

Company no. 07607693
Charity no. 1143313

Borderlands (South West) Limited
Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2025

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Company number	07607693	
Charity number	1143313	
Registered office and operational address	The Assisi Centre Lawfords Gate Bristol BS5 0RE	
Trustees	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows: Kimberlee Carstensen Patrick McAlees Bernard Morris Cynthia Ochieng Sneh Patel (appointed 18 December 2024) Nicholas Tarr	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 44-45 George White Street Cabot Circus Bristol BS1 3BA	Aldermore Bank Western House Lynch Wood Peterborough PE2 6FZ
Independent examiners	Godfrey Wilson Limited Chartered accountants and statutory auditors 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD	

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Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

1. Structure, governance and management

Borderlands (South West) Limited is constituted as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Our governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

New trustees are recruited by advertising and recommendation to bring new strengths and expertise, fill skill gaps and increase diversity to reflect the communities we work with. Following a selection process and appropriate background checks, new trustees are formally appointed after discussion at a meeting of existing trustees. As part of our ambition to be more member-led, we intend to recruit trustees with lived experience of the UK asylum system as we go forward.

2. Objectives and activities

Borderlands aims to create a community of welcome which supports asylum seekers, refugees and migrants with insecure status in the Bristol area to move 'from exclusion to belonging'.

Established in 2011, the charity grew out of the activities of St Nicholas Church in Easton, a deprived and diverse inner-city area. We have an ethos which respects and values every individual; we do not promote religion and work with people of all faiths and none. Our work is trauma-informed and rooted in our values of Warmth, Sharing, Dignity and Respect.

Our mission is to support people from a time of crisis when they first arrive in Bristol to a point where they can live independent lives. We have a strong focus on empowering the people we work with (our 'members') to take charge of their own lives, working alongside them and learning from them. We also advocate for a fair and humane immigration system where people seeking refuge are treated with dignity and respect. Our vision is a world where refugees and asylum seekers can seek sanctuary and justice, make full use of their talents and abilities, feel valued for their contribution and build worthwhile lives.

The purpose of Borderlands as set out in our governing document is:

- to relieve asylum seekers and refugees in need, hardship and distress by reason of their social and economic circumstances by the advancement of education, relief of poverty and the preservation and protection of good health;
- to promote social inclusion by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society; and
- to advance the education of the public regarding asylum seekers and refugees with the aim of increasing community cohesion and informing public policy.

Our members

Around 63% of our members are asylum seekers, 25% are refugees and 12% are other vulnerable migrants including refused asylum seekers and survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. They come from many different countries including Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Iran and Iraq.

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People seeking sanctuary in the UK are forced into poverty, hardship and social isolation and exclusion. Many have experienced traumatic events before arriving here and, in many cases, are re-traumatised by the UK asylum system. Ever-changing government policies, alongside negative media coverage and the threat of far-right violence, have left our members fearful and uncertain about their future, and we have seen a huge decline in people's mental health.

Most of our members want to be part of their community but often have little English and lack geographical and cultural knowledge. They are also often moved from one part of the city or country to another at short notice, making it even more difficult to build connections and community in their new home.

Our volunteers

A team of over 100 volunteers (equivalent to around 185 hours a week) plays a major role delivering our work, over a third of whom are asylum seekers and refugees. They include chefs, kitchen assistants, our welcome and help teams, drop-in assistants, teachers and teaching assistants, learning navigators, mentors, our social supermarket team and more. We pride ourselves in providing thorough training, supervision and support for our volunteer team.

We encourage our members to volunteer with us, as this can help them to practise their English, make friends, connect with their community and gain new skills. All member-volunteers are given training and guidance for their professional development and get a reference and something to add to their CV (our volunteer chefs and kitchen assistants can also do their Food and Hygiene level 2 certificate with us).

Main activities

Welcome Centre

Our Welcome Centre is a safe, trusted hub of support and community for asylum seekers and refugees in Bristol. Open Mondays and Tuesdays at the Assisi Centre in Easton, we provide:

- a warm welcome and help for new arrivals to register as members and access our projects and wider support in Bristol;
- a weekly shared hot meal and 'social supermarket' giving people the dignity of choosing the fruit, vegetables and tinned goods they want to take home;
- a social space to use the internet, have a drink, chat or read the paper, with board games and a football table;
- one-to-one problem-solving, advocating on people's behalf and referring them to relevant services;
- an art table with a safe, creative atmosphere to find some relief from fear and anxiety;
- hosting of agencies offering specialist advice or support; and
- cooking groups which enable members living in hotels to cook and eat together using our kitchen.

Feel Good Wednesday

On Wednesdays we offer a range of wellbeing activities which help our members feel good and give them coping tools and respite from their situation. Activities include sleep and relaxation sessions, a sewing group, yoga and fitness classes and cooking groups (one for women and another for asylum seekers living in the hotels). We also partner with other organisations to offer climbing, football and free access to a local gym, swimming pool and exercise classes.

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Mentoring Project

Our Mentoring Project provides one-to-one practical and emotional support to help asylum seekers and refugees navigate their own paths and regain control over their lives. Mentors help mentees get to know Bristol, find volunteer placements and jobs, improve conversational English, access education or training, and cope with isolation and anxiety. Most importantly, they stand in solidarity with their mentees as they navigate the complex process of claiming asylum in the UK, as well as with resettlement after they receive leave to remain.

Learning Project

Our Learning Project offers classes in English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL), empowering learners to find their way around the city, navigate a new culture, make friends, access opportunities and feel a sense of belonging. We focus on pre-entry and entry level classes for people who speak little or no English as they are most at risk of isolation and exclusion. Classes are small – on average 10 students – with one volunteer teacher and 1-2 teaching assistants per class so each learner receives a lot of individual attention. We work closely with our partners in the refugee sector to coordinate ESOL provision and share training, ideas and volunteers. In addition to English classes, our Learning Navigators provide one-to-one support to help members plan their educational journey, and we also offer a creative women's group, a reading and conversation group, an employability skills course and educational trips.

Outreach work

We deliver a weekly drop-in service in three hotels housing asylum seekers in central Bristol, working alongside Bristol Mind to provide a friendly listening ear, signposting support and digital inclusion. We ensure residents' basic needs are met and help them to access local services, English classes, healthcare, volunteering and social activities. Our presence in the hotels helps to alleviate concerns and facilitate access to our Welcome Centre and projects for people who may feel hesitant to visit. It also enables us to escalate safeguarding concerns and advocate for changes to accommodation for individuals where needed.

A partnership approach

Borderlands is part of the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP) which aims to improve partnership working in the sector and promote a culture of peer support, learning and sharing best practice. The partnership includes joint members' consultation, co-production work and a common needs assessment approach to inform the activities we develop as a sector and as individual organisations. Collectively we also have a stronger campaigning and advocating voice to impact on local and wider policy-making. As well as BRASP, we play an active role in several forums including the Bristol Refugee Forum, Asylum Seeker and Refugee Wellbeing Forum and Young People's Forum.

Giving our members a voice

Borderlands engages in awareness raising and advocacy on a national, regional and local level, working with our BRASP partners and Bristol City of Sanctuary. We participate in social media campaigns and events such as Refugee Week and Bristol Refugee Festival and give TV and radio interviews. Together with our partners, we also run training for our members in public speaking so they can participate in events and meetings.

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Housing partnership

In 2017 a private donation enabled us to buy a four-bedroom house in Stapleton, a Bristol suburb with good transport links to the centre. The house is used to provide short-term accommodation for refugees to support them in the transition to independence. Since 2022, ACH – a social housing provider with expertise in working with refugees – has taken on the management and support provision of the house, including additional support and training to enable tenants to settle and integrate.

3. Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Borderlands delivers public benefit both directly to our members and to the wider public through improved community cohesion and inclusion and by increasing understanding of issues relating to asylum seekers and refugees.

4. Achievements and Performance

Changing context

We continued to experience high demand for our work this year and have adapted and developed our projects in response to changing needs. Asylum seekers housed in three hotels close to our Welcome Centre are now being moved on more quickly to housing in other parts of the city, so their situation and needs can change rapidly. The far-right riots in Bristol last summer, centred around a hotel housing asylum seekers, were followed by inspiring counter protests and a coordinated response that reminded us of the power of community solidarity.

There have been major policy shifts with a change in government and scrapping of the Rwanda scheme and other policies which criminalised people seeking sanctuary in the UK. We have seen more people at risk of homelessness and destitution due to the uptick in the number of people getting refugee status, as applications are fast tracked to clear the backlog. Although the trial extension of the move-on period has given new refugees more time to find housing, they still face many barriers to doing so. We also have concerns about the government's new Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, which will remove the possibility of refugees obtaining British citizenship and expand detention, as well as the use of rhetoric which dehumanises people fleeing persecution.

Key personnel changes

Our CEO, Susanna Revolti, returned from maternity leave in September 2024. We would like to thank our Interim CEO, Caitlin Plunkett, who held the fort admirably in Susi's absence, developing new aspects of our work and managing Borderlands' response to the far-right riots. We also appointed a new trustee this year, Sneh Patel, who brings valuable experience in the refugee sector as co-founder of Bread and Roses, a social enterprise that runs floristry training programmes for refugee women.

Welcome Centre

Our Welcome Centre helped 835 asylum seekers and refugees to make connections and build community in their new home in Bristol this year, including helping 202 new arrivals to access our projects and wider support.

Food insecurity is a big problem for our members: asylum seekers in dispersal accommodation (shared housing) struggle to feed their families on very limited financial support, and although food is provided in the hotels, it is unhealthy, inappropriate and insufficient, especially for children.

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Our weekly shared meals helped foster a vibrant and inclusive community at Borderlands. The meals provided nourishment while fostering social connections and friendships, and our volunteer chefs delighted us each week with their culinary expertise and cherished recipes from many different cultures. Our social supermarket continued to experience high demand, and we introduced regular needs assessments to prioritise those in greatest need as their situations change. Our cooking groups provided those living in hotels with the opportunity to come together, cook and share meals inspired by their home countries, creating feelings of warmth and belonging.

"I feel happy to be here and share with my friends and community. It takes a bit of our daily stress and help us carry on. Thank you very much for helping us. For us having access to a kitchen means a lot to us." Cooking group participant

Hosting other organisations in our Welcome Centre enabled us to introduce our members to a wide range of services in a safe and trusted space. We organised information sessions on healthcare, domestic abuse, support for victims of hate crime, activities for young people and the rights of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. Feeding Bristol and FareShare helped us to organise a food justice event which brought together our members and staff, celebrated culture and diversity while facilitating discussions on food-related issues affecting our members. We also hosted NHS talking therapies once a month and facilitated a study by Family Health Matters focused on mothers and carers from refugee backgrounds with young children.

"Borderlands feels very genuine, you can come to the welcome centre and get good useful information and signposting. We know we can come here and ask a question and it will be helpful. Members feel safe coming here because they don't need to explain their personal issues. I come and have breakfast and lunch, the lunches are so nice and helpful for the hotel people. Every week it feels like a celebration." Member

Feel Good Wednesday

Our wellbeing project supported 203 members with weekly 'feel good' activities aimed at promoting mental health and self-care including:

- sleep and relaxation sessions facilitated by the Hope: Asylum Seekers and Refugees Trauma Service;
- a sewing group through Bridges for Communities Stitch Together programme, enabling women to create beautiful textile-based art, practise English, make friends and gain confidence;
- a yoga class taught by a Borderlands member who is a trained yoga teacher, which gives women a chance to unwind, relax and meditate, and share healthy snacks after the class;
- women-only dance workshops exploring different styles from contemporary to Bollywood, filled with joy, movement, and a sense of freedom;
- football for men working with St. Paul's Community Sports Academy. We trained two teams to compete in Bristol's Community Cup. Although we didn't win, we're gearing up for next year's tournament!
- climbing classes in collaboration with the Mothership gym, to enjoy learning new skills and feel a sense of accomplishment;
- a partnership with Easton Leisure Centre offering our members free access to the gym, pool and some exercise classes; and
- a photography workshop run by Bridges for Communities, where members learned new techniques and took part in a joint project culminating in an exhibition.

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Mentoring Project

This year our Mentoring Project trained and supported 30 volunteer mentors and empowered 48 mentees to achieve some personal goals over 6-9 months. Mentors met mentees once a week for at least an hour and were available at agreed times via phone/social media if needed. Mentees' goals included navigating the asylum system; improving mental health; engaging with their community; accessing education, employment or volunteering; and improving their housing situation.

Other areas of focus for the project were continuing to build partnerships with external agencies, improving our referral system, and strengthening our needs assessment for new mentees to better understand which other agencies are supporting them and avoid duplication. We also introduced new mentor training from Trauma Foundation South West on a trauma-informed approach and avoiding vicarious trauma, and specialist training from Unseen on supporting survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking.

"[My mentor] was one of the first people I really spoke to – she helped me find friends and community. When we spoke together it improved my self confidence. Before meeting her, I was scared of people and didn't want to share about my life. After we met, I felt so much more confident speaking to strangers." Mentee

"It's good luck to know [my mentor] and she is a very nice person and friendly. She helped me so much. She has helped me improve my English, to get to know Bristol, to prepare for my interview.....She's very patient and she did everything to understand me, even though my English isn't good.....She's showed me many things which have helped with the asylum process." Mentee

Learning Project

We continued to see unprecedented demand for English classes this year, and faced challenges catering for an ever-growing waiting list, a 'churn' of students as people were moved on more quickly from the hotels and responding to many different levels of English. We responded by adding new classes for those with little or no English and trialling running classes in the hotels.

We provided 10 x 2-hour English classes per week in our Welcome Centre (440 classes in total), empowering 359 asylum seekers and refugees to navigate a new culture, make friends, access opportunities and feel a sense of belonging in a new city. We also trialled running 2-4 English classes a week in the hotels (around 60 classes in total), providing around 150 asylum seekers with basic English so they could find their way around the city.

"I didn't speak English, when I came here. Because of this I felt lonely, insecure and helpless. It was very difficult! English lessons at the Borderlands gave me a lot of useful information and the necessary knowledge and skills. I feel much better now.... And I also had a strong feeling that I had a new family and cheerful friends here." Member

"Teaching English at Borderlands has given me some of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my career.... The classes and other activities provide an oasis of safety, security, and friendship." Volunteer teacher

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In addition to English classes, we provided the following learning opportunities:

- our new Learning Navigators worked one-to-one with around 300 members at our Tuesday drop-in to help them plan their educational journey. As well as assessing students to place them in our ESOL classes, they discussed members' academic goals and aspirations, supported with college and university applications, and signposted to other learning opportunities in Bristol;
- helping Members to continue education and training including at university level. This enables members to become economically independent and to integrate into UK society. Members can fill positions which have skill shortages;
- a weekly Reading and Conversation Group for those with a higher level of English, in partnership with national literacy charity The Reader. This allowed learners to explore different writers and ideas while improving their English vocabulary and oral skills. We also ran a special Poetry Writing Workshop where the group had the opportunity to reflect on meaningful objects, places, and memories;
- two 8-week Employability Skills courses run in partnership with Curo housing association, providing participants with the skills and confidence they need to apply for jobs, write CVs, attend interviews and prepare for getting employment in the UK; and
- our Creative Women's Group enabled 28 participants to connect, share and explore creative activities in a series of workshops covering theatre skills, dance/movement, music, and visual arts culminating in a performance. The women were encouraged to share their own knowledge and culture through recipes, songs, dances and crafts. One participant said: *"All your workshops which you were organising bring me joy...I enjoyed everything. I like speaking and listening. I would like come again."*

Outreach project

We expanded our outreach efforts this year, working alongside Bristol Mind to run a weekly drop-in service for asylum seekers in three central Bristol hotels, focusing on digital inclusion and promoting events and support networks.

Our model was to first ensure residents' basic needs were met, including phones and sim cards (with free data and calls), clothing and healthcare. We then helped people to meet their social and wider needs including referrals into language classes, volunteering, educational opportunities, mental health support, leisure activities and navigating the city. We let people know about our Welcome Centre and wider support and helped those being moved to different cities to find services there. We also helped initiate fitness sessions in the hotels, ran taster sessions for our creative women's group, and organised workshops and information sessions from other agencies including SafeLink (sexual or domestic violence support).

We attended regular interagency meetings and created a good working relationship with hotel management, which allowed us to raise residents' concerns and ensure they were supported and received up-to-date information. Our presence in the hotels also enabled us to escalate safeguarding concerns and advocate for changes to accommodation for individuals where needed.

Through our outreach work in the hotels, we were able to help mitigate the monotony that many asylum seekers experience while waiting for their asylum decisions and provide opportunities, information and a friendly face in an often hostile situation.

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Special events and trips

We organised many events, trips and socials through the year to help our members unwind, explore new places and connect with nature. Trips included a day at the beach in Clevedon, two visits to the SS Great Britain and an outing to Bristol Central Library. Our Outreach Project partnered with Forest School to run monthly trips to Westbury Wildlife Park and weekly outings to Ashton Hill focused on walking, foraging, cooking and whittling. Our Creative Women's Group went to see private viewings of exhibitions at the Arnolfini and RWA, a historical walking tour of Bristol and multiple plays at Bristol Old Vic. Mentors and mentees were also able to get out and explore the city together with the option of free entry to the SS Great Britain, We the Curious and the RWA.

Working with our partners, we welcomed over 170 members for a vibrant and heart-warming celebration of Eid and Easter, bringing people from many different backgrounds together to relax, connect, eat, and dance in a space filled with warmth, laughter, and cultural richness. We also celebrated community and sanctuary at Bristol Refugee Festival including a Picnic & Poetry session, cheering on the Borderlands team in the City Community Cup football tournament, and a Refugees Rock Fundraiser at The Climbing Academy Bristol.

Effective collaboration

We continued to work as part of the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP) to coordinate support throughout the city, support lived experience leadership and strengthen our advocacy and campaigning efforts. This included:

- playing a key role designing and launching a new service mapping website, KOMPASI, to improve interagency referrals and create a more coordinated welcome for new arrivals;
- a coordinated response to the far-right riots in summer 2024 to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our members, staff and volunteers. This included joint risk assessments, additional safety measures and plans, and providing members with accurate information from reliable sources;
- providing accurate information and signposting for those affected by the government's Rwanda plan, which was crucial in avoiding spreading panic.

Campaigning and awareness raising

Much of our campaigning and awareness raising this year was focused on reaching out to schools of sanctuary, attending assemblies and teachers' meetings, and having a stall at festivals and other public events. Together with our partners, we organised training for staff and volunteers with lived experience in confidence building, public speaking and community mobilisation. This led to a listening event with local MPs, the metro mayor and local councillors on the need for free local public transport for asylum seekers. We hope, through additional funding, that this will be the first of many meetings with city-wide policy-makers in which leaders with lived experience can get their voices heard.

Member participation

Our Welcome and Members Participation Officer (WAMPO) – a refugee herself – led our Welcome Desk throughout the year alongside a team of member-volunteers, helping to provide confidence and a feeling of ownership over the space. Most of the activities in our Welcome Centre were delivered by a team of member-volunteers, providing 51 volunteering opportunities for asylum seekers and refugees.

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We consulted with our members in the following ways:

- our WAMPO worked with women attending wellbeing activities on Wednesdays to gather feedback and suggestions;
- member-volunteer team meetings to discuss how we are delivering activities and suggest improvements;
- a member-volunteers survey, which elicited suggestions for new activities, changes and improvements; and
- a consultation with over 100 members asking what they would like our organisation/sector to campaign for in the coming year. Free bus travel for asylum seekers was voted as top priority and improved access to legal aid and the right to work for asylum seekers agreed to be other issues on which to focus our campaigning efforts at a national level.

As part of the BRASP working group for lived experience leadership, we launched a peer support scheme for staff from a refugee background in our organisations. We are currently embarking on a joint project where staff with lived experience from each organisation will nurture and lead a group of members in a lived experience leaders group, who will create surveys, sit on interview panels and participate in focus groups, trustee meetings, partnership meetings and local campaigns. We also reviewed our recruitment procedure this year to ensure the process is accessible for those with lived experience.

Developing our organisation

We continued to implement our three-year Strategic Plan and Governance Action Plan this year, focusing on developing our outreach work, improving lived experience participation and investing in training and development of our staff, trustees and volunteers. Staff and trustees attended Race Aware training - a vital step in strengthening our pledge to be actively anti-racist and in shaping internal changes to create a more inclusive and equitable space. Trustees and relevant staff also attended training in trauma-informed line management from Trauma Foundation South West.

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Our impact

The table below describes the outcomes and long-term goals we want to achieve with our work. Our model is to enable our members to move from intensive support to independence.

Activities and services we provide	Short and medium term outcomes: changes that will start the journey	Long term outcomes: changes that will help us to bring about our goal	Our long term goal: the world we want to see
A Welcome Centre offering community, food, shared activities and practical support.	Members have the knowledge and information they need to advocate for themselves and their rights.	People have moved on - they have jobs, a community, education, opportunity.	People can become independent and live in a compassionate, just and understanding community.
Mentoring Project.		New members hear positive stories and have positive experiences, feel welcome and safe.	They can find safety, have their basic needs met and integrate into society.
Learning Project.	Their basic needs are met (food, a hot meal, SIM card/phone).		
Wellbeing activities.			
Outreach support in hotels.	They have a chance to learn / improve their English.	A diverse range of people have equitable access to our services and those of other agencies.	Borderlands is a model of how to welcome and support asylum seekers and refugees, working effectively with our partners.
Signposting and referrals to other services.	They have developed a network and a community.	Volunteers have opportunities to understand and learn in a professional environment.	
Hosting of other agencies.	They know how to access education, jobs and volunteering opportunities.	People have choice and dignity; they have developed confidence and self-esteem; they have a sense of purpose.	
	They have access to health care and mental health support.		

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Project / activity	Number of individuals supported
Welcome Centre	835
Welcome support for new arrivals	202
Food Provision	150 per week
Feel Good Wednesday	203
Mentoring Project	48
Learning Project	509
Outreach Project	898
Volunteering opportunities	51
Trips and special events	150
Total across all projects	1,251

We use an annual members and member-volunteer survey and evaluation from specific projects to measure the impact of our work and collect case studies and testimonials to illustrate our impact. This year our members survey was moved to June 2025 due to staff shortages, but we did undertake a member-volunteers survey and evaluation of our Mentoring and Learning Projects.

Of the mentoring partnerships which ended this year:

- 58% of mentees said they achieved all their goals and 38% partially achieved their goals;
- 100% improved their English;
- 43% found volunteer placements and 65% went into education or training;
- 43% moved into more secure housing / made progress with their housing issues; and
- 33% were supported to navigate the UK asylum system.

Most mentees were asylum seekers and not allowed to work, but 65% made progress towards finding employment on securing refugee status. Of those permitted to work, 29% found jobs.

In a survey of Learning Project participants at Borderlands in August 2024:

- 55% of respondents said our ESOL classes had improved their English (40% said 'very much');
- 65% had improved confidence (40% 'very much');
- 50% had improved wellbeing; and
- 55% said the classes had given them a good knowledge of Bristol and the UK.

In a survey of our member-volunteers in January 2025:

- 67% said they feel very much part of Borderlands community and 81% had made new friends;
- 41% felt more confident speaking English and 59% had learnt new skills; and
- for those allowed to work, 40% said they felt more confident looking for a job since volunteering at Borderlands.

"Borderlands is like a huge tree with many branches that caters to diverse groups with many aspects of need. I love that people can come here, be fed and get the help they need. Whatever Borderlands can't offer, they signpost to the relevant services. I'm super proud to be part of the team." Member-volunteer

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Case study: a member's journey

In August 2024, SA moved into an asylum hotel in Bristol. She soon met our Outreach Officer, and the following week came to our Welcome Centre and registered as a Borderlands member.

SA quickly became interested in our work and asked to become a volunteer. After a successful induction and training, she joined our Welcome Desk team to register new members, make them feel welcome and provide signposting resources. Over the next few months, SA joined our cooking sessions for people living in the hotel, preparing delicious food from her country for all our community. She also enrolled into our mentoring program and received support from a trained mentor to achieve her goals of accessing courses and education to either pursue a law degree or become a social worker.

SA is now one of our leading Welcome Centre volunteers. She recently attended a public speaking training held at Borderlands, for people with lived experience who are keen to mobilise communities and campaign for social change. She then participated in a listening event with local MPs, the combined authority Mayor and city councillors, where she and other lived experience leaders put forward the campaign for free bus travel for asylum seekers. SA said: *"Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the event and be one of the persons representing Borderlands, it was a great experience.... I felt extremely proud of our organisation's presentation."*

5. Future plans

Looking ahead, we are committed to continuously evolving our services to meet the changing needs of our members, and to ensure every member feels supported and empowered on their journey toward independence and inclusion. Amidst increasing hostility towards people seeking safety in the UK, we will continue to work tirelessly with our partners for a welcoming and safe environment.

Our priorities for the coming year are:

- continue to strengthen our governance by recruiting new trustees who bring new skills and experience, including lived experience;
- work with our partners to improve outreach for asylum seekers in dispersal accommodation (shared housing) across the city, who often struggle to access support;
- establish a lived experience leaders group who will engage our members in meaningful feedback, sit on interview panels and participate in focus groups, trustee meetings, partnership meetings and local campaigns;
- continue to invest in developing and training our staff and trustees to help us to maintain flexibility and resilience;
- diversify our funding streams and become more financially sustainable through developing individual giving, community fundraising and corporate partnerships, including recruiting for a new part-time Fundraising Manager post; and
- develop our Learning Projects by introducing a new English class for students who are pre-literate and running a Creative Leadership Training programme for women to develop their confidence and leadership skills and lead creative sessions.

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Thank you

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to our work. Our funders this year included the Garfield Weston Foundation, Henry Smith Charity, Albert Gubay Foundation, John James Bristol Foundation, Postcode Local Trust, Bristol City Council, Van Neste Foundation, Harold Hood Trust, Medlock Trust, Nisbet Trust and others, including those who prefer to be anonymous. We are also grateful to the individuals, local businesses, social enterprises and charities who have made donations. Last but not least, thank you to our wonderful members, volunteers, partners and staff for your ongoing commitment, expertise, and energy in welcoming and supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

6. Financial review

Our Accounts for 2024-25 show income of £413,473 and expenditure of £299,091; £44,541 of the £114,382 surplus was restricted grants received in 2024-25 to be spent in 2025-26. 60% of income came from Trusts and Foundations, 21% from local authorities or central government, 16% from individual donations and 3% from rental income. 64% of expenditure was on salary-related costs for our team of two full-time and seven part-time staff (6 FTE).

We currently have three multi-year grants from the Henry Smith Charity, Bristol Impact Fund and Nisbet Trust. A substantial three-year grant from the Albert Gubay Foundation ended this year, and funding from the Henry Smith Charity will end in 2025-26. We aim to secure more multi-year funding in the coming year to build sustainability as we develop and grow our work, including applying for continuation funding.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have a General Reserves Policy which follows Charity Commission guidance. This protects our operations and essential services from the potential risk of disruption at short notice due to a lack of funds while ensuring Borderlands does not retain income for longer than required. The policy takes into account operating expenses and maintenance of essential services in the event of a downturn in income and/or unforeseen increases in costs. It also takes account of the contractual obligations to our employees and the costs of closure or wind-down of our core operations.

Borderlands calculates its general (free) reserves by working out unrestricted net current assets. At 31 March 2025, net current assets were £275,150, of which £109,231 is restricted, leaving £163,474 as general (free) reserves.

Our forecast expenditure for 2025-26 is £407,930, so reserves represent approximately five months' costs, which is in accordance with the trustees' policy of maintaining free reserves at between four and six months' costs. The basis of determining the target reserves level is kept under periodic review and will be adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

Please note: a proportion of unrestricted funds on the balance sheet relates to a house owned by Borderlands used to provide supported housing for refugees. These funds are therefore not available for spending.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are held separately within the accounts and are spent within the time-frame indicated by the donor, which may cover more than one financial year. Restricted funds were £109,231 on 31 March 2025.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are company members but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 12 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Kimberlee Lynn Carstensen

Kimberlee Carstensen, Chair

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Borderlands (South West) Limited (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 18 to 30.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping and payroll services to the charitable company. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

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

Dougal Howard

Date: 18 August 2025

Dougal Howard ACA

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	250,804	147,206	398,010	260,988
Charitable activities	4	-	12,000	12,000	12,264
Investments		-	3,463	3,463	2,556
Total income		<u>250,804</u>	<u>162,669</u>	<u>413,473</u>	<u>275,808</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	22,639	22,639	21,485
Charitable activities		<u>206,263</u>	<u>70,189</u>	<u>276,452</u>	<u>274,636</u>
Total expenditure	6	<u>206,263</u>	<u>92,828</u>	<u>299,091</u>	<u>296,121</u>
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	7	44,541	69,841	114,382	(20,313)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		<u>64,690</u>	<u>275,481</u>	<u>340,171</u>	<u>360,484</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>109,231</u></u>	<u><u>345,322</u></u>	<u><u>454,553</u></u>	<u><u>340,171</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Balance sheet****As at 31 March 2025**

	Note	£	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	10		<u>198,153</u>	<u>205,739</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	11	13,203		47,114
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>292,297</u>		<u>161,144</u>
		305,500		208,258
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	12	<u>(30,350)</u>		<u>(30,076)</u>
Net current assets			<u>275,150</u>	<u>178,182</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			473,303	383,921
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	13		<u>(18,750)</u>	<u>(43,750)</u>
Net assets	14		<u>454,553</u>	<u>340,171</u>
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			109,231	64,690
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			<u>345,322</u>	<u>275,481</u>
Total charity funds			<u>454,553</u>	<u>340,171</u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477(2), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the Company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and
- (ii) 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 financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 12 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Kimberlee Lynn Carstensen

Kimberlee Carstensen, Chair

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

Borderlands (South West) Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is The Assisi Centre, Lawfords Gate, Bristol, BS5 0RE.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Borderlands (South West) Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves and confirmed future funding. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

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

h) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated in full to the cost of charitable activities in both the current and prior year, on the basis that the charity has not expended any significant resources towards fundraising this year, outside of the staff time and consultancy already allocated.

i) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	50 years
Furniture and equipment	4 years

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

j) Debtors

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

k) Cash at bank and in hand

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

l) Creditors

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

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

m) Concessionary loans

The charitable company is in receipt of concessionary loans for furtherance of their charitable activities. Concessionary loans are recognised when the commitment is entered into and the relevant loan documentation has been completed. The loans are initially recognised and measured at the amount received, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and if necessary any accrued interest.

n) Financial instruments

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

o) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

p) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

As described in note 1i to the financial statements, depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	157,506	103,482	260,988
Charitable activities	-	12,264	12,264
Investments	-	2,556	2,556
Total income	157,506	118,302	275,808
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	21,485	21,485
Charitable activities	195,147	79,489	274,636
Total expenditure	195,147	100,974	296,121
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	(37,641)	17,328	(20,313)

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £
Companies and trusts	250,348	82,764	333,112
Individuals	456	62,191	62,647
Gifts in kind	-	1,001	1,001
Gift aid	-	1,250	1,250
Total income from donations and legacies	250,804	147,206	398,010

Gift in kind income relates to donations of food items for the benefit of service users.

Prior period comparative:

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Companies and trusts	157,506	66,224	223,730
Individuals	-	35,764	35,764
Gift aid	-	1,494	1,494
Total income from donations and legacies	157,506	103,482	260,988

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****4. Income from charitable activities**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Rental income	12,000	12,000
Other charitable activities	<u>-</u>	<u>264</u>
	<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,264</u>

All income from charitable activities is unrestricted.

5. Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and the Bristol Impact Fund 2 to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2025 was £53,409 (2024: £55,381 from Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and the Bristol Impact Fund 2). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in 2024-25.

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds	Charitable activities	Support and governance costs	2025 Total
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 8)	8,239	168,849	12,917	190,005
Other staff costs	-	-	4,821	4,821
Project delivery costs	-	33,948	-	33,948
Other project costs	-	2,436	-	2,436
Premises costs	-	10,775	9,401	20,176
Insurance	-	-	1,361	1,361
Accountancy	-	-	10,449	10,449
Consultancy	14,400	-	2,400	16,800
Admin costs	-	872	8,779	9,651
Depreciation	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,444</u>	<u>9,444</u>
Sub-total	22,639	216,880	59,572	299,091
Allocation of support and governance costs	<u>-</u>	<u>59,572</u>	<u>(59,572)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenditure	<u>22,639</u>	<u>276,452</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>299,091</u>

Total governance costs were £2,520 (2024: £2,400).

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

6. Total expenditure (continued)

Prior year comparative

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2024 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	10,973	162,040	14,070	187,083
Other staff costs	-	-	4,930	4,930
Drop-in costs	-	33,042	-	33,042
Other project costs	-	4,699	-	4,699
Premises costs	-	11,310	8,880	20,190
Insurance	-	-	2,547	2,547
Accountancy	-	-	10,732	10,732
Consultancy	10,512	-	1,200	11,712
Admin costs	-	833	10,697	11,530
Depreciation	-	-	9,656	9,656
Sub-total	21,485	211,924	62,712	296,121
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	62,712	(62,712)	-
Total expenditure	21,485	274,636	-	296,121

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	9,444	9,656
Trustees' remuneration	Nil	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	Nil	Nil
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Independent examination	2,100	2,000
▪ Other services	6,607	5,785

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	178,201	174,830
Social security costs	8,710	8,821
Pension costs	3,094	3,432
	190,005	187,083

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the current or prior year.

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprised the Trustees, CEO and Interim CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £58,101 (2024: Trustees, CEO and Interim CEO, £56,613).

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Average head count	8	8

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	238,500	19,211	257,711
Additions	-	1,867	1,867
Disposals	-	(410)	(410)
At 31 March 2025	<u>238,500</u>	<u>20,668</u>	<u>259,168</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	38,160	13,812	51,972
Charge for the year	4,770	4,674	9,444
Disposals	-	(401)	(401)
At 31 March 2025	<u>42,930</u>	<u>18,085</u>	<u>61,015</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	<u>195,570</u>	<u>2,583</u>	<u>198,153</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>200,340</u>	<u>5,399</u>	<u>205,739</u>

11. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	3,203	3,639
Other debtors	-	1,494
Accrued income	<u>10,000</u>	<u>41,981</u>
	<u>13,203</u>	<u>47,114</u>

12. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	1,052	2,139
Loans	25,000	25,000
Accruals	3,992	2,272
Pensions payable	<u>306</u>	<u>665</u>
	<u>30,350</u>	<u>30,076</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

13. Creditors : amounts due after 1 year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Loans	<u>18,750</u>	<u>43,750</u>

The loan is a 10 year loan from a former trustee for purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	198,153	198,153
Current assets	109,231	196,269	305,500
Current liabilities	-	(30,350)	(30,350)
Non-current liabilities	-	(18,750)	(18,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2025	<u>109,231</u>	<u>345,322</u>	<u>454,553</u>

Prior period comparatives

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	205,739	205,739
Current assets	64,690	143,568	208,258
Current liabilities	-	(30,076)	(30,076)
Non-current liabilities	-	(43,750)	(43,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2024	<u>64,690</u>	<u>275,481</u>	<u>340,171</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds				
Drop-in fund	4,221	146,435	(72,564)	78,092
Mentoring Project fund	45,721	-	(45,365)	356
Outreach work	8,048	3,500	(1,000)	10,548
Legal fund	700	-	-	700
Learning Project	6,000	39,239	(30,896)	14,343
Wellbeing activities	-	21,630	(16,820)	4,810
CEO salary costs	-	40,000	(39,618)	382
Total restricted funds	64,690	250,804	(206,263)	109,231
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	275,481	162,669	(92,828)	345,322
Total unrestricted funds	275,481	162,669	(92,828)	345,322
Total funds	340,171	413,473	(299,091)	454,553

Purposes of restricted funds

Drop-in fund	We received grants from a range of funders to support our Drop-in (Welcome Centre), including food provision, social and wellbeing activities. Funders included Bristol Impact Fund 2 (Bristol City Council), The Souter Charitable Trust, John James Foundation, One Stop, Asda, National Lottery Awards for All, Arnold Clark, Bristol Local Food Fund, J&M Britton Charitable Trust, The Mbili Charitable Trust, Feeding Bristol, The Swan Mountain Trust, Migrant Help, Quartet Community Foundation – Wessex Water, and the Sir Harold Hood Charitable Trust.
Mentoring Project fund	The Mentoring Project was funded by the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation. The funds were awarded in March 2024 and were carried forward and utilised during this period.
Outreach work	Our outreach work with asylum seekers residing in three initial accommodation hotels across Bristol was funded by Bristol City Council. A grant from University Hospitals Bristol supported social activities for hotel residents. Following the violent riots outside one of the hotel accommodations, a public fundraiser was held; proceeds were gifted to Borderlands from the GoFundMe fundraiser to support further activities for residents.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Legal fund	A small fund established by the trustees to support legal costs for asylum seekers and refugees in cases where public funding is unavailable, enabling access to justice.
Learning Project	The Learning Project was funded by the Quartet Community Foundation, The Nisbet Trust, The Medlock Charitable Trust, The Van Neste Foundation, and the Benefact Group. Additional funding for specific elements came from the Southall Trust for women's theatre workshops and the University of Bristol for a summer internship within the Learning Project.
Wellbeing activities	Funds raised by staff and volunteers running a marathon who requested that donations were used to fund wellbeing activities.
CEO salary costs	Funding from The Henry Smith Charity to support the CEO role.

Prior period comparatives

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds				
Drop-in fund	24	75,587	(71,390)	4,221
Mentoring Project fund	53,525	43,181	(50,985)	45,721
Beach Trip fund	1,331	-	(1,331)	-
Outreach work	20,177	28,700	(40,829)	8,048
Legal fund	700	-	-	700
Learning Project	26,574	10,038	(30,612)	6,000
Total restricted funds	102,331	157,506	(195,147)	64,690
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	258,153	118,302	(100,974)	275,481
Total unrestricted funds	258,153	118,302	(100,974)	275,481
Total funds	360,484	275,808	(296,121)	340,171

16. Related party transactions

Included within the charity's creditors at the year end is a 10 year loan from a former trustee for the purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged on the loan. The balance outstanding on the loan at the year end is £43,750 (2024: £68,750).

The total aggregate donations from trustees during the year were £nil (2024: £100). There were no restrictions attached to these donations in the current or prior year.