide range of individuals within the care system, with a focus on fostering strong outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC), foster carers, and their families.

Support for Young People in Foster Families

Young People Who Foster (YPWF) - This initiative recognises and supports the birth and adopted children of foster carers who play a significant role in the fostering household. These young people often make personal sacrifices and share their home environment selflessly. ESFCA provides them with a safe, supportive platform where they can express their views, share experiences, and access peer support.

Children in Care Council (CiCC) - The CiCC is a representative body of children and young people currently in care. It ensures that their voices are heard in decisions that affect them. ESFCA facilitates engagement with the council, enabling young people to participate in advocacy and service development activities.

Support for Young Adults Leaving Care

Through Care Service - ESFCA continues to work closely with East Sussex County Council's Through Care Service to support young people aged 16–25 as they transition from care to independent living. This includes collaboration on initiatives such as a supervised camping trip designed to build resilience, confidence, and peer connections.

Additionally, ESFCA has supported the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children team by funding cultural celebrations like Eid and organising trips to London. These activities help foster a sense of belonging and provide positive, enriching experiences for vulnerable young people adapting to life in the UK.

Targeted Grant Funding

Make It Reel Project (Designated funds)- ESFCA manages a restricted fund generously donated by The Reel Poster Company. These funds are allocated specifically to directly benefit Looked After Children where modest financial support can have a significant positive impact. Grants from this fund are used to respond flexibly to the immediate needs of children and young people.

My Things Matter (Ringfenced Funds) - In partnership with the Children in Care Council and with funding from the Hall & Woodhouse Community Chest, ESFCA launched the My Things Matter initiative to provide personal storage boxes for children entering care, changing placements, or moving on to independent living. These sturdy containers allow children to transport their belongings—such as books, toys, and keepsakes—with dignity and care. By avoiding the undignified use of bin bags, the initiative reinforces the message that every child deserves respect, stability, and a sense of self-worth during times of transition.

This project is part of a broader commitment to preserving the dignity and wellbeing of Looked After Children:

- **Suitcase Initiative (Donations)** - ESFCA provides suitcases to children and young people entering, moving within or leaving care to ensure their belongings are transported in a respectful and appropriate way. Over 200 suitcases have been distributed to date through carers, social workers, and assessment teams. The initiative also supports care leavers aged 16–25 as they begin their journey into independent adulthood. The suitcases were donated by Tripp Luggage.
- **Gift Bag Project (Donations)** - In collaboration with volunteers from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), ESFCA distributes age-appropriate backpacks filled with essential and comforting items. These include toiletries, clothing, stationery, books, toys, and a cuddly companion. Donated by DWP staff, their friends and families, these backpacks provide practical support and emotional comfort to children at the point of entering care. Trustees also maintain an emergency supply of gift bags for urgent placements.

Together, these projects reflect ESFCA's commitment to promoting dignity, compassion, and continuity for every child in care.

Advocacy and Sector Engagement

The Association continues to play an active role in advocating for foster carers and children in care. ESFCA's Trustees engage with local and national forums to influence policy and raise awareness of the challenges and contributions of the fostering community. Through regular engagement with government departments, local authorities, and sector bodies, ESFCA ensures that the voices of its members are represented in key decision-making processes.

Independent Allegation Support Fund (ringfenced funds) - ESFCA receives an annual contribution from East Sussex County Council, held in a restricted fund, to support foster carers facing allegations or concerns related to standards of care. This fund enables access to independent advice and professional support during what can be complex and emotionally challenging investigations.

Given the confidential nature of such cases, this support plays a vital role in reducing isolation and safeguarding the wellbeing of foster families. To assist carers during this process, ESFCA—working in partnership with ESCC Fostering Services—has developed a specialist Allegation Information Pack. This resource helps carers understand the process, breaks down each stage into manageable steps, and signposts sources of support.

Foster Parent Engagement and Support Forums - ESFCA holds monthly meetings, open to all foster carers and their families, providing a regular forum for discussion, information sharing, and raising concerns. Carers can attend in person or submit questions and topics for discussion through the Association.

In addition, ESFCA offers monthly surgeries in partnership with senior managers from East Sussex County Council's Children's and Fostering Services. These sessions allow foster carers to bring forward complex or time-sensitive issues for direct attention. ESFCA also offers a trustee to attend each surgery to offer support and help ensure matters are addressed in a timely and professional manner.

Activities 2024-2025

April

Art Session - In April, ESFCA launched its first art session of the year for looked after children and young people who foster, in partnership with art teaching consultant Maureen Wells. The monthly sessions offer children a chance to paint and draw with Maureen's guidance, while giving carers a couple of hours' respite. ESFCA covers art supplies and subsidises venue costs, with carers contributing £5 per child. Maureen donates her time, supported by a volunteer trustee or staff member. Class sizes range from 4 to 11 children, depending on availability.

Urban Jump – Jump party - Thanks to an underspend on our August (2023) PGL day camps, our community partners at Children in Need supported the creation of reunion events, giving children who attended the camps a chance to reconnect. The first event was held in January 2024, with the others continuing throughout the year. All were hosted at Urban Jump Trampoline Park in Heathfield, where the children enjoyed two hours of trampolining followed by lunch.

Inspire Performing Arts Project - This year, we were pleased to reintroduce *Inspire*, our three-day performing arts initiative for looked after children and children who foster, aged 7 to 17. Held during the school holidays, the project requires no prior experience and provides a safe, creative environment for participants to explore singing, dancing, and acting using material from well-known stage and screen musicals.

The programme is led by two experienced performing arts teachers and supported by a dedicated team of volunteers, including foster carers, trustees, and staff. The East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) subsidises the majority of the project's costs, with a nominal contribution of £5.00 per child from foster families.

Arlington Bluebell Walk – With the arrival of spring, ESFCA returned to the Arlington Bluebell Walk, completing two duty days running the refreshments in the Bluebell Barn and marshalling the walk itself. The weather was changeable which led to less visitors than previous years, however the event was still very popular and after costs the two days raised over £2923.61. Volunteers donated home-baked goods and attended the event to support the association.

Fred Livings Award – During the Bluebell Walk event, ESFCA launched the Fred Livings Award, established in memory of Fred Livings — former chairman and trustee of ESFCA — in partnership with the Fred Livings Youth Foundation (FLY Foundation). The award is dedicated to improving the lives of looked-after children and aims to champion new cultural experiences.

May

Wellbeing (Spring Wreath Workshop) - In a collaborative initiative between ESFCA and ESCC Foster Care Training, we hosted our first wellbeing day of the year. This event was created to offer foster carers a few hours of respite in a welcoming environment, where they could connect with fellow carers, take part in a relaxing activity, and enjoy light refreshments.

The session featured a floristry workshop led by Anthologie Floristry, giving carers the chance to unwind, recharge, and express their creativity. Costs were shared equally between ESFCA and ESCC Foster Care Training, with carers contributing a £10.00 donation.

Art Session – See April Art Session.

George Stone Limited (Donation) – In May we received a donation of £1,100 to put towards our next Inspire Project. This funding plays a vital role in helping us continue our mission to provide enriching cultural experiences for looked-after children and young people.

We are incredibly grateful for the support and belief in our work. Every contribution helps us continue creating meaningful, positive experiences for the young people we serve.

Toddler Support Group - We were pleased to resume our Toddler Support Group, offering foster parents of children under the age of five a safe, supportive environment to connect and engage. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for carers and children to build relationships, access peer support, and benefit from positive social interaction. Recognising the importance of early childhood development and carer well-being, ESFCA continues to run regular baby and toddler groups that promote secure attachments and shared experiences in a welcoming, child-friendly setting.

June & July

Exploring New Directions - This summer, ESFCA made the decision to pause our usual PGL residential trips to create space for fresh thinking and the exploration of new opportunities. While these trips have been a valued tradition, we recognised the importance of stepping back to reflect on how we can evolve and better meet the changing needs of our young people and carers.

Instead of our standard summer activities, we used this time to focus on Futures Thinking — a strategic process that allows us to envision different possibilities for growth and innovation. This reflective period has played a key role in shaping our upcoming business plan, ensuring our future activities remain impactful, inclusive, and responsive.

August

Bright Foundation Open Days - Over the summer holidays, our community partners at The Bright Foundation kindly invited our foster families to attend their open days at The Barn Theatre. Families were welcomed to bring a picnic, explore the beautiful grounds, visit the toy museum, and take part in a wide range of engaging activities. It was a fantastic opportunity for carers and children to enjoy a day out in a creative and family-friendly environment.

Art Session- See April Art Session – We held two sessions during August.

Urban Jump Party – See Urban Jump party – We held two sessions during August.

September

Toddler Support Group – See Toddler Support Group May

Phillip Mann (Donation) - We are incredibly grateful to Phillip Mann Estate Agents for their generous donation of nine computers to support the children and families we work with. Access to technology is essential for education, communication, and personal development — and this donation will make a real difference in the lives of our young people.

October

Beachy Head 10K & Ultra Marathon – ESFCA was once again invited by Eastbourne Borough Council’s Visit Eastbourne team to provide volunteer marshals for the Beachy Head 10K and Ultra Marathon. A committed group of volunteers — including foster carers, trustees, staff members, through-care service representatives, and supporters of the charity — participated in the event, braving challenging weather conditions to fulfil key safety and guidance roles along the race route.

Our volunteers played an essential part in supporting the smooth and safe running of the event, contributing to both community engagement and public visibility for the organisation. In recognition of our involvement, ESFCA received a £300 donation, which will be directed towards the delivery of future projects.

Art Session – See Art Session April

Bright Foundation – Community partners “The Bright Foundation” offered our families tickets to the school holiday performances of “The Witch and the Egg” by the longnose puppet theatre.

November

A Key Month for Governance and Planning - November is a particularly busy and important month for the organisation, as it marks the finalisation of both our financial statements and annual report. During this period, staff and trustees work closely to ensure all reporting requirements are met, and that the documentation accurately reflects our activities, impact, and financial position over the past year.

In addition to completing these statutory responsibilities, we also begin preparations for the Annual General Meeting (AGM), where we review achievements, share future plans, and engage with stakeholders. This concentrated period of activity is vital to maintaining transparency, accountability, and strong governance across ESFCA.

More Radio Toy Appeal - As part of their annual Christmas initiative, More Radio runs a Toy Appeal encouraging listeners to donate new toys for distribution to charities and community groups supporting disadvantaged children across the South of England.

Once again, ESFCA was pleased to receive a generous selection of donated toys through the appeal. These gifts were distributed to foster families and children in care within our network, helping to bring joy and support to those who may otherwise have gone without during the festive period.

December

Asda Foundation (Donation) – We successfully bid for a grant from the Asda Foundation and received £400.00 towards our children’s Christmas Party.

Carol Concert – For the third consecutive year, the *Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association*, in collaboration with Masonic Lodges across Sussex, hosted a Christmas Carol Concert at St Saviour’s Church in Eastbourne. The event was held in support of ESFCA and WOLO (We Only Live Once), a local charity supporting families affected by cancer.

We are pleased to report that the concert raised a total of £610 in support of our work — £250 generously donated by the *Widows Sons Masonic Bikers*, with a further £360 raised through a collection held during the service. We are extremely grateful for their continued partnership and commitment to supporting our foster families and children.

Annual Christmas Party – ESFCA hosted its annual Christmas Party for children in care and their foster families, providing a joyful and inclusive afternoon of celebration. The event featured a disco, party games, and a visit from Father Christmas, creating a festive and memorable experience for all who attended.

We were especially grateful to the Eastbourne & Lewes Soroptimists, who generously donated their time and provided gifts for the children to give to their carers — a gesture that added a meaningful and personal touch to the day.

The event was funded through a combination of ESFCA resources and a contribution from the Asda Foundation, with The Kings Centre kindly donating the venue. We extend our sincere thanks to all partners and volunteers who helped make the celebration possible.

Toddler Support Group – See Toddler Support Group May

Wellbeing Event – Festive Wreath-Making Workshop - as part of our ongoing commitment to carer wellbeing, ESFCA partnered with ESCC Foster Care Training to deliver a festive wreath-making workshop in the lead-up to the holiday season. This wellbeing event provided foster carers with a much-needed opportunity to relax, socialise, and take part in a creative and restorative activity in a supportive environment.

Led by Anthologie Floristry, the session guided participants through the process of crafting their own festive wreaths. Carers enjoyed a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with light refreshments and the chance to connect with peers.

The event was jointly funded by ESFCA and ESCC Foster Care Training, with carers contributing a nominal £10 donation to support participation.

Through Care Service – Christmas Party Support- We were pleased to support the Christmas party organised for the children of young adults receiving assistance from the Through Care Service. As part of our contribution, ESFCA provided over 40 Christmas presents and coordinated a special visit from Father Christmas, helping to create a festive and memorable experience for the families involved.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Our Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, 9th December, marking the conclusion of the 2023–2024 reporting year. The meeting was chaired by Susanne Beesley, who reflected on the year's achievements and key developments. Treasurer Kim Phillips presented the financial report, providing a detailed overview of the organisation's financial position and performance over the period.

Following the formal proceedings, trustees and guests had the opportunity to enjoy light refreshments and informal networking, fostering valuable connections and discussions as we look ahead to the coming year.

Ashdown Day School – Father Christmas Visit - As part of our seasonal outreach, ESFCA was pleased to support the Christmas celebrations at *Ashdown Day School*. At the school's request, we arranged a visit from Father Christmas, who spent time with the children, shared festive cheer, and delivered early Christmas presents. In return we received a donation of £240.

Bright Foundation – Community partners “The Bright Foundation” offered our families tickets to the school holiday performances of “The Snowman” by the enchanted cinema. This performance teaches and encourages the children to create sound effects to the story, after the performance our families then had the opportunity

Printers Playhouse - We were pleased to continue our partnership with *Printers Playhouse*, who generously offered discounted tickets to ESFCA families for their amateur production of *Treasure Island*. This initiative provided foster families with an accessible and enjoyable cultural outing during the festive season.

January 2025

Pantomime – Snow White - The first event of 2024 was our annual trip to the pantomime at Devonshire Park Theatre in Eastbourne — a much-anticipated highlight in the ESFCA calendar. This year, over 40 foster families attended the Saturday morning performance of *Snow White*, enjoying a fun and festive start to the year. As in previous years, ESFCA subsidised the cost of tickets to ensure the event remained accessible to all families within our network.

Haven Players – Pantomime – Community partners “Haven Players” offered our families free tickets to their amateur production of “Dick Whittington and his Cat”. As mentioned before, this initiative provided our foster families an accessible and enjoyable cultural outing during the festive season.

February

Toddler Support Group – See Toddler Support Group May

Inspire – Performing Arts Project - Thanks to the funding from George Stone LTD we were able to offer a second Inspire Project for the Year – See Inspire April.

Bright Foundation – Community partners- “The Bright Foundation” offered our families tickets to the school holiday performances of Anansi & the Lost Sun performed by Swallow Wings puppetry.

BBC Radio Sussex – Interview – Our Patron Dame Jacqueline Wilson acting in her guest editor role interviewed ESFCA Chair Susanne Beesley on the Sarah Gorell show. The pair discussed how they first met and mentioned the charities’ role at the upcoming Bluebell Walk event, the discussion then moved onto what it means to be a foster carer, and the issues foster cares face on a daily basis and the need for more foster carers across the country.

March

Strategic Planning – Throughout March, ESFCA continued its programme of Future Thinking discussions and strategic planning sessions, bringing together trustees, staff, and key stakeholders to shape the long-term direction of the charity. These meetings focused on identifying emerging needs, evaluating our current service model, and exploring sustainable pathways for growth.

The primary objective of this work is to develop and present a comprehensive business plan that will secure the future of the organisation, ensure financial resilience, and enhance the impact of our services for foster families and children in care. This forward-looking approach reflects our commitment to strong governance, long-term sustainability, and continued support for the fostering community.

Treasurer's Review

The financial year 2024/25 has overseen considerable change in all areas of the charity's activity. This is by no means accidental. Following on the previous year's decision by the Trustees to involve the organisation in a root and branch review of the charity's work, operation and activity in a process called "Future's Thinking".

The review has resulted in the re-calibration of the core values and value statement of ESFCA, a refocussing of the activities of the charity, a reappraisal of our partnerships and joint ventures and following a reappraisal of the changing environment in which the charity operates, a reassessment of the needs of our membership, their families and those in their care.

Central to this review has been the focus given to financial arrangements. In respect of income streams, expenditure and the administrative processes and controls central to running the charity's accounts and their visibility and accountability to trustees and members, important changes have been wrought.

Up to the end of the financial year the accounts have operated on a manually entered double entry system maintained on a spreadsheet available on Google Documents. A comprehensive monthly statement of accounts has been delivered to Trustees showing monthly bank balances, expenditure and income for the month and indicating available spending funds and those that designated to specific programmes and activities.

In the coming financial year, we will be switching to Xero online accountancy with monthly statements being added to by a data dashboard continually available to Trustees online. In addition, a budgetary control system has been designed to facilitate the accurate spending of reserved funds, dedicated funds and general expenditure on events and activities. All these developments are a result of the deliberations undertaken by Trustees in the Future's Thinking exercise which is copiously documented and available for scrutiny.

Three objectives are being met by these improvements:

- a) More accurate reporting for meetings and the fulfilment of continually up to date information to ensure Trustees meet their responsibilities on being able to show an up to date and functional understanding of the charity's condition.
- b) To provide accurate and accessible data for financial stream enhancing bids in a world where applying for charitable support is far more competitive and demanding of clear, accurate and purposeful applications.
- c) In line with broader reforms that are the result of the "Future's Thinking" process, the financial process discussed and set in motion will be accompanied by short- and medium-term objectives and a regular series of reviews to monitor the success and progress of reforms.

Reform of this nature is not borne of a need to change because of apparent difficulties but because of the prudent action of the charity to review its functioning from time to time, enables it to keep up to date with developments, expectations and needs of its membership, government reforms, the changing environment and the absolute imperative that the charity operate effectively for those it serves in a rapidly changing world.

During the 2024/5 financial year we have continued to enjoy the support of East Sussex County Council in supporting financially, operational and staffing costs, membership fees and advocacy costs and that support continues to be valued as is the broader partnership of shared objectives. While large project financial support is always appreciated, a special mention should be given to all those who support the charity through volunteering, undertaking fundraising challenges and those who have made valuable personal contributions. The bluebell wood project not only provided excellent funding through the hard work of volunteers, friends of the charity and trustees but also provided us with the platform to attract further support from the general public. Matching funding between the ESFCA and individual donors has also served to fund individual achievement awards to young people and compassionate support for individuals in need.

A most industrious, positive and beneficial year building on the present for the future.

Kim Phillips - Treasurer of East Sussex Foster Care Association

Chairperson's Review

I am pleased to present the financial report for 2024–2025, a year marked by meaningful progress and unwavering commitment to our mission. At the same time, increased pressures across the entire Third Sector have been deeply felt, with a significant rise in demand for services—not only from our foster community but throughout the wider charitable sector. This growing need highlights the many challenges individuals and organisations continue to face.

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the years to come, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our foster parents and their families, our esteemed patrons Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE FRSL and Jayne Torvill OBE, the friends of ESFCA, and our community partners for their unwavering support of East Sussex Foster Care Association. Their commitment has been instrumental in helping us deliver vital services, raise awareness, and create meaningful opportunities for the children and families we serve. It is a true privilege to work alongside such compassionate, dedicated, and inspiring individuals and organisations.

I also want to thank our amazing group of trustees, and to their partners and families, whose support is vital to their role. Kim Phillips (Treasurer), who not only ensures we remain on a strong financial footing, but who has also helped lead us through our “Futures Thinking” project. Ann Holder MBE (founder trustee), Sandra Maylam, Ru Petraitis- Williams BEM- Ru was awarded the British Empire Medal in 2024, Anja Leeves, Christine Phillips, Veronica Archer and Emily Wells. Despite their own busy lives, they continue to step up and ensure the association runs smoothly, staying true to our mission of building brighter futures for children in care, their foster parents, and their families. We especially acknowledge the invaluable role played by their own children, whose understanding and encouragement enable our trustees to give so much of themselves to ESFCA.

Thanks to prudent management of our resources and the steadfast support of our donors, community partners, and members, we have been able to meet this rising demand while maintaining financial stability. Whether through financial contributions, time, or expertise, your support has been invaluable in helping us continue our work during these challenging times.

The review process we began in 2023 has remained central throughout this year, with the goal of publishing our “Futures Thinking” business plan by the end of 2025. Through planning sessions and trustee meetings, we have reflected not only on who we are as an association but also on who we aspire to become.

The growing demands on the charity and community support sector are driving us to adapt—reconsidering how we work, how we deliver impact, and how we build resilience in an uncertain future. This ongoing reflection will be vital to continuing to serve our communities effectively in the years ahead.

Currently, we are working hard to secure a dedicated, flexible workspace accessible to our foster families—a goal we have pursued for several years. This space will expand our reach and enhance the projects, activities, and support we offer.

To meet the increasing needs of foster carers and children across East Sussex, we are actively seeking funding to bring this vision to life—a venue that will serve both as an administrative hub for our team and a welcoming community centre for foster families. Most importantly, it will provide a safe, inclusive environment where children and carers can openly share their experiences and needs. Securing a permanent, flexible space will enable ESFCA to grow sustainably, increase our visibility, and offer a trusted, emotionally safe place for the fostering community to connect, share, and find support—a home that truly reflects the heart of our mission and strengthens the foundation for all we do.

Looking ahead to the next financial year, our focus will be on implementing our “Futures Thinking” plan—expanding our reach, strengthening community engagement, and securing a dedicated flexible workspace. These goals will help us meet the growing needs of our fostering community and create lasting impact. With your continued support, I am confident we can turn these ambitions into reality.

It remains a privilege to work alongside such compassionate, dedicated, and inspiring individuals and organisations, all united by the belief that together we can make a real and lasting difference.

Susanne Beesley - Chair of East Sussex Foster Care Association

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of East Sussex Foster Care Association.

I report on the accounts of East Sussex Foster Care Association for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 2 to 19.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter D Hill FCA

On Behalf Of

Dominic Hill Associates Limited

Archer House

Britland Estate

Northbourne Road

Eastbourne

East Sussex

BN22 8PW

Pete D Hill

21 Oct 25

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Incoming Resources					
Donations		621	-	621	4,512
Core funding		26,000	-	26,000	20,000
Advocacy support		-	4,631	4,631	4,968
Apprentice scheme grant		-	-	-	-
Membership		-	1,130	1,130	1,155
Fundraising		4,810	-	4,810	8,118
Christmas events		719	-	719	738
Keep it reel		-	-	-	-
Jamies farm		-	-	-	-
PGL		-	-	-	-
Theatre visits & pantomime		1,916	-	1,916	1,676
Event contributions		2,439	-	2,439	589
Interest		601	-	601	482
Total incoming resources		37,106	5,761	42,867	42,238
Resources expended					
Insurance		620	-	620	612
General running expenses		8,417	-	8,417	8,734
Pantomime		3,722	-	3,722	3,108
PGL		-	-	-	7,946
Through care team		-	-	-	2,280
Keep it reel		-	-	-	134
Jamies farm		-	-	-	-
Events and projects		7,006	-	7,006	2,064
Fundraising		748	-	748	454
Intuitive Horse		-	-	-	-
Advocacy support		-	495	495	5,318
Salaries & pensions		19,643	-	19,643	18,872
Christmas events		890	-	890	1,019
Accountancy fees		1,992	-	1,992	1,990
Total outgoing resources		43,039	495	43,533	52,531
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year/ Net income/(expenditure) for the year					
		(5,932)	5,266	(666)	(10,293)
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		74,957	6,556	81,513	91,807
Total resources		69,025	11,822	80,847	81,513

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets			-		-
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		83,008		83,503	
Debtors & prepayments	2	-		-	
		<u>83,008</u>		<u>83,503</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3	(2,161)		(1,990)	
			80,847		81,513
Net Assets			<u>80,847</u>		<u>81,513</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	4		69,025		74,957
Restricted funds	5		11,822		6,556
Total Funds	6		<u>80,847</u>		<u>81,513</u>

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Balance sheet (continued)

Directors statements required by the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31 March 2025.

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A 'Small Entities' of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 20-10-25 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs S Beesley

Director and chair of trustees

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A 'Small Entities' of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

1.2. Going concern

The trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern and will continue for the foreseeable future.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants and incoming resources from charitable activities are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.3. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT, which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

1.4. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Expenditure on individual items of office and computer equipment costing less than £5,000 is written off in the period in which the expenditure incurred.

1.5. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Restricted funds are specifically for particular areas and projects undertaken by the charity.

1.6. Average number of employees

The average number of employees during the year was 1. There are also a number of volunteer support workers.

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

2. Debtors and Prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
PAYE debtor	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accountancy	1,692	1,632
Pension	119	98
PAYE creditor	341	152
Other creditor	9	108
	<u>2,161</u>	<u>1,990</u>
	<u>2,161</u>	<u>1,990</u>

4. Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 01-Apr-24 £	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-25
General fund	74,957	11,106	12,366	(4,673)	69,025
Designated fund	-	26,000	30,673	4,673	-
	<u>74,957</u>	<u>37,106</u>	<u>43,039</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,025</u>
	<u>74,957</u>	<u>37,106</u>	<u>43,039</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,025</u>

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

5. Restricted funds

	Balance at 01-Apr-24 £	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-25
Advocacy support	5,088	4,631	495	-	9,224
Keep it Reel	313	-	-	-	313
Membership	1,155	1,130	-	-	2,285
	<u>6,556</u>	<u>5,761</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,822</u>

6. Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Current assets	71,185	11,822	83,007	83,503
Current liabilities	(2,161)	-	(2,161)	(1,990)
	<u>69,025</u>	<u>11,822</u>	<u>80,847</u>	<u>81,513</u>

7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions other than expenditure reimbursement made to trustees. These payments were supported by documentary evidence such as receipts, and approved for payment by a third party.