

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2025

Charity number: 1146073

Company limited by guarantee: 7945421

**Solihull Action through Advocacy  
Report and Financial Statements  
Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
Legal and administrative information	1
Chair's statement	2 - 3
Report of the Trustees	4 - 9
Report of the Independent Examiner	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Cashflow statement	13
Notes forming part of the financial statements	14 - 22

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Legal and administrative information**

**Trustees and Directors**

Gary Anthoney	Appointed 10 December 2024. Finance Committee (from February 2025)
Jessica James	
Dr Susan Lanz	
Philip Marshall	Finance Committee
Joshua Moreton	Finance Committee (until February 2025)
Catherine Nolan	
Christopher Rinaldi (Chair)	Appointed 1 October 2024
John Roundell	Finance Committee
Jane Williams	

**Chief Executive Officer**

Christine Forde

**Principal Office and Registered Address**

11 - 13 Land Lane  
Marston Green  
Solihull  
B37 7DE

**Independent examiner**

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA  
8 Troutbeck Avenue  
Leamington Spa  
Warwickshire  
CV32 6NE

**Bankers**

CAF Bank Ltd.  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
ME19 4JQ

## **Solihull Action through Advocacy**

### **Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2025**

It is a privilege to introduce this year's Annual Report and Accounts as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees. At Solihull Action Through Advocacy (SAtA), we are proud to stand alongside and support some of the most vulnerable members of our community; people with autism and learning disabilities, many of whom face additional challenges and complexities in their lives. Whether due to multiple diagnoses, physical disabilities, or challenges with mental health, these individuals often encounter significant barriers to accessing the support they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Following the year end, we are delighted to share that SAtA has been successful in securing the contract to continue delivering statutory and parent advocacy services on behalf of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for at least a further five years, starting from October 2025. This achievement is a strong endorsement of the high-quality advocacy support we provide and a clear demonstration of the continued trust the Council places in our work and our values.

In January 2025 our organisation successfully retained its Advocacy Quality Performance Mark (QPM) recognising the high standards, professionalism, and quality of our independent advocacy services. It gives commissioners and those who use our services reassurance that we are focussed on ensuring delivery of quality services. The QPM Assessor found that:

“All external stakeholders and people who used advocacy services reflected on the highest standards of independent advocacy delivered by SAtA. It is clear that SAtA has an excellent reputation with people who use services, stakeholders and within the wider independent advocacy sector.”

Despite continued challenges ranging from increased pressures on health and social care services, the enduring impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis, our team of staff and volunteers have remained unwavering in their commitment to delivering high-quality advocacy. Their work ensures that people's rights are upheld, that their voices are heard, and that they are supported to make informed choices about their lives and maintain their independence.

Much of our advocacy work is preventative in nature. It plays a vital role in helping people to stay well, be part of their communities, and reduce the need for more intensive health and social care interventions. The demand for our one-to-one advocacy casework continues to grow, both in terms of volume and complexity. Our advocates work in partnership with professionals across services to ensure person-centred approaches that lead to better, more meaningful outcomes.

Our Community Advocacy has also gone from strength to strength. Building support networks remains at the heart of our community work, and our Circles of Support initiative continues to provide opportunities for people to build lasting friendships and establish networks of mutual support. We've also continued to host our popular Coffee and Catch-Up sessions, which offer safe, welcoming spaces for people who may be isolated or lacking in confidence to meet others, develop new interests, and feel a sense of belonging.

In our Collective Advocacy work, we have made significant progress on key areas such as healthcare and mental health. We are a key member of the Learning Disability Partnership Board at Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, with members of our own Learning Disability Council actively contributing to its work. We have also remained closely involved with the NHS's LeDeR programme, "Learning from Lives and Deaths - people with a learning disability and autistic people". Building on this, we have launched a new initiative to gather the voices of people with lived experience, helping assess progress towards the LeDeR strategic priorities and influencing improvements in service delivery.

The Board of Trustees has spent time reflecting on and refining our strategic direction over the past year. The year has been a challenging one to ensure the organisation was well prepared for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's re-tender of its advocacy services. As mentioned, we are delighted to have been successful following the procurement process. We have also worked to ensure a sustainable balance between our service delivery and funding, particularly due to the Government's evolving renewed focus on health and social care and its impact on the regional landscape of integrated care across Solihull and Birmingham. This work is vital in ensuring we remain responsive, resilient, and ready for the future.

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2025**

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Chief Executive, Christine Forde, and her leadership team, along with every member of staff and all our volunteers. Their hard work, passion, and dedication ensure that we continue to deliver outstanding support to those who need us most. As Chair, I am inspired by the compassion and perseverance I see every day, and I look forward to contributing to the continued development and impact of this incredible organisation.

Finally, we would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who fund our work. Your continued support and confidence in us are truly appreciated, and together, we are making a real and lasting difference in the lives of those we support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Rinaldi'.

Christopher Rinaldi, Chair of the Board of Trustees

## **Solihull Action through Advocacy**

### **Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The Trustees and Directors present their report and financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The Trustees' report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 14 to 16 and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 February 2012 and registered as a Charity on 23 February 2012 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The company is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. In the event of the company being wound up, each member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility of managing the business of the charitable company and for the purposes of Charity law the Trustees of the Charity are also Directors of the company. The Trustees / Directors who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1.

All Trustees gave their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in the accounts. Trustee vacancies are advertised locally and regionally. Trustees are appointed for their skills and expertise. All new Trustees undergo an induction process and receive a Trustee pack with relevant information about the organisation.

Day to day responsibility for management of the organisation is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive.

All major risks have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The Charity's objects as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are:

- to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded;
- to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society;
- to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

'Socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: age, disability, impairment, poor educational or skills attainment, relationship and family breakdown and asylum seekers.

Solihull Action through Advocacy achieves its objectives through the provision of free independent advocacy. Having regard to these achievements, and the public benefit that they provide, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has met the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

In assessing the success of the Charity in the period, the Trustees have had regard principally to the number of people to whom the Charity has provided a service and the proportion of those individuals who achieved an outcome mostly or completely in line with their wishes. In addition the Trustees hold as a key criteria the need to deliver the Charity's services within its budget and to make a contribution to its unrestricted reserves.

The Charity utilises volunteers in a variety of roles from service delivery to Governance. Across the period, 23 people have volunteered including within our Peer Visitor service, Learning Disability Council, as Citizen Advocates, members of our Advisory Committee and the Trustees themselves.

## **Solihull Action through Advocacy**

### **Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### **Achievements and performance**

##### **1. Advocacy Case Work**

Our casework service has continued to be an important source of support for some of the most marginalised people as the health and social care sector, along with the wider community, continued to struggle with and be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis and other challenges. Over the course of the year we received over 688 new referrals and have provided a one-to-one independent advocacy case work service to 810 people across 1,323 cases (an increase of 13% on last year). 281 of those people (35%) are new to SAAtA. The nature of cases is also increasingly more complex due to the diverse needs and challenges of individuals who require our support.

**Solihull First Advocacy** - This year is the fifth year of delivering our service providing all local-authority funded statutory and non-statutory advocacy in Solihull. In total, the service has worked with 662 people across 1,142 cases. 213 (38%) of those people were new to SAAtA.

**Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Relevant Person's Representative (RPR)** – We continue to provide an advocacy service to individuals who have been assessed as lacking capacity and are entitled to the support of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate. This includes those subject to a Deprivation of Liberty and those entitled to the support of a Relevant Person's Representative. These are entitlements that were created by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to ensure that individuals who lack capacity in respect of certain decisions are not deprived of the ability to input into best interest decisions about their lives.

**Care Act** - We provide support under the Care Act 2014 to those who are going through the process of assessment, support planning or review as well as safeguarding processes. This service is provided to any person who has a substantial difficulty engaging with the process and does not have another suitable person to support them.

**Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA)** – We provide advocacy support to individuals who have been detained under a section of the Mental Health Act 1983. The majority of those cases are supporting people who have been detained in hospital under section 2 or section 3 for assessment and treatment. IMHAs ensure that detained individuals understand what their situation is, what their rights are, help to ensure their voice is heard in care and treatment decisions and to plan for their return into the community.

**NHS Complaints** - We provide advocacy support to people who wish to make a complaint about treatment they have received from the NHS. This can include making complaints to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman if required.

**Non-Statutory Advocacy** - We work with people whose situations do not meet the criteria for any of the statutory advocacy roles above but who have important issues that they need advocacy support with. We assist people with issues such as housing, employment, healthcare, finances, social care, access to services, bullying and hate crime. Commonly, people come to us because they have no one else who they can turn to for support. We also see this advocacy provision as an important service that has successfully supported people who may otherwise present to health and social care services.

**Parents Advocacy** - Our service for parents with a learning disability provides advocacy support during child protection proceedings or pre-proceedings. These are cases that usually revolve around whether a parent is able to care for the child(ren) or whether they should be cared for by a relative or someone else. In many cases this results in them being removed from the care of their parents. Support from an advocate ensures that parents are fully engaged in the decision-making process and also that all options to support parents to continue caring for their own child(ren) have been considered and explored. We have worked on 73 parents advocacy cases this year (an increase of 15% on last year).

**Young People** - We have continued to provide support to young people with learning disabilities and autism, particularly those who are in transition into adulthood. Key issues within this group include education such as Education Health and Care Plans, employment, relationships and mental health (with the latter remaining an increasing challenge among young people). This work is funded by BSol ICB. We have worked on 32 cases in the year.

## **Solihull Action through Advocacy**

### **Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

##### **2. Community Advocacy**

###### ***Peer Visitors***

We have continued with our Peer Visitor project where a peer with disabilities, supported by a volunteer visiting residents at 9 residential homes for people with learning disabilities. They look at the surroundings, talk to residents and staff and consider how they would feel if it were them living there. They then feedback back their findings to management at the home.

Following their observations the peer visitors were impressed:

- that some homes had received some refurbishment and redecoration. The colour scheme used was liked by the peers because of the bright colours, and the ease of accessibility around the homes were good.□
- how staff at three homes managed bereavement with the people living there. The staff managed the communication sensitively and compassionately.□
- the people in the homes were well supported and cared for by the staff.

It was fed back to management across all the homes that the homes had challenges in providing transport to people to enable them to access community activities. This remains an ongoing challenge.

This year we have been pleased to welcome a four-legged Peer Visitor to our team – Tilly. Tilly accompanies our Peer Visitors on visits to homes where everyone likes dogs. This helps to relax the people we are visiting and brings them some enjoyment. It makes everyone happy and builds on our positive relationships.

###### ***Circles of Support***

This is an important initiative which helps to meet a gap in our community. It enables vulnerable people to establish new friendships which builds on their support network to meet their own particular needs and goals through co-production. This work is funded by the NHS.

We have worked on a one-to-one basis with 36 individuals this year. The length of that support has varied depending on a variety of factors. For example:□

- The length of time needed to build trusting relationship
- The level of social anxiety felt by the person
- The length of time the person has been isolated from community integration
- The complex nature of the person's needs
- What suitable activities are available in their local area

Poor mental health has unfortunately been a common theme during this year. This has been demonstrated by people not wanting to leave their homes and even feeling suicidal. We have managed to keep these relationships ongoing due to the trust we have developed, by providing regular activities and community engagement. It is important that the people set their own agenda and go forward at their own pace. We co-work with other external professionals where appropriate.

We have been making good use of our Coffee and Catch Up sessions particularly at The Core venue where attendance has been up to 20 people. This enables people to make connections in a relaxed environment, practicing their social skills and hearing about other social opportunities.

HS2 has further developed this work by providing funding that enabled SAAtA to deliver 82 workshops to 69 people. It enables vulnerable people to establish new friendships which builds on their support network to meet their own particular needs and goals through co-production.

We continue to see the benefits of all this work as people feel positive about life, a sense of belonging, having friends, and increased well-being but also notably feeling safe. The aim is also focussed on prevention by reducing dependency on formal health and social care services. These forms of advocacy help to promote individual self-advocacy and improve their confidence.



## **Solihull Action through Advocacy**

### **Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

##### **2. Community Advocacy (continued)**

###### ***Boobs on the go/in the know***

We were fortunate to receive funding from the Pink Ribbon foundation which we have put to good use by spreading awareness of breast cancer and cancer screening amongst the learning disability community in Solihull. We built a small team of women with Learning disabilities who created a presentation and delivered it to supported living homes, day centres and colleges. The presentation was also delivered to health professionals, and our team of women led a discussion with professionals about how they could help to make some improvements. They explained the need for reasonable adjustments, clear details about screening and breast cancer treatment, and offered advice on how to communicate well with patients who have learning disabilities. As part of this work, we also set up a women's wellbeing group which takes place monthly at a local hospice and we are delighted that it will continue after the end of this project with the support of volunteers.

###### ***Capturing change***

During this time we have continued our active support of LeDeR (Learning from experiences of Life and death of people with Learning disabilities) with the ICB funded project Capturing Change. We have worked jointly with Midland Mencap and Experts by Experience to capture healthcare experiences of People with Learning Disabilities and Autism. We have focused on experiences of Annual Health Checks, moving between Primary and Secondary Care and co-facilitated a series of workshops with Marie Curie looking at planning for end of life, and supporting people to make informed choices around this sensitive but important topic. We have shared our findings with the ICB's LeDeR Governance board to bring about an awareness and understanding of the issues encountered by people accessing health services and what changes or reasonable adjustments can be made to improve their experiences and accessibility.

##### **3. Collective Advocacy**

###### ***Solihull Learning Disability Council (LDC)***

The Council has continued to meet monthly. This year the work of the LDC has continued to include:

- Undergoing training with Mencap on how to plan and execute a positive campaign about any issue they choose to.
- Discussion on how the work of the LDC could be promoted to reach a wider audience so that more voices are heard.
- Creating their own personal stories as a contribution to Disability Week on the topic of 'Do You See Me?'.
- Discussion on the importance of having an understanding and awareness of signs of cancer amongst people with learning disabilities. This influenced SATa to start developing future work in this area.

###### ***Influencing Work***

The Learning Disability Council Chair is pleased to have continued to be Chair of Solihull Council's Learning Disability Partnership Board which is now in its second year. The LDC were able to influence the agenda of the Partnership Board to discuss the specific support needed by carers with learning disabilities. As a consequence of raising this people with learning disabilities were invited to take part in a consultation on ways to improve support or carers. They also initiated a task and finish group to look at the lack of evening activities available for people with learning disabilities with a view to increasing what is on offer. This work will be continuing into the following year.

**LeDeR** - This NHS programme identifies learning from the lives and deaths from people with learning disabilities or autism. Following our inclusion in the local LeDeR steering group we continue to be part of the regular "Oversight Panel" which looks at completed LeDeR reviews with a view to seeing what actions can be taken to improve systems and processes. LeDeR is a service improvement programme for people with learning disability or autism. As an extension to this work, we are supporting people with lived experience to share their views and experiences of using healthcare services and to identify whether the NHS is meeting its priorities contained in the ICB's LeDeR strategic plan. This work will determine the actions that are needed to improve the experiences of accessing health services as well as highlighting areas of good practice. The priorities can be found here: [LeDeR Priorities](#).

## **Solihull Action through Advocacy**

### **Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

##### **3. Collective Advocacy (continued)**

###### ***Influencing Work (continued)***

**JAND Strategic Board** - We were invited to sit as part of the Joint Additional Needs and Disabilities Board. As part of this we contributed to the drafting of the new Joint Additional Needs Strategy for Solihull, as well as the associated action plans. The Strategy can be viewed here: [JAND Strategy](#).

**Solihull Council Safeguarding Board** – We are also a member of Solihull Council's Safeguarding Board which enables us to use and share our knowledge and experience of the local community alongside other key stakeholders across Solihull.

#### **Plans for future periods**

In consultation with our staff and the people who use our services, our strategic plan for 2025-26 will focus on:

1. Continue to deliver a high-quality, 1-2-1 case work advocacy service to protect people's rights and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard
2. Develop new "community advocacy" projects to promote and support inclusion for people with a learning disability or autism to support sustainable funding of this work
3. Develop and grow "collective advocacy" work to influence positive change
4. Improve impact measurement methodologies and reporting (maximising use of data and information)
5. Improve marketing and raise the profile of our Charity

As we move into 2025/26 and beyond, our focus is now on pushing forward with the development of our Community and Collective Advocacy activity. Some of this work is underway including the delivery of our Circles of Support which has become an established part of our community work.

We will also continue with the delivery of the new project funded by BSol ICB to ensure that the voices and experiences of people with learning disabilities and autism are central to assessing the progress towards the LeDeR strategic plan and in determining the actions that need to be taken to improve their experiences and to build on areas of good practice.

Our Advisory Committee will continue to review its membership to ensure it is diverse and representative of the Solihull community.

We will also be focussing some of our attentions on improving our ability to capture, measure and articulate the impact of our work and using that to inform future services, as well as to support building our profile and influencing local, regional and national policy and practice.

#### **Financial review**

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an income of £727,168 (2024: £649,336) and expenditure of £711,758 (2024: £581,315) resulting in net income for the year of £15,410 (2024: £68,021). The fund balance at 31 March 2025 is £207,412 (2024: £192,002), of which £14,022 (2024: £13,007) is restricted and £193,390 (2024: £178,995) is unrestricted.

The increase in other charitable income shown in note 4 (2025: £215,609 versus 2024: £136,102) is primarily due to new projects which commenced during this period.

The Trustees are particularly grateful to the members of the Board's Finance Committee, the CEO and Finance Manager for their work in supporting the Trustees to ensure careful and prudent management of the Charity's finances.

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**Financial review (continued)**

The principal financial risks faced by the Charity are regularly monitored by the Board of Trustees and by its Finance Committee, as well as on a continual basis by the CEO and Management Team. The main risks to which the Trustees feel attention should be drawn are:

- Dependency on a small number of large funding streams: Approximately 65% of income for 2024-25 was derived from contracts with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (although this is split across multiple contracts) and this presents some risk in terms of sustainability in the long term. Our main contract will be extended at least for a further five years from October 2025. The Trustees have set income generation targets and fundraising plans to encourage diversification of income streams to help mitigate this risk.
- Failure to achieve income generation targets: As with most similar charities, there is a recurrent risk that the Charity will fail to meet its fundraising / income generation targets in any given year. The Trustees have set challenging but achievable targets and progress towards them is monitored regularly by the Board's Finance Committee. In addition, unrestricted funds held in reserves can be deployed to make up for under-performance in fundraising if the Trustees consider that to be prudent and appropriate.

**Reserves**

The Reserves Policy sets out the Trustees' rationale for setting its target reserves figure and takes due regard of the Charity Commission guidance CC19. In setting the reserves target, the Trustees consider contracted future income streams, levels of committed expenditure, cash flow requirements, and identified risks on the risk register.

The target reserves figure is formally reviewed annually and ordinarily as part of the budget setting process. A comparison of the actual and target reserves figure is monitored throughout the year.

In summary, the reasons for which funds are retained as reserves include:

- To ensure the continuity of an activity in the event of a significant variation or total loss of funding for that activity. This is a high priority for SATa.
- To fund unforeseen and unavoidable running costs or capital expenditures that may arise.
- To fund running costs for the short-term in the instance of cash-flow timing problems.

A free reserves target figure of £125,000 was approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2025. Free reserves at 31 March 2025 were £96,222 (2024: £96,500) which is less than this target. The Trustees will endeavour in the coming year to increase the free reserves figure via their ongoing budgetary controls and search for new income opportunities, in order to move closer to this target. Furthermore, designated funds of £82,755 (as at 31 March 2025) are available to transfer to the general fund at the Trustees' discretion.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006. This report was approved by the Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Philip Marshall  
Finance Committee



John Roundell  
Finance Committee

03/12/2025

Date

**Independent examiner's report**  
**To the Trustees of Solihull Action through Advocacy**

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 11 to 22.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity Trustees of the 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 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 your 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 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, 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 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).

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.



**Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA**  
(Fellow of the ICAEW)

8 Troutbeck Avenue  
Leamington Spa  
CV32 6NE

**3 December 2025**

Date

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	6,164	-	6,164	4,944
Charitable activities	4	533,399	184,481	717,880	641,720
Investments		3,124	-	3,124	2,672
		<u>542,687</u>	<u>184,481</u>	<u>727,168</u>	<u>649,336</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		-	-	-	4,634
Charitable activities	5	515,888	188,731	704,619	576,476
Other		5,330	1,809	7,139	205
		<u>521,218</u>	<u>190,540</u>	<u>711,758</u>	<u>581,315</u>
<b>Net income</b>		21,469	(6,059)	15,410	68,021
Transfers between funds	15	(7,074)	7,074	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		14,395	1,015	15,410	68,021
Balance at start of year	15	178,995	13,007	192,002	123,981
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	15	<u>193,390</u>	<u>14,022</u>	<u>207,412</u>	<u>192,002</u>

There were no recognised gains and losses for the charitable company for the current or prior years other than those included in the statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure arises from continuing activities.

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Company limited by guarantee: 7945421**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025**

		<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	14,413	2,784
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	11	2,243,217	823,280
Cash at bank and in hand		211,240	260,622
		2,454,457	1,083,902
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	(758,744)	(619,401)
<b>Net current assets</b>		1,695,713	464,501
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		1,710,126	467,285
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	13	(1,502,714)	(275,283)
<b>Total net assets</b>		207,412	192,002
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted	15	14,022	13,007
Unrestricted	15	193,390	178,995
		207,412	192,002

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

The members have not required the 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 directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Philip Marshall  
Finance Committee



John Roundell  
Finance Committee

03/12/2025

Date

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>			
Net income	15,410	68,021	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	1,523	1,346	
Loss on sale of fixed assets	181	-	
Interest income shown in investing activities	(3,124)	(2,672)	
Increase in debtors	(1,419,937)	(37,848)	
Increase in creditors	1,366,774	107,746	
Net cash provided by operating activities	(39,173)	136,593	
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Interest and dividends	3,124	2,672	
Purchase of fixed assets	(13,333)	(1,102)	
Net cash provided by investing activities	(10,209)	1,570	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(49,382)	138,163	
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	260,622	122,459	
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	211,240	260,622	
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	211,240	260,622	
<b>Analysis of changes in net debt</b>	<b>At start of year £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At end of year £</b>
Cash	260,622	(49,382)	211,240

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Notes forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**1 Accounting policies**

**{a} General information and basis of preparation**

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a private Charitable Company incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee, is limited to £10 per member of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the Charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations and principal activities are: to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded; to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society; to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity, rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

**{b} Funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**{c} Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the Charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

The Charity receives government grants in respect of its advocacy projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the Charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

All income arises in the United Kingdom.



**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Notes forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**{d} Expenditure recognition**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes the costs of fundraising
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises the direct costs of the provision of advocacy services and associated overhead expenses

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

**{e} Support costs allocation**

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity, but do not directly represent charitable activities and include administrative payroll costs, premises costs, office costs and governance costs. Support costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities, and raising funds. Any support costs which cannot be directly attributed to individual funds are apportioned according to the gross payroll cost incurred by each fund. The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

**{f} Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computers and office equipment	33.3% reducing balance
--------------------------------	------------------------

Assets costing less than £1,000 are written off to the SoFA in the year of purchase.

**{g} 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.

**{h} Impairment**

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

**{i} Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised when the Charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Notes forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**{j} Leases**

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

**{k} Tax**

The Charity is an exempt Charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a Charity for UK corporation tax purposes.

**2 Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the Charity, to be able to continue as a going concern.

**3 Donations and legacies**

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Other donations and gift aid	6,164	4,944

All donations are unrestricted.

**4 Income from charitable activities**

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Contracts with Solihull MBC	469,131	452,850
Grants	33,140	52,768
Other charitable income	215,609	136,102
	<u>717,880</u>	<u>641,720</u>

All grant income is restricted. £151,341 (2024:£46,649) of other charitable income is restricted. All other income from charitable activities is unrestricted.

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Notes forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**5 Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31 March 2025 Total £	Year ended 31 March 2024 Total £
Direct staff costs	297,450	63,200	360,650	343,653
Direct premises costs	66	-	66	662
Direct office costs	3,796	10,947	14,743	483
Other direct costs	118,866	98,878	217,744	143,993
Total direct costs	420,178	173,025	593,203	488,791
Support costs (note 6)	95,710	15,706	111,416	87,685
	515,888	188,731	704,619	576,476

**6 Allocation of support costs**

Support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities and other expenditure, being apportioned between individual funds on the basis of the direct payroll cost incurred by each fund. Total support costs comprise the following:

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £
Support costs included in expenditure on charitable activities	
Staff costs	55,485
Premises costs	27,084
Office costs	20,348
Depreciation	1,523
Loss on disposal	181
Professional fees	540
Governance	2,949
Other costs	3,306
	111,416
Support costs included in other expenditure	6,285
	117,701

**7 Net movement in funds for the year**

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,523	1,346
Fees payable to the independent examiner:	2,645	2,060

No other fees were paid to the independent examiner (2024: £nil).

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Notes forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**8 Staff costs**

	<b>Year ended 31 March 2025</b>	<b>Year ended 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
The staff costs were:		
Wages and salaries	366,196	307,053
Social security costs	23,314	16,214
Pension contributions	18,017	15,593
	<u>407,527</u>	<u>338,860</u>
Other staff costs	8,608	29,877
	<u>416,135</u>	<u>368,737</u>

The other staff costs comprise mainly staff cover, travel, recruitment and training costs. No employee received annual emoluments in excess of £50,000 (2024: none). The average monthly number of staff employed during the year was:

	<b>Year ended 31 March 2025</b>	<b>Year ended 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Charitable Activities	16	15
Other	3	3
	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>

**9 Trustees' expenses and remuneration**

The Trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2024: £nil). Expenses paid to the Trustees in the year totalled £nil (2024: £nil) and there were no donations made by Trustees (2024: £nil). There were no other related party transactions (2024: none).

**10 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Computers and office equipment £</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
At 31 March 2024	16,830
Additions	13,333
Disposals	(1,224)
At 31 March 2025	<u>28,939</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 31 March 2024	14,046
Charge for year	1,523
Disposals	(1,043)
At 31 March 2025	<u>14,526</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 March 2025	<u>14,413</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,784</u>

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Notes forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>11 Debtors</b>	<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	128,265	60,725
Other debtors	5,801	2,198
Prepayments and accrued income	2,109,151	760,357
	<u>2,243,217</u>	<u>823,280</u>

Prepayments and accrued income include £2,104,526 (2024: £755,732) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts are recognised as due to the Charity under the terms of the contracts but the associated income is deferred to the relevant future periods, see notes 12 and 13. Included within prepayments and accrued income is £1,502,714 (2024: £275,283) due after more than one year. £288,671 (2024: £145,231) of accrued income is restricted. The increase in accrued income at 31 March 2025 compared with 31 March 2024 is primarily due to the renewal of the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council contract until October 2030.

<b>12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	49,199	9,842
Accruals and deferred income	709,545	604,730
Taxation and social security	-	4,829
	<u>758,744</u>	<u>619,401</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due within one year includes £687,799 (2024: £579,691) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the year ending 31 March 2026. (2024: recognised in the year ended 31 March 2025). £280,628 (2024: £191,908) of deferred income due within one year is restricted.

<b>13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accruals and deferred income	<u>1,502,714</u>	<u>275,283</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due after more than one year are in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the years ending 31 March 2027, 31 March 2028, 31 March 2029 and 31 March 2030 (2024: recognised in the year ending 31 March 2026). All accruals and deferred income are due within five years. No interest is chargeable. £94,030 (2024: £66,095) of deferred income due after more than one year is restricted. The increase in deferred income at 31 March 2025 compared with 31 March 2024 is primarily due to the renewal of the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council contract until October 2030.

<b>14 Deferred income</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 April 2024	854,974
Additions during the year	1,915,230
Amounts released to income	(579,691)
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,190,513</u>

Deferred income comprises amounts, received or receivable, which are in respect of work to be undertaken in future periods, see notes 12 and 13.

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Notes forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**15 Summary of fund movements**

	<b>Fund balance b/f £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expend- iture £</b>	<b>Fund transfers £</b>	<b>Fund balance c/f £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>General fund</b>	99,284	22,041	(12,518)	1,828	110,635
<b>Designated funds - Case Work Advocacy</b>					
Solihull First	5,000	416,085	(440,806)	19,721	-
Parents Advocacy	-	42,738	(35,140)	(7,598)	-
B'ham & Solihull ICB Transition	5,464	1,169	-	-	6,633
<b>Designated funds - Community Advocacy</b>					
Peer Visitors	747	10,308	(16,384)	5,329	-
Circles of Support	-	50,346	(16,370)	-	33,976
<b>Designated funds - Other</b>					
IT development & security	50,000	-	-	(23,521)	26,479
Website development	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Project accounting	5,000	-	-	(5,000)	-
Finance and HR	-	-	-	8,000	8,000
Staff development	8,500	-	-	(5,833)	2,667
	<u>79,711</u>	<u>520,646</u>	<u>(508,700)</u>	<u>(8,902)</u>	<u>82,755</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>178,995</u>	<u>542,687</u>	<u>(521,218)</u>	<u>(7,074)</u>	<u>193,390</u>
<b>Restricted funds - Case Work Advocacy</b>					
Baron Davenport	189	750	-	-	939
<b>Designated funds - Community Advocacy</b>					
Awards for All	2,710	-	-	-	2,710
HS2	-	20,724	(27,689)	6,965	-
<b>Restricted funds - Collective Advocacy</b>					
LeDeR	10,023	147,941	(149,215)	-	8,749
<b>Restricted funds - Other</b>					
CB & HH Taylor	85	-	-	-	85
Eveson Trust	-	10,000	(10,109)	109	-
Sheldon Trust	-	1,666	(1,000)	-	666
Pink Ribbon	-	3,400	(2,527)	-	873
	<u>13,007</u>	<u>184,481</u>	<u>(190,540)</u>	<u>7,074</u>	<u>14,022</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>192,002</u>	<u>727,168</u>	<u>(711,758)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>207,412</u>

Transfers made from the general fund to the restricted funds are to ensure they are not in deficit at the year end.

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Notes forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**15 Summary of fund movements (continued)**

Designated funds are held for the following purposes:

Solihull First	Provision of statutory and non-statutory advocacy for adults residing and/or receiving services in Solihull. This includes advocacy provided under the Care Act, Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Mental Health Act as well as NHS Complaints. It also includes issue-based, non-statutory advocacy for adults living in Solihull.
Parents Advocacy	One to one support for parents with a learning disability who are going through child protection proceedings.
B'ham & Solihull ICB Transition	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adults' services.
Peer Visitors	Peer-led quality monitoring visits to Local Authority residential care homes.
Circles of Support	A program to help reduce social isolation and build long-term supportive networks for people with learning disabilities.
IT development & security	For replacing IT equipment and for IT security costs.
Website development	For ongoing development of the website.
Project accounting	To expand the accounting system to incorporate quarterly project reporting and monthly cash flows.
Finance and HR	To develop systems, processes and knowledge.
Staff development	For investment in staff training courses and career development.

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Baron Davenport	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adult services.
Awards for All	Building Connections project providing sessions for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism to meet and get support, socialise and build relationships.
HS2	Project funding to reduce the isolation of people in north Solihull that were affected by the HS2 construction.
LeDeR	Learning from the lives and deaths from people with learning disability and autism is a project for the NHS. The project covers the geographical areas of Solihull and Birmingham and involves talking to people with lived experience to understand their views and experience of accessing health services.
CB & HH Taylor	To support young people with learning disabilities or autism into adulthood.
Eveson Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Sheldon Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Pink Ribbon	To educate women and facilitate peer support on the importance of obtaining regular breast cancer screening checks

**Solihull Action through Advocacy**  
**Notes forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>16 Analysis of net assets by fund</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Fixed assets	14,413	-	14,413
Debtors	1,954,546	288,671	2,243,217
Cash	111,231	100,009	211,240
Current liabilities	(478,116)	(280,628)	(758,744)
Long term liabilities	(1,408,684)	(94,030)	(1,502,714)
	<u>193,390</u>	<u>14,022</u>	<u>207,412</u>

**17 Operating lease commitments**

At the reporting end date the Charitable Company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Premises</b>	
	<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Not later than one year	18,500	18,500
Later than one year and not later than five years	27,750	9,250
	<u>46,250</u>	<u>27,750</u>

	<b>Office equipment</b>	
	<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Not later than one year	996	996
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,490	3,486
	<u>3,486</u>	<u>4,482</u>

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year were £18,500 (2024: £18,500) for premises and £996 (2024: £1,281) for office equipment.

**18 Controlling party and ultimate controlling party**

The controlling party and ultimate controlling party of the Charitable Company is the Board of Trustees / Directors of Solihull Action through Advocacy.