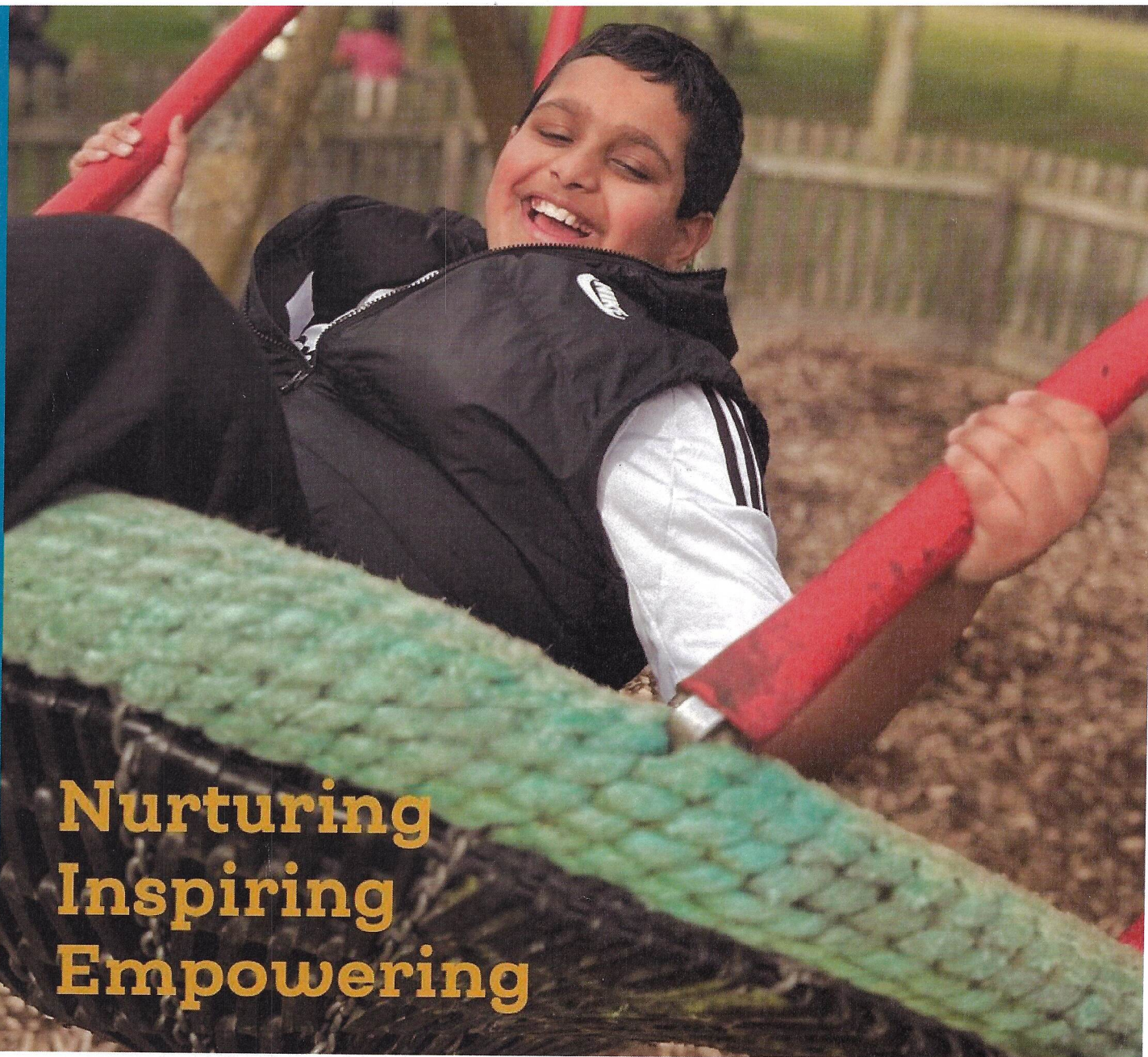


## Norton Hall Children & Family Centre

# Trustees Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2025



**Nurturing  
Inspiring  
Empowering**



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FRONT COVER shows a moment of happiness for one of our young people on a trip to Ward End Park playground. Simple pleasures that not everyone has in their lives but that embodies the work of Norton Hall Children & Family Centre in our community.

## TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and independently examined financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, applicable law, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP) issued in March 2005.

### Reference and administrative information

Charity name:	Norton Hall Children and Family Centre
Charity registration number:	1112752
Company registration number:	05052641
Registered Office:	Ralph Road, Saltley, Birmingham B8 1NA.

#### Trustees

> Ms Wendy Kerr	Chair	Appointed April 2015
> Mr Iftikar Karim	(Secretary)	Appointed December 2004
> Ms Ghazala Parveen		Appointed September 2015
> Mr John Freeman		Appointed February 2004
> Ms Maryam Khan		Appointed April 2015

Secretary	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Iftikar Karim	Suzanne Knipe

#### Bankers

Unity Bank, 9 Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2HB

#### Independent Examiner

Neal and Co Business Services Limited, Shakespeare Buildings, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 6AG.

## CHAIR'S REVIEW

I am very proud to present my summary of this year's report for the Norton Hall Children & Family Centre. Our operations include the Dolphin Women's Centre in Ward End Park.

Once again this has been a very busy and eventful year, as our charity has expanded support for some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged women, children, and families in East Birmingham.

In total across both Centres, we helped over 1,900 local women, children, and young people to improve their wellbeing and life chances.

Our community has continued to struggle with the cost-of-living crisis over the last year. 83% of the children we supported were from low-income families, and 59% had special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND). Of the women we supported at the Dolphin Centre, 69% were long term unemployed, 47% were lone parents and 73% had limited or no English Language skills.

Our Winter food project was a lifeline to many of our families. Between October and March we gave a nutritious lunch and evening meal to many of the children attending our holiday activities, as well as gift vouchers to 250 of the families who were struggling the most with their finances.

At Norton Hall we supported almost 700 children aged 2-16 years, with preschool education, after school and school holiday positive activities, and our Starfish mentoring support programme. 92% of our preschool children who were on average four months behind in their Numeracy on entry to Nursery reached their age-related expected development by the end of the year.

Together with our partners, we supported 187 parents. SEND provision locally is very limited, and 70% of our parents have limited to no English Language skills which creates further barriers. In response, we developed a new programme benefiting 81 parents of SEND children, at the end of which 94% had improved knowledge and practical skills to support their child, and 92% were less stressed.

At the Dolphin Women's Centre, we supported over 1,000 local women to improve their life chances through participating in training and volunteering, and through the provision of employability and wellbeing support. Almost 40% improved their English language skills through English training, and 49 women got jobs after engaging in employability training and support.

In July, we launched the WASH, a five-year project based at the Dolphin Centre which aims to engage our community in nature and climate learning activities; aiming for improvements in food and growing skills, environmental knowledge, green jobs qualifications and career information and confidence building.

We developed further our Lakeside Café, with training, employment and volunteering opportunities for local women. Local people have told us that the Café is a community asset that was absolutely needed and is welcomed by all who have used it. In August we won the 'Best Café in Birmingham' Award!

Excluding fundraising and governance costs, 98p in every £1 was spent directly supporting our community. We grew our income to c.£997k and spent c.£1,013m, leaving us with just under three months free reserves in relation to the 2026 budget.

We would like to thank all our partners and funders for their much-valued support throughout this year. Your support is needed now more than ever as we set out to realise the ambitious plans we have for both centres. Finally, a big thank you to my fellow Trustees, and our dedicated staff and volunteers, whose hard work provides an invaluable service to the community.

Wendy Kerr

Chair of Trustees



## OBJECTIVES

### Background

Whilst established in its current form in 2006, the charity has a 50-year track record of community-based service delivery. Since 2013, our operations include running the Dolphin Women's Centre in Ward End Park. Our mission is to support local children, young people, and women to overcome disadvantage.

### Charitable objectives

The objects of the charity, as set out in its Memorandum of Association are:

1. To relieve poverty and advance health and education in the City of Birmingham, and to address the needs of disadvantaged women, children and young people in the Hodge Hill, Ladywood and Small Heath constituencies, by providing:
  - a) A community nursery, provision for out of school childcare, and promoting the development of childcare provision aimed at meeting the needs of low-income families.
  - b) Holiday play schemes and other children's play provision.
  - c) Support and provision for young people, including youth work with girls and young women.
  - d) Opportunities for education, training and personal development.
  - e) Support for the economic advancement of women, including supporting women into employment and enterprise, or such further facilities as may be of benefit to the wider community in the area of benefit.
2. To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

We support our local community in the Ward End and Alum Rock areas of East Birmingham in Hodge Hill constituency which is ranked the second lowest on the English Index of Multiple Deprivation'. Our community has a high proportion of BAME residents, mainly of Pakistani heritage.

Our community has continued to struggle with the cost-of-living crisis over the last year, and we have grown our capacity in response. Overall, across both Centres we supported over 1,800 local women, children, and young people to improve their wellbeing and life chances.

98% of the people we supported last year were of BAME heritage. Of the women we supported at the Dolphin Centre, 69% were long term unemployed, 47% were lone parents and 73% had limited or no English Language skills. 91% of our preschool children started nursery with English as an additional language. 83% of the children we supported were from low-income families, and 59% had special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND).

We thank our staff, volunteers, and Trustees who – through their hard work and dedication - have enabled us again this year to respond to the increase in demand for our services. We also thank our partners, whose expertise enhanced and broadened the support we could offer to our community.



## Winter food project

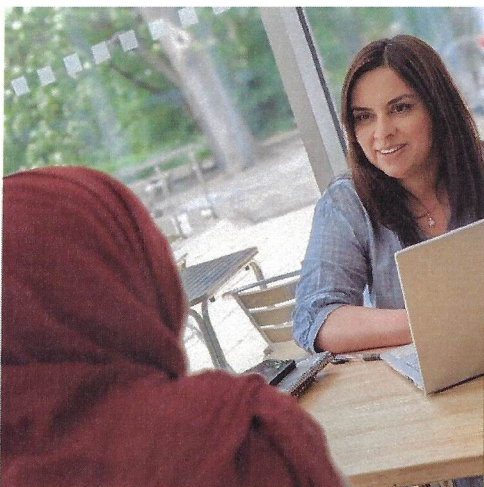
We started the Winter Food Project because we saw children coming to play sessions so hungry their behaviour became challenging. We provided children attending activities breakfast when they arrived, a hearty lunch, and a range of snacks throughout the day.

We switched to gift vouchers last year rather than food parcels for families in line with feedback from our families and staff. The parcels were difficult to assemble and to get the contents right for each family. Our staff – who know local families well – were able to provide vouchers to those who were really struggling with their finances: given out discreetly to reduce embarrassment in front of others.

Over the holidays the children made their own pizzas and cooked them on the pizza oven in the Forest School Garden. They learnt how to make the pizza, preparing the ingredients, cooking and then eating it with their peers. Over the Christmas holidays we delivered two family winter fun days engaging engaged 40 adults and 134 children in a wide range of activities plus a hot meal for each attendee.

In total we provided:

- › 1,752 lunches to over 484 children attending our activities during school holidays.
- › 1,920 evening meals to 80 children from the most vulnerable families attending our activities.
- › 250 Aldi gift vouchers worth £20 each to 250 families.
- › 30 of the most vulnerable families with a £75 Christmas food voucher.



Having the conversation about not having enough food gave staff an opportunity to be able to talk openly about other forms of support.

We signposted beneficiaries who needed additional support with cost of living to local food banks, housing support organisations, Job Centre plus advisors, family support teams and other local organisations.

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LEFT one of the Job Centre plus Employability Advisors supporting a local woman wanting to access work opportunities in a session at our Dolphin Women's Centre.

## Feedback from families

*"NHCFC is a life saver, thank you for the food vouchers I was really appreciative of it."*

*"Without this scheme I would be lost. My children play and have fun in the holidays, and they also have food which really helps me a single mother where money is so tight now days. I work and I still find it hard to survive financially but the staff at NHCFC help with activities for my children and hot food and snacks throughout the day. Thank you for all your support in the holidays."*

*"Staff at the Dolphin Women's Centre always makes my life easier. When I'm finding it hard with money, they helped me with food vouchers to buy food for family."*



## NORTON HALL – SUPPORTING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Our work at Norton Hall provides parents with all year round after school and holiday childcare which is either free or provided at a low cost. We also support parents through parenting training and support.

During the year we supported almost 700 children aged 2-16 through early years education, after school and school holiday positive activities, and through our Starfish mentoring support programme.

Together with our partners, we supported 187 parents struggling with parental challenges, including 81 parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). SEND childcare provision locally is very limited. Most settings exclude SEND children due to the cost of maintaining higher staffing ratios. Language is another barrier: 70% of women we support have limited to no English Language skills.

### Sunflower Community Nursery

At our Sunflower Nursery, we provide pre-school education for local children whose educational starting point in life is significantly lower than the national average. Our OFSTED rating remains 'GOOD'.

This year we provided early years education for 64 children aged 2-5 years. This included four children with complex SEND needs, who all thrived in nursery and were supported with their transition into formal education with no breakdown in placement.

Throughout the year, we engaged children in weekly sports sessions led by a professional sports coach, facilitating a wide range of physical activities to help children develop their physical skills. This had a noticeable impact on children's physical health and development. The development of core strength, gross and fine motor skills also helped them develop their early literacy and writing skills.

Our Forest School team engaged children in weekly forest school sessions to encourage a love for nature and to support their outdoor learning.

We engaged parents and children in a special workshop in the Ward End Park Community Garden with forest school activities including bushcraft skills, planting and other nature-based activities. This was a huge success, and the parents enjoyed getting outdoors in a safe space.

We also organised a workshop for 25 parents of children leaving nursery last year. The 'Read Steady Reception' workshop provided a range of information, advice and guidance on getting their child ready to transition to school.

>

RIGHT a child taking part in our Forest School workshop.





Our team continued to work in partnership with 'Heart Early Years Stronger Practice Hub' partners to close the attainment gap for our children, and to reach a good level of development at the end of early years foundation stage for our nursery. Throughout the year we promoted evidence-based practice on activities which enhance children's all-around development. This has raised our profile as a Hub partner

During the year our nursery manager qualified as a Trainer for Early Talk Book and went onto deliver training to other early years providers in Birmingham. Our team were trained in the 'Glasgow Nurture' principles which is a recognised programme which aims to avoid school exclusions and improve children's self-regulation and executive function. During the year we introduced the principles at our nursery, and our nursery manager delivered Glasgow Nurture training to west Midlands early years providers.

### OUTCOMES from our work with pre-school children

- > 92% of children who were on average four months behind in their Numeracy on entry to Nursery reached their age-related expected development through participation in our 'Counting Collection' intervention.
- > 100% of children who were on average six months behind in their Speech and Language on entry, made significant progress via our Early Talk Book intervention and were more ready for primary school.
- > 96% of our children leaving nursery last year were assessed as developmentally prepared for starting school (in line with child development bands using the EYFS curriculum).
- > 94% of parents with a child leaving Nursery last year agreed that their child was ready for school.

### Children and Young People

We support some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in our community to improve their emotional wellbeing and gain confidence to navigate and manage their often difficult and challenging life circumstances.

We supported 634 children aged 5-16 this year, of whom 59% had special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND), and 83% were from low-income families (entitled to benefit related free school meals). All of our staff are now trained in trauma informed training which was one of our priorities this year.

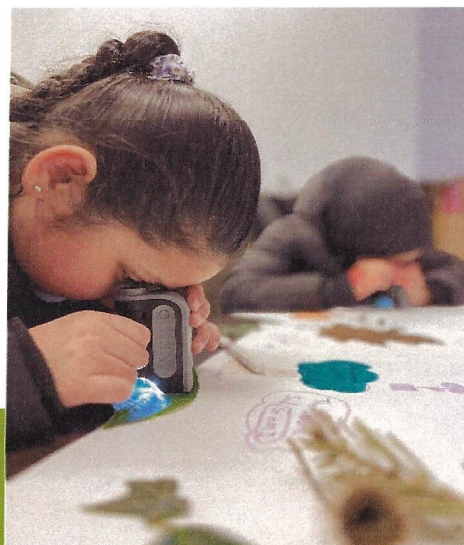
### Positive activities

Most (575) of our children and young people engaged in what we call 'positive activities'. During the year these included Martial Arts, Football, Cookery, Creative Arts, Sports and team games, Forest School at nearby Ward End Park and play based activities for the younger children.

Positive activities enable them to gain interests and skills and develop confidence. They take place after school in the evening and at weekends and throughout school holidays.

>

RIGHT a child taking part in our Positive Activities.





A third (204) of our children and young people engaged in Forest school and bush craft activities across the year. 59 required wrap around care as their parents were working or in education and accessed our after school and holiday care service. 21 engaged in drama activities and put on a show in the summer holidays – ‘Norton Hall has Talent’. Our 11–16-year-olds engaged well with our weekly boys and girls youth group, where we facilitate a wide range of life skill, social and sports activities.

### Starfish Mentoring

Last year we supported 106 young people aged 10-14, through one to one and group mentoring. All children also participate in our positive activities, which acts as a gateway to more intensive mentoring support, enabling trust to be built between the child and our staff and volunteers. During the year we saw an increase in engagement for the positive activities which was one of our priorities.

The aim of mentoring is to help them improve their behaviour, wellbeing, engagement in school and family relations. Children are selected to join the mentoring programme by their teachers as their behavioural issues are putting them at risk of being a danger to themselves and others and potentially being excluded from education. We identify the challenges in each child’s life and build a bespoke package of support including a 12-week, one-to-one mentoring programme and drawing, talking and forest school therapies, combined with positive activities and play.

They are supported by our youth team, as well as young leader volunteers. Volunteer young leaders are local young people who we engage to lead activity sessions, providing training and support to fulfil their roles. Close in age, they provide peer support and act as role models for our young people.

Via a partnership with Family Action, we also supported 106 of the children’s parents and/or caregivers with advice and signposting on a 1:1 basis and / or in groups with wellbeing activities. Those that needed the most support engaged in our 10-week ‘Understanding your Child’s Behaviour’ course, where they developed skills like effective behaviour management.

### Outcomes of mentoring

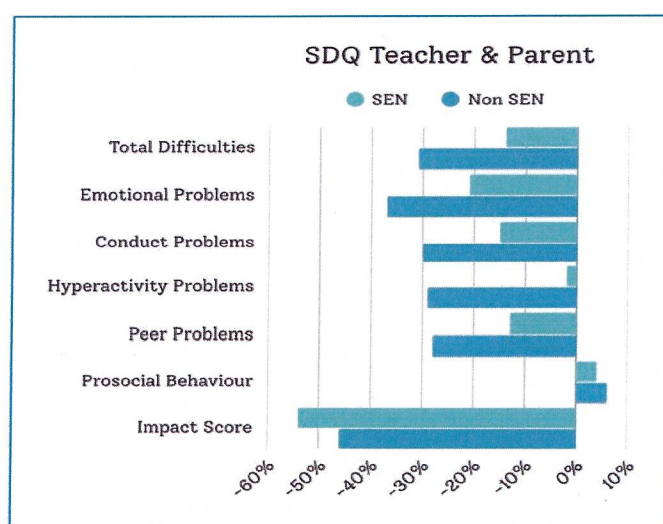
106 young people aged 10-14 were supported through 1:1 and / or group mentoring. 29 children took part in six mentoring groups, including one for seven children who had been bereaved.

76 children took part in 1:1 mentoring, of whom 39% had SEND. We survey their teachers and parents pre and post the mentoring.

The graph on the right shows the impact of the young people’s behaviour – at school, at home, and on their general wellbeing. The impact of this dropped by **46%** (**54%** for SEND children).

Other key findings included:

- > Emotional problems dropped by **37%** (**21%** SEND)
- > Conduct problems dropped by **30%** (**15%** SEND)
- > Hyperactivity scores dropped by **29%** (**2%** SEND)



At the end of the mentoring sessions, young people felt more in control, better understood, and better at managing their emotions at school and home.



## Starfish case study

T was referred to Starfish for mentoring support after becoming distressed around planned contact with his Dad, which he eventually refused to attend. He had fled domestic abuse with his Mum and younger brother and was carrying the emotional weight of that experience.

He described being locked in a room and witnessing serious harm to his brother. Although now safe at home, these traumatic memories were affecting his emotional wellbeing.

We engaged T in regular mentoring sessions which gave T a safe space to talk, build trust, and boost his self-confidence. The sessions used creative and calming activities like painting, playdough, and emotion cards to help him explore and express his thoughts. The focus was on creating a space where he felt heard and in control.

Over time, as the mentoring relationship grew, he opened up about his experiences and started showing more of his personality. T made huge progress in terms of confidence and emotional expression. At the start he was quiet and cautious, with minimal speech and a visible stutter.

Gradually, he became more talkative, relaxed, and enthusiastic about the sessions – even reminding his Mentor when it was time. He began to talk openly about his past and showed resilience when discussing it. He developed coping strategies for dealing with nerves and became more socially confident with peers.

T is now settled and happy both at home and in school. He enjoys learning, has strong friendships, and is more emotionally secure. He feels at peace with not having contact with his dad, and his wishes have been respected through the court process. His Mum, who was also supported early on by the school, now works there – strengthening the positive link between home and school. T has said he's looking forward to secondary school and is excited about making new friends.

T told us:

*"I used to be nervous talking to people, but now I just speak to them, it gets easier and they become my friends. I don't miss my dad. I'm happy with Mum and my brother. I like painting. It makes me feel calm."*

His Mentor reflected:

*"Giving children a safe, consistent space where they feel in control and valued makes a real difference. T's progress shows how important it is to build trust, move at the child's pace, and use creative tools to help them open up. Partnership with the family and wider support networks also played a key role in his journey. It's a reminder that emotional support doesn't have to be complicated to be powerful."*



## SPOTLIGHT on our expanded support for parents of SEND children

Together with our partners, we this year we supported 187 parents struggling with parental challenges. This included 81 parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), for whom we expanded our support as we had developed a large waiting list following a pilot.

Across the year we supported parents in a range of ways:

- › **One to one support:** each parent had an initial meeting with one of our staff to share their feelings, concerns, and experiences. We offered guidance on how best to support their child and co-developed an Action plan based on their child's needs and their family situation. We took soundings from the child's teacher as the year progressed and adjusted plans as needed. We supported with:
  - Completing complex Student Support Provision Plans and Education Health Care Plan applications to the Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review service
  - Applications for financial support, including Disability Living Allowance, Family Funds to help purchase specialist equipment, and / or for Blue Badges giving them priority parking rights.
  - Advocacy to help them access placements at special schools like Autism West Midlands
- › **Coffee mornings:** we hosted weekly sessions during term time at the Dolphin Centre and Norton Hall, helping parents to connect with peers and share knowledge on e.g., SEND provision and resources.
- › **Training:** we delivered five training workshops, led by external specialists for 15 parents in each workshop. These covered topics such as - Behaviour Management, Toileting Techniques, Sleep Strategies, Healthy Eating, Communication and language, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and 'This is Me' (a workshop supporting parents to better understand their child's autistic or ADHD needs).
- › **Holiday play:** 88 of their children accessed play sessions two days each week of school holidays. For those with complex needs the sessions ran for three hours for three months until we could find them a specialist provider. All sessions focused on fun, stimulating sensory activities which catered to their individual needs. in a special area at Norton Hall which has lights, toys, material play, sand and water etc.
- › **Family play and stay:** we facilitated stimulating, developmentally appropriate activities for the children, their siblings and parents to engage in sensory play.

## OUTCOMES from our SEND parenting programme

Due to participation in the programme, results included that:

- > 94% of parents had improved knowledge and practical skills to support their child.
- > 92% were less stressed resulting in them being more prepared to handle the challenges of raising a child / young person with SEND
- > 89% had improved network and peer support group (resulting in increased social inclusion).
- > 87% felt their parenting skills had improved.
- > 81% had a better awareness of other services or agencies to seek support.
- > 76% were more confident to work with school staff and other professionals; and,
- > 67% reported that their child has better attendance at school (increased school timetable or attending school more regularly).



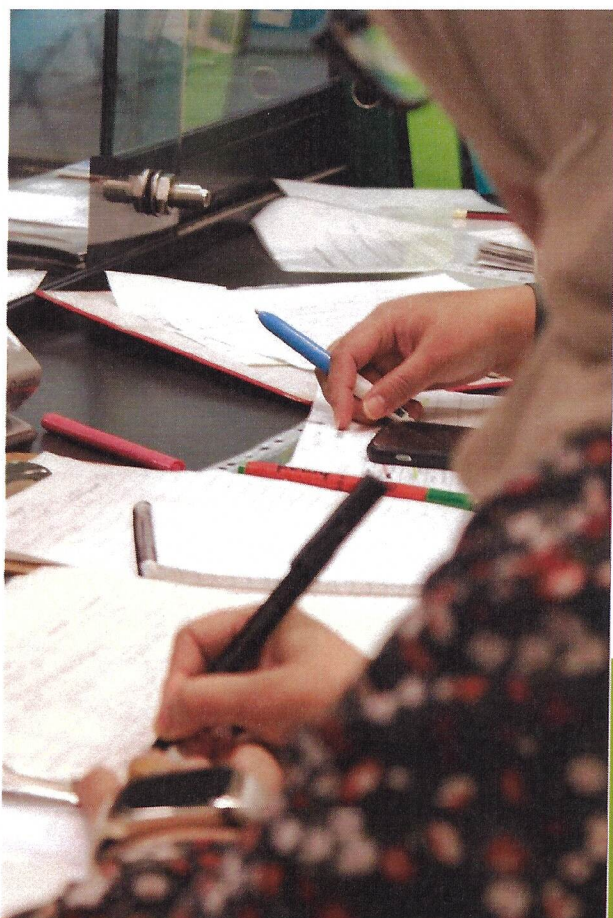
## Feedback from parents

*"I often went to the school to raise concerns. I felt I was nagging them constantly, but I didn't have anywhere else to go. Now Norton Hall help me with my concerns. It's much quicker for my child."*

*"The sessions are helpful as we get a chance to off load, meet other parents in similar situations as us who can give us advice and vice versa. The staff from Norton Hall that lead the sessions have enabled us to feel heard and supported. A lot of us parents had issues with the school and were unable to get in touch with the relevant teachers. The team at Norton Hall would chase this for us which relieved a lot of anxiety and stress. They helped with behavioural techniques and were always happy to go that extra mile with printing off forms etc."*

*"If the play sessions in the school holidays were not available, I would go crazy in the holidays, there's not much out there for children with SEND."*

## DOLPHIN WOMEN'S CENTRE



We use the Centre's Lakeside Café, Training suite, allotments, Forest school area and grounds to empower local women to overcome inequalities and disadvantage and improve their life chances through participating in training and volunteering, and through the provision of employability and wellbeing support.

During the year we supported 1,026 women through participation in training, volunteering, work experience, wellbeing activities and specialist support.

47% were lone parents, 69% long term unemployed and 73% had limited or no English language skills.

Initially we support women with information, advice and guidance and signposting to local services. We can connect women to local services providing specialist support including counselling, welfare crisis support, and health support for those living with long term illnesses.

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LEFT after accessing our advice and guidance services, skills and training, local women can volunteer and apply for work experience in our Dolphin Women's Centre. This often leads to employment opportunities.

## Wellbeing support

Our partner Ways to Wellbeing delivers a rolling programme at the Centre. 322 women engaged during the year in sessions from Makeup, Sewing, Cake decorating, Photography, Drama, Arts and crafts, coffee mornings, outdoor walk and talk groups and gentle exercise classes. The social nature of the provision helps women to improve their confidence and self-esteem; whilst making new friends and enjoying our green space. This prepares them for stepping into formal training courses or volunteering, or employment.



## Pathways to employment support including training

During school-friendly hours we offer formal training - IT /English / Maths / Food Hygiene/ First Aid/ Childcare / Early Years Education / Employability – as well as work experience through volunteering.

During the year 72 women gained valuable work experience via volunteering. They greeted Centre visitors on Reception, supported students in our Training Centre, helped with administration tasks, supported our Café team serving customers, and our environmental team in work on our allotments and Forest school.

### Training

During the year 398 women engaged in English Language training. The beginners and entry level training is delivered by experienced ESOL Tutors who volunteer with us, some of whom are retired teachers and are all local. The more advanced courses are delivered by our partners the Workers Educational Association. We offer: English for Absolute Beginners; Pre-Entry ESOL for those interested in working with Pre- School children; Entry ESOL for those interested in working in Hospitals, Textiles and Fashion & ESOL Entry Level 3.

### Feedback from one of our students

*"I was born in Pakistan in 1985. In early 2006 I finished my college education and got married to a stranger. My husband was a British citizen.*

*I came in England in October 2006. I was a girl full of life and passion. I love to learn. I asked my husband to get education here. In our house all rules were made by my mother in law. She said to me: **'We didn't bring you here to learn education we bring you here to look after my whole family'.***

*I cooked food for 18 people every day - all my day spent in kitchen. I looked after my sister in law's children at the same time from 8 am to 6 pm - one of them were special needs. I massaged my mother in law every night. When my children were born nobody helped me not even my husband. I have 3 children 2 of them are autistic. I did everything for them, very hard.*

*I was a lady who always has complex because everybody in house call me mad and useless. And I feel like that as well. I goes through like this for 18 years.*

*In April 2024 I joined dolphin centre ESOL classes. I swear it's changed my life. Before that I was completely living in a fog. I didn't know anything about British values. My brain was completely blank. I wasn't know really about reading, I completely forgot about writing. My confidence level was zero.*

*But with dolphin centre classes I build up my confidence. I can write really well now. In reading and speaking I am doing really well.*

*I really really appreciate the lady who is running this centre Maxine. She is doing so good job. It's a great work that she is doing. I am really really thankful to her that she gave me platform to learn something.*

*I believe lots of ladies like me get back to their lives because of this centre. Ladies are most important part of society. Long time ago I read: **'You give me good mothers I will give you a good nation.'***

*I am really thankful to Maxine, because of her efforts now I am a new lady. I never even wash my face with soap before when I was staying in house. I never look after myself because the people around made me feel like this. Now I am saying myself: **'No, I need to look after myself, if no one cares about me, I will care about myself.'***

Our courses are designed to prepare trainees for jobs available in our locality, such as teaching, childcare, retail, and administration. 201 women benefited from a wide range of accredited education and training opportunities delivered by our own team alongside our partners the Disability Resource Centre, South and



City College Birmingham, Matthew Boulton College, Birmingham Metropolitan College and a volunteer academic. Some of these include:

- › IT for Beginners, and IT Intermediate/ Level 1 and Advanced
- › Maths for Beginners, and Maths Functional Skills - Levels 1 and 3
- › Understanding the Role of a Community Interpreter Award – Levels 1 and 2
- › Food Hygiene – Level 1, Emergency First Aid, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Online Safety
- › Preparation for work: CV writing, employment action plans and identification of job opportunities.
- › Introduction to Early Years - Level 1; Introduction to Supported Teaching - Level 1, and Introduction to Safeguarding in Education Setting - Level 1

### Employability support programme

We helped women improve their chances of accessing employment by providing access to IT: women can use equipment at the Centre to complete job applications and where needed we can loan them a Tablet & SIM card to work on their applications at home. A Job Centre Plus Advisor is based on site providing CV support, job search, interview support, interview clothes support and benefit support when in part time work etc. Other partners include the Disability Resource Centre & Birmingham Institute for the Deaf.

### Outcomes from our work with women and a case study

#### Of the women we supported...

- > 39% (398) improved their English language skills through English training
- > 20% (201) gained basic education & vocational qualifications through attending our training
- > 25% (254) improved their employability skills through employability training & support
- > 5% (49) got jobs after accessing employability training & support
- > 7% (72) gained work experience through volunteering

N is 45 years old and came to England in 2014 from Morocco; a single Mum of four children with no spoken English. In 2015, N found the Dolphin Centre, who supported her to access a pre-entry beginners English class - the only one suitable, as without having any basic English, N would not be eligible to be accepted onto the Council run Adult Education classes.

Over the next few years N gained level 2 qualifications in English, Maths and IT with us, grew in self-confidence and built a social support network. She gained the skills and confidence to begin to take the first steps into finding employment. We supported N with volunteering opportunities, initially on Reception and then in the Café.

N recalls:

*"I can't forget the day that the Café Manager said she wanted to talk to me. I was so scared I thought I had done something wrong but my fear turned to excitement when I was offered a part time job in the Café. I will never forget that day, that someone believed in me. I really needed a job, I was a single mother with 4 children and no support and I had to feed the children. Since that time I have become the Trainee Manager. I can't believe my journey; I started from a big minus zero and here I am now, able to support my family financially and my children are all so proud of me."*



## SPOTLIGHT on our 'Washwood Heath Adaptation and Sustainability Hub' (WASH) project

In July, we launched the WASH, a five-year project which aims to engage our local community in nature and climate learning activities, increasing their engagement with and connection to nature locally as well as in the rural environment. The project aims to see improvements in everyday lives, including food and growing skills, improved mental and physical health, and confidence building as well as creating career opportunities and more green jobs for local people.

Alongside connecting our community with nature, we will help them take action on climate change. Based in the Dolphin Women's Centre and with a vibrant hub in the Lakeside Café, the WASH will provide a welcoming space for those who are passionate about the world in which we live and care about our local environment. We're partnering with Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, Friends of Ward End Park and New Leaf Sustainable Development to deliver the project.

Across the five years we will host a diverse range of events, outings and courses centred around the environment and 'green action', focused around Ward End Park with its Forest School area and Pond, the Lake and Wash brook.

During school holidays children will attend Forest School in Ward End Park. We will take children and their families on trips to the National Trust Brockhampton estate and the Wyre Forest to experience nature in a wilder setting. At the Dolphin Women's Centre we will engage groups of children with creative nature-based climate crisis activities and inspire families to take climate crisis actions.

Throughout we will engage learning disabled young women and volunteers in an outdoor environmental activities and learning, which will include improving the biodiversity of the Park and Lake. We will train local people as Forest School Leaders, create and deliver accredited Horticultural training courses and train local people in how to grow their own food, using our allotments as training grounds.

One of the first achievements was to create an additional allotment on an unused balcony at the Dolphin Women's Centre. As can be seen the beds, shade, table, established plants and planting and irrigation systems have been delivered and built. We can now grow food used in our Lakeside Café on the new allotment as well as our existing community allotment, reducing food miles. As of March 2025 we were training our staff and volunteers how to manage and tend to the growing allotment.



ABOVE shows the completed balcony allotment project, co-developed with residents and Slow Food Birmingham, who are experienced in roof top growing.

The WASH project is being funded thanks to a grant from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest community funder in the UK, as well as other generous donors (see financial statements below).



## Lakeside Café

Since we opened the doors to our lakeside Café and its outdoor Kiosk in 2023 we have been gradually developing what we offer and how we run it.

The Café team caters to Centre visitors, including buffet lunches for training providers who rent rooms at the Centre. The team prepare meals for children at nearby Norton Hall, as well as regular catering for various projects we run from the Centre. The produce that is grown in our community allotments is used in the Café, reducing costs and ensuring that any surplus can be invested back into supporting women. Four local women are employed at the Café, alongside local women gaining work experience as volunteers.

During the year, we further developed our team who provided excellent service and good quality food and beverages for local people accessing the park and enjoying the Café's amazing view of the Lake.

We increased promotional activity to engage more customers, growing both Café sales and hire of the Café space for meetings and events. Local people have told us that the Café is a community asset that was absolutely needed and is welcomed by all who have used it. In August we won the 'Best Café in Birmingham' Award.

### Birmingham Live review, August 2024

*"I visited the 'best park café' with a lake view in an unexpected corner of Birmingham. The Lakeside Café sells food as lovely as the view - and the profits go to a great cause. I've been to a few park cafes in Birmingham and this was by far the loveliest.*

*Good value, tasty food, friendly service and one of the prettiest views around. I couldn't fault it. The Lakeside Café at Ward End Park is worth travelling across the city to visit, but come on an empty stomach!"*



## STAFF AND MANAGEMENT

The day-to-day financial management is devolved to the Chief Executive - Suzanne Knipe. The Board receives quarterly management accounts, showing the actual performance compared to budget.

We have a culturally diverse staff team, balanced in age and gender. Many of our staff live locally and some are 'home grown', starting with us as volunteer young leaders. Our qualified and experienced team have a wide range of complementary skills and qualifications.

These include Youth Work and academic qualifications in for example, Play Work and Mentoring Qualifications (to Level 2 or 3), Therapeutic Counselling, Psychology, 'Trauma Informed Practice' and Drawing and Talking Therapy.

During the year we have gained new permanent employees in the Lakeside café and provided job opportunities for young women who have left school or at university to do sessional work in the café at weekends. We expanded the environmental team which now includes a new Project Manager, Volunteer and Engagement Co-ordinator, Part-time Horticulture Co-ordinator and Forest School Leader.



ABOVE shows a number of our dedicated staff team who passionately support our ethos of NURTURING, INSPIRING, EMPOWERING the lives of local children and families.



## FUTURE PLANS

Trustees have reviewed the financial position of the charity over the next 12 months which has included a review of the budget for the coming year (YE26) and anticipated funding into YE27.

Over the last few years our Charity has grown significantly and therefore over the next twelve months we aim to start consolidating our internal functions and service delivery across the whole organisation.

**Nursery:** our team will enhance the curriculum with more focus in Expressive, Arts and Design and Physical Development areas to help children improve in these learning areas.

We will also improve our engagement with parents, which will improve developmental outcomes for children

**Children, young people and women:** we will continue to maintain, improve and develop the quality of services we provide to the community in response to local needs.

**Norton Hall:** improving the fabric of the building by developing a Planned & Preventative Maintenance Plan and securing funding to support the identified works.

**CRM upgrade:** developing our Lamplight system to ensure we are monitoring and evaluating the impact of our work effectively, and that our systems are fit for purpose - now and in the future.

**Finance:** strengthening our finance function by outsourcing the management account function which will free up capacity within the core team and improve the function via external expertise and support.

**Governance:** strengthening our governance will include recruiting new Trustees with appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of our work and our community whose expertise will add value to our work.

**Income diversification:** continue to increase trading income and diversify income streams across all our services and projects as so we are not reliant on short term grant funding.

**Marketing and communications:** we will continue to invest and develop strategies to engage service users, raise our profile, share learnings and market our work.



## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees agreed a budget for the year with three main cost centres: 1. The Sunflower Nursery; 2. Children and Young Peoples Services; and 3. The Dolphin Women's Centre.

Total incoming resources for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (YE25) were £997,265 (YE24 £948,046).

Resources expended were £1,013,214 (YE24 £894,721), which left a net deficit of £15,949 (YE24 £53,325 surplus). 98% of our expenditure was spent on directly supporting beneficiaries: 68% on the salaries of our expert team, 15% on activity costs, and 15% on premises and management costs across our two Centres. 2% was spent on fundraising and governance costs.

Total net assets at the year-end amounted to £418,060 (YE24 £434,009) of which £160,953 was restricted for spend in YE26 (YE24 £148,736).



## Reserves policy and position

Due to uncertainties and the short-term nature of much of the charity's funding, the Trustees policy is to hold sufficient funds in Unrestricted reserves to allow it to operate for a period of 3-6 months in the coming budget year. This policy is reviewed annually by Trustees.

The Unrestricted reserves position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 was £257,107 (YE24 £195,273) which equated to just under three months of the YE26 budget of £1,072m. The Charity holds a designated fund within its Unrestricted Reserves to cover redundancies and building maintenance; this had reduced to £79,701 (£90k YE24) as the Charity used £11k to refurbish the Sunflower Nursery kitchen.

## Income generation

The charity has limited assets and its primary source of funding - 67% this year- was charitable activities income sourced through partnerships with local authorities, schools and other charities.

29% of income was received in grants from Trusts, Foundations and the National Lottery Community Fund, and 4% was donated by individuals. Where grants are given for specific purposes, they are treated as Restricted Funds. In YE25, the Charity received c.£393k of restricted grants, and tracking and managing these funds (as detailed at Note 17) is part of the charity's financial management.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all our partners for their much-valued support throughout this year, including Birmingham City Council Landscape Practice Group, The Friends of Ward End Park, Family Action, Birmingham Education Partnership, 26 local schools, Birmingham Adult Education Service, The Pioneer Group, local Family Support Teams and Safeguarding Hubs, Workers Education Association, Jobcentre Plus, Midland MENCAP, Birmingham MIND, Birmingham Healthy Minds, Disability Resource Centre, Sampad, Birmingham Institute for the Deaf, Salt Road, Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust Spurgeon's, Children's Quarter & Ways for Wellbeing CIC.

Also, a special thank you to our funders: the National Lottery Community Fund, Birmingham City Council, and the E H Smith Charitable Trust, Eveson Charitable Trust, G.E. GEE Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, George Henry Collins Charity, Grace Trust, Grimmitt Trust, Heart of England Community Foundation, Hudson Charitable Trust, Irving Memorial Trust, Lillie Johnson Charitable Trust, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, Millie's Watch, Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust, Roughley Trust, Saintbury Trust, Souter Charitable Trust, and the St Thomas's Dole Charity.

A big thank you to our dedicated staff team staff whose hard work provides a valuable service to the community. Thank you to our Trustees, who give their time and expertise on a voluntary basis.

Finally, a huge thank you to our team of dedicated local volunteers, who give their time to support the day-to-day work of the charity.



## GOVERNANCE

### Governing document

The charitable company is registered with the Charity Commission and constituted as a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee having no share capital. The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the policies made from time to time by its directors, who are also the Trustees of the charity. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting, with one third standing down each year. They have the power to co-opt up to three further Trustees, and at least 60% must be women.

### Responsibilities of the Trustees

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the situation of the charity as at the balance sheet date. This includes its incoming resources and application of resources and income and expenditure for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- › Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- › Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and,
- › Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other regularities. The Trustees who served during the period under review and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

### Risk management

The Trustees have assessed risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. Trustees are confident that sufficient funding will be available to continue to run the charity for the next 12 months and have contingency plans in place to deal with a shortfall in funding within one or more of its current activities.

### Public benefit

The Trustees, having considered section 4 of the Charities Act 2006, have satisfied themselves that they have complied with the duty to have regard to the Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The activities and achievements of the charity are outlined in this Report and the Trustees believe, demonstrate that charity is providing public benefit.



### Independent examination

The Trustees have appointed Neal and Co Business Services Limited to undertake this role.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Karim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Iftikar Karim

Secretary



## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Norton Hall Children & Family Centre (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

### Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

  
**Robert Chance FCCA**

Chartered Certified Accountant

Neal and Co Business Services Limited

Shakespeare Buildings

26 Cradley Road

Cradley Heath

West Midlands

B64 6AG

Date: .....01/12/25.....



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025

### Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

		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	44,393	288,360	332,753	52,092	207,029	259,121
Charitable activities	4	560,123	104,389	664,512	489,690	199,235	688,925
<b>Total income</b>		<u>604,516</u>	<u>392,749</u>	<u>997,265</u>	<u>541,782</u>	<u>406,264</u>	<u>948,046</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	5	20,103	-	20,103	15,696	-	15,696
Charitable activities	6	612,579	380,532	993,111	479,249	399,776	879,025
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>632,682</u>	<u>380,532</u>	<u>1,013,214</u>	<u>494,945</u>	<u>399,776</u>	<u>894,721</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds</b>		(28,166)	12,217	(15,949)	46,837	6,488	53,325
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>285,273</u>	<u>148,736</u>	<u>434,009</u>	<u>238,436</u>	<u>142,248</u>	<u>380,684</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2025</b>		<u>257,107</u>	<u>160,953</u>	<u>418,060</u>	<u>285,273</u>	<u>148,736</u>	<u>434,009</u>

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



## Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		176,040		199,396
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	86,675		17,768	
Cash at bank and in hand		196,967		249,935	
		<u>283,642</u>		<u>267,703</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	(41,622)		(33,090)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			242,020		234,613
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>418,060</u>		<u>434,009</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	17		160,953		148,736
Unrestricted funds	18		257,107		285,273
			<u>418,060</u>		<u>434,009</u>

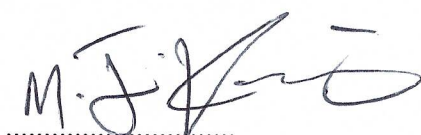
The charitable company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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 24/11/2025



Mr I Karim, Secretary  
Trustee



## Statement of Cash flows for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

		<b>2025</b>		<b>2024</b>	
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	<b>21</b>		(48,643)		65,950
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,325)		(49,678)	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(4,325)		(49,678)
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			(52,968)		16,272
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			249,935		233,663
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			196,967		249,935



## Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Norton Hall Children & Family Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Ralph Road, Saltley, BIRMINGHAM B8 1NA.

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. 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 charity 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.

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.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity 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 charity 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 or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.



## Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (continued).

### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

#### 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:

Leasehold improvements - 25 years straight line

Fixtures and fittings - 25% per annum 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 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

The following assets and liabilities are classified as financial instruments – trade debtors and trade creditors.

Trade debtors and trade creditors are measured at the undiscounted amount of cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received.

#### 1.9 Employee benefits

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

#### 1.10 Retirement 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 charity'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.

## 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	44,393	-	44,393	20,092	-	20,092
Grants	-	288,360	288,360	32,000	207,029	239,029
	<u>44,393</u>	<u>288,360</u>	<u>332,753</u>	<u>52,092</u>	<u>207,029</u>	<u>259,121</u>

## 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
Income from fees and trading	560,123	-	560,123	489,690	-	489,690
Public sector contracts and grants	-	104,389	104,389	-	199,235	199,235
	<u>560,123</u>	<u>104,389</u>	<u>664,512</u>	<u>489,690</u>	<u>199,235</u>	<u>688,925</u>



Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (continued).

**5 Expenditure on raising funds**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
<b>Fundraising and publicity</b>		
Other fundraising costs	20,103	15,696
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**6 Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Charitable activities 2025 £	Charitable activities 2024 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	684,758	582,236
Depreciation and impairment	27,681	26,598
Establishment costs	153,722	110,698
Direct cost of activities	124,450	158,573
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	990,611	878,105
 <b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 7)</b>		
Governance	2,500	920
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	993,111	879,025
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
 <b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	612,579	479,249
Restricted funds	380,532	399,776
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	993,111	879,025
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**7 Support costs allocated to activities**

	2025 £	2024 £
Governance costs	2,500	920
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Charitable activities	2,500	920
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>



Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (continued).

<b>8</b>	<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>

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

Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,500	920
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	27,681	26,598
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**9 Trustees**

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

**10 Employees**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
32	21
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	629,396	533,739
Social security costs	43,486	38,966
Other pension costs	11,876	9,531
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	684,758	582,236
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

**Remuneration of key management personnel**

Key management personnel comprise the CEO and Operations and Finance Manager whose combined employee benefits totalled £103,837 (2024: £91,325) including pension contributions.

**11 Taxation**

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



Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (continued).

**12 Tangible fixed assets**

	Leasehold improvements £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2024	354,463	103,028	457,491
Additions	-	4,325	4,325
At 31 March 2025	354,463	107,353	461,816
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>			
At 1 April 2024	192,326	65,769	258,095
Depreciation charged in the year	14,179	13,502	27,681
At 31 March 2025	206,505	79,271	285,776
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 March 2025	147,958	28,082	176,040
At 31 March 2024	162,137	37,259	199,396

**13 Debtors**

	2025	2024
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	64,166	13,881
Prepayments and accrued income	22,509	3,887
	86,675	17,768

**14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	Notes	2025	2024
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other taxation and social security		11,589	7,764
Deferred income	15	7,092	-
Trade creditors		17,417	22,473
Other creditors		3,024	1,933
Accruals		2,500	920
		41,622	33,090

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (continued).

**15 Deferred income**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other deferred income	7,092	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	7,092	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	-	-
Resources deferred in the year	7,092	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	7,092	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**16 Retirement benefit schemes**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	11,876	9,531
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

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



## Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (continued).

### 17 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.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Birmingham CC- Early Years SENCO	-	8,840	(8,840)	-
Birmingham CC - Holiday Activity & Food	6,714	95,549	(102,263)	-
Birmingham CC - Neighbourhood Network Scheme	-	6,043	(6,043)	-
Capital assets Funds	111,855	-	(14,179)	97,676
National Lottery CF - SAMHP	30,167	102,480	(107,028)	25,619
Eveson Charitable Trust	-	6,000	(6,000)	-
National Lottery CF - WASH	-	115,176	(86,382)	28,794
Heart of England CF CEF	-	24,825	(24,825)	-
Birmingham CC - Pupil Premium	-	3,508	(3,508)	-
National Lottery CF - Awards for All	-	17,728	(8,864)	8,864
Other grants received	-	12,600	(12,600)	-
	<u>148,736</u>	<u>392,749</u>	<u>(380,532)</u>	<u>160,953</u>

#### Fund Descriptions

Birmingham City Council -Early Years SENCO: Funding to support nursery provision for those with additional needs.

Birmingham City Council - Holiday Activity & Food: Funding towards free school holiday food and fun activities.

Birmingham City Council - Neighbourhood Network Scheme: funding to engage disabled woman in environmental activities as part of the WASH project.

Capital assets funds: funding towards the capitalised costs of improvements made to the leasehold properties.

National Lottery CF-SAMHP: funding for the South Asian Mental Health Partnership - positive activities, mentoring and parenting support.

National Lottery CF-WASH: Funding for the Washwood Heath Adaption & Sustainability Hub project to engage our local community in nature and climate learning activities.

Heart of England CF CEF: funding to improve the natural environment and access to blue and green space in Ward End Park and improving environmental awareness amongst our local community as part of the WASH project.

Birmingham City Council -Pupil Premium: funding to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged children accessing our nursery.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (continued).

### 17 Restricted funds (continued)

#### Fund descriptions (continued)

National Lottery CF - Awards for All: funding to train local women at the Dolphin Centre in IT, English Language as a Second Language (ESOL) and employment preparation.

Other grants received - restricted fund grants of under £5,000 value.

#### Valuing Worth - Rent

The Charity runs its services and activities from two community-based buildings, Norton Hall and The Dolphin Centre. Both buildings are leased from Birmingham City Council on a fully repairing Community Asset Transfer (CAT) lease. The economic rent is offset by a valuing worth exercise, using a social value tool to identify the value of the services provided by the charity, against an economic cost.

### 18 Unrestricted 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.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2025 £
Designated funds	90,000	-	(10,299)	79,701
General funds	195,273	604,516	(622,383)	177,406
	<u>285,273</u>	<u>604,516</u>	<u>(632,682)</u>	<u>257,107</u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 April 2023 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024 £</b>
Designated funds	90,000	-	-	90,000
General funds	148,436	541,782	(494,945)	195,273
	<u>238,436</u>	<u>541,782</u>	<u>(494,945)</u>	<u>285,273</u>



Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (continued).

**19 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
<b>At 31 March 2025:</b>			
Tangible assets	78,364	97,676	176,040
Current assets/(liabilities)	178,743	63,277	242,020
	<u>257,107</u>	<u>160,953</u>	<u>418,060</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>At 31 March 2024:</b>			
Tangible assets	87,541	111,855	199,396
Current assets/(liabilities)	197,732	36,881	234,613
	<u>285,273</u>	<u>148,736</u>	<u>434,009</u>

**20 Related party transactions**

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

<b>21 Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(15,949)	53,325
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	27,681	26,598
<b>Movements in working capital:</b>		
(Increase) in debtors	(68,907)	(17,768)
Increase in creditors	1,440	3,795
Increase in deferred income	7,092	-
<b>Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations</b>	<u>(48,643)</u>	<u>65,950</u>