

Registered number: 07623621
Charity number: 1149397

Chester Students' Union

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 July 2025



Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Contents

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, its Trustees and Advisers	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 8
Trustees' Responsibilities Statement	9
Independent Examiner's Report	10 - 11
Statement of Financial Activities	12
Balance Sheet	13 - 14
Statement of Cash Flows	15
Notes to the Financial Statements	16 - 31

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, its Trustees and Advisors
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Trustees

Lauren Beckett
Graham Briscoe
Lillian Watson, President
Summer Ainscough (resigned 30 June 2025)
Stephen Docking, OBE
Edward Rigby
Dennis McGinley
Youssef Sennou (resigned 31 October 2024)
Toluwani Aliu (resigned 31 October 2024)
Jeannie France-Hayhurst (resigned 30 June 2025)
Adedayo Adebisi (resigned 4 July 2025)
Luis Correia (appointed 7 July 2025)
Lyndon Howson (appointed 14 January 2025, resigned 24 March 2025)
Sebastianas Uribe (appointed 14 January 2025, resigned 30 June 2025)
William Gaines (appointed 1 July 2025)
Jessica Thomas (appointed 14 January 2025)

Company registered number

07623621

Charity registered number

1149397

Registered office

Parkgate Road, Chester, CH1 4BJ

Chief executive officer

J Morris, CEO

Accountants

Dains Audit Limited, Suite 2, Albion House, 2 Etruria Office Village, Forge Lane, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, ST1 5RQ

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Chester Students' Union, also often referred to as 'CSU' or 'the Union', is a membership organisation and charitable company limited by guarantee. The Trustees present their annual report together with the independently examined financial statements of the company for the year 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025.

The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) as amended by Update Bulletin 1 (effective 1 January 2019).

Policies and Objectives

The Objects of the Union ("Objects") are the advancement of education of Students at University of Chester for the public benefit by:

- Promoting the interests and welfare of Students at University of Chester during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students
- Being the recognised representative channel between Students and University of Chester and any other external bodies
- Providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students

Strategic report

a. Policies and objectives

Chester Students' Union (CSU) represents approximately 15,000 student members offering mechanisms to collect, and act upon, student feedback, events and society support, advice on academic concerns and student led campaigns.

The Objects of the Union ("Objects") are the advancement of education of Students at University of Chester for the public benefit by:

- Promoting the interests and welfare of students at University of Chester during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising students
- Being the recognised representative channel between students and University of Chester and any other external bodies
- Providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its students

b. Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit

CSU staff and its Trustees ensure the organisation is focused on its primary purpose of the advancement of the education of students at the University of Chester and the Board acts with due regard for the requirements under the Charities Act to ensure its activities meet its obligations with regard to public benefit. The remainder of this report reflects the activity undertaken to meet these Objects by CSU in 2024-2025.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Strategic report (continued)

(continued)

Student Advice

- 705 students supported through UoC Student facing procedures (56% increase from 23/24)
- 663 in-person and Teams appointments. (187% increase from 23/24)
- 96% said that they felt more confident in handling their issue.
- 98% students who have used the service would recommend the service to a friend.

The introduction of a student friendly appointment booking platform has led to a significant rise in both the number of students accessing support and the positive feedback received.

Overall, the Advice Service managed 847 new cases and student enquiries by the end of July 2025, compared to 515 in the same period in 2023/24 - demonstrating both the growing demand for and the effectiveness of the service.

Opportunities

Events

- 8641 attendees at CSU led community events (131% increase from 23/24)
- 69% attendees said they made a new friend at CSU led events

With an expanded programme during the Welcome period, attendance rose to 6,375 students, up from 2,287 in 2023/24. High levels of enthusiasm for key events encouraged CSU to deliver a year-round programme across campuses and centres, resulting in 8,641 total attendees over the year compared with 4,574 in 2023/24.

This growth demonstrates the strong demand for community-building activities and the role of CSU events in strengthening student belonging and engagement.

Societies

- 74 student led Societies (32% increase from previous year)
- 244 students in leadership roles (37% increase from previous year)
- 1598 Members (38% increase from previous year)

This year has seen strong growth in both the number of student-led societies and their memberships, with 74 societies compared to 56 in 2023/24. The most significant growth has been in academic-based societies, which have played a key role in building connections and strengthening students' sense of belonging within their subject communities.

Student Voice

- 487 attendees at campaign and event activities
- 333 Student Voice Reps recruited and 180 trained
- 5 new Student Voice Partners recruited
- 1117 nominations received for 1839 awards, on 85% increase

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Strategic report (continued)

(continued)

2024/25 saw the introduction of a new Student Voice Partners scheme. These five paid student leader roles were recruited at School level within the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences with the aim of collecting student voice and feedback from Student Voice Representatives, surveys and other schemes at course level and ensuring actions are taken and feedback loops are closed. These SVPs also gained valuable leadership training and regular one to one support with our Student Voice Coordinator. The trial proved successful and aims to roll out further next academic year

CSU hosted its final staff and student 1839 awards in its current format. This was a great success which saw students and university staff coming together to celebrate their incredible achievements. Next year CSU will be combining the student leader element of 1839 awards with our existing society awards to create a brand-new student award and celebration ceremony. We will also be supporting the University in the collation of student voice for their own teaching and learning awards.

Democracy

- 50% increase in voter turnout in our Spring Elections compared to last year
- 15,340 votes cast, (an increase of 286% from last year)
- 10 Student Council Representatives elected
- 82 attendees to Student Leader Conference sessions

Both October by-elections and the larger Spring elections focused on removing the largest barriers to participation which included removing start date requirements for part-time Officer nominees, creating information workshops with a deeper explanation of the roles, and having one-to-one meetings with potential candidates.

The voting period was shortened from several days to just 1.5 days following the trend of other Students' Unions and better reflects the voting experience of standard elections. This appeared to positively influence voter turnout and avoided the usual 'mid-voting period dip' that we saw in previous years.

Officer activities

- 26 Officer Blog posts
- 100% SU representation on all University Committees
- 12 Officer led events
- 8 Officer led campaigns

The Officer Team remained committed to supporting CSU members throughout the year, delivering initiatives that enhanced engagement, strengthened community, and addressed key student concerns.

Amongst many other initiatives, our Vice President Student Life expanded CSU's events programme, from themed community activities to quiz nights in partnership with local businesses, creating new opportunities for students to connect and our Vice President Education contributed to the NUS "No More Guarantors" campaign, which reached parliamentary debate and amplified student voices on housing accessibility.

At a local level, sexual health was identified as a student priority, our President re-introduced a Health and Guidance Week at CSU, resulting in the permanent provision of free STI testing kits and condoms on campus.

Strategic report (continued)

(continued)

The Officer Team's work reflected their core ethos of creating opportunities, advocating for change, and championing the student voice, ensuring CSU remains a strong representative and support body for its members.

c. Interim operational plan

CSU focused on eight priority areas this year in preparation for launching our new five-year strategy from August 2025.

1. **Strategic direction** – CSU consulted with students on the future direction of the organisation and used their feedback to form the basis of the new strategy. This was further scrutinised by CSU staff and trustees before final agreement was reached. The strategy was launched from August 2025.
2. **Data confidence** – Through the use of data dashboards and regular inputting CSU have developed more accurate and pertinent data sets with which to measure and report on impact. This will be further enhanced with the purchase of a new Membership Services platform, Rubric, from August 2025.
3. **Engagement with democracy** – 2024-2025 saw higher voter turnout through more targeted awareness raising and a recognisable election brand.
4. **Organisational values** – Alongside the strategic direction, staff and trustees also agreed the new shared values of the organisation which were adopted from May 2025. CSU is an organisation that is proactive, collaborative and inclusive. The culture and ethos of CSU was recognised in the results of an external staff survey conducted through NUS Charity where CSU performed better in almost all questions when compared with student union and third sector benchmarks.
5. **Branding** – CSU believes the logo is a clear and recognised brand for our student members and so we chose to keep it, we have also adopted 'colourful threads' that represent our different services and activities to further increase our distinct brand recognition.
6. **Presence** – This branding was evident in the modest redecoration of our student space on Exton Park and development of our website. Further work on engaging with students on other campuses and sites needs to take place and is part of our strategic commitment from next year.
7. **Student Voice** – In addition to the established Student Voice Representatives scheme that CSU undertakes in partnership with the University of Chester, this year also saw the introduction of new Student Voice Partners in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences who were responsible for ensuring feedback from students was being actioned. We will be rolling this out further next academic year.
8. **Belonging** – CSU recognised the need for students to find opportunities to connect with like-minded people and truly feel they belong to the University of Chester community. Our engagement increased in every area including, for example, the number of students attending CSU led events or the number of student-led societies.

Strategic report (continued)

(continued)

d. Future developments – Our new strategy

CSU is excited for the future, we are driven by the belief that every student deserves a university experience that is rewarding, empowering, and equitable. As a proud part of the UoC community, we exist to represent, support and advocate for our student members, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met, and our new vision is ambitious yet deceptively simple.

Vision: We want to empower every single student that studies at the University of Chester to thrive throughout their university journey and beyond.

Mission: To achieve this, we believe every student should experience the value of, and benefit from engagement with, Chester Students' Union through...

- **Voice and Empowerment** - Sharing feedback and ideas, working in partnership with CSU to engage in decision making that leads to real change.
- **Community and Connection** - Establishing meaningful connections, building networks and making the most of opportunities through our societies and events.
- **Support and Advocacy** - Providing timely independent advice on academic, disciplinary and housing concerns to help students navigate challenges confidently
- **Personal Development** - Gaining and enhancing valuable skills through participation in campaigns, committees and CSU led activities and training opportunities

This mission is underpinned by our four commitments to

1. Effective, student-led governance that prioritises transparency, accountability and inclusivity to, and for, our students
2. Prudent financial management to grow and sustain our impact year on year
3. Growing digital capability and making data informed decisions to anticipate and respond to student needs
4. Building a workplace where our staff feel valued, motivated and included

This new strategy launched from August 2025 and will be reviewed in 2029-2030 academic year. We also start the new academic year with recruitment to a brand-new role of Student Engagement Manager which will help focus our attention on how best we engage with our student members in meaningful, fun and innovative ways.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. Financial Review

The detail of the 2024/25 financial performance is detailed later in this document. For the year ended 31 July 2025, the CSU net position was a net increase in funds of £1,380, which increased total funds to £180,265.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The company is constituted under a Trust deed and is a registered charity (number 1149397). The Union's chief governing documents is its Articles of Association, which was passed by an Annual General Meeting of students on 12 February 2024, this is supplemented by the minor governing document, the Byelaws of Chester Students' Union which was most recently reviewed in June 2025.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

Officer trustees are elected by ballot of all full members of the Union. Student and External Trustees are appointed by fellow Trustees. When becoming trustees, all trustees undertake an induction and training program, supplemented with any further and relevant training for their role that may be identified during their trusteeship.

Organisational structure and decision making

The management of the Union is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed. They have ultimate responsibility for the governance, budget and employment issues as well as the strategic direction of the Union, much of which is delegated to officers and staff. Currently there are no subcommittees. The Board of Trustees comprises up to twelve trustees made up of three elected officers, four external trustees, one lay trustee nominated from the University of Chester Council and four student trustees.

c. Related party relationships

The relationship between University of Chester and Chester Students' Union is established in the Regulations of the University and detailed in the Chester Students' Union's Articles recently re-approved by both organisations.

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Chester Students' Union receives an allocation of funds in the form of a block grant from the University of Chester. The Union also rents the ground floor space of a building on Exton Park campus. Guidance for the management and handling of the Union's financial accounts are agreed on an annual basis by University of Chester's Board of Governors via the Planning and Resources Committee and the Union's Board of Trustees in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding. In addition, changes to The Union's articles of association require the approval of the University Board of Governors.

There is no reason to believe that this or equivalent support from the university will not continue for the foreseeable future, as the Education Act 1994 imposes a duty on the university to ensure the financial viability of its student representative body.

d. Risk management

The Trustee Board of the Students' Union has examined the major strategic, business and operational risks faced by the Chester Students' Union. The risk register has been updated and will be reviewed before each board meeting. Risk is also reported and reviewed at a Board sub-committee. Budgetary and internal control risks have been minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety for staff, volunteers and participants of all activities organised by the union. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Students' Union.

Funds held as custodian

Societies Funds

Chester Students' Union acts as custodian for funds raised by the student societies themselves, amounting to £9,577 (2024: £7,327) at the year end, in addition to the grant support it disburses to them as shown in the accounts.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



L Watson
President

Date: 20/10/25

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

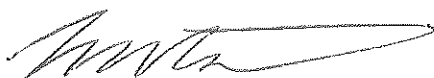
The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



L Watson
President
Date: 20/10/25

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Examiner's Report
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Chester Students' Union ('the company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the company (and 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 the company's accounts 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 ICAEW, 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:

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.

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Examiner's Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Use of Our Report

The use of this report is made solely to the company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.



Signed:

Dated:

20.10.25

Simon Hawkins FCA

Doins Audit Limited
Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5RQ

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
	Note				
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	567,500	3,000	570,500	545,375
Charitable activities	4	22,543	-	22,543	17,812
Investments	5	1,956	-	1,956	1,801
Total income		591,999	3,000	594,999	564,988
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities: Improvement of Student Experience		590,969	2,650	593,619	568,700
Total expenditure		590,969	2,650	593,619	568,700
Net movement in funds		1,030	350	1,380	(3,712)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		178,885	-	178,885	182,597
Net movement in funds		1,030	350	1,380	(3,712)
Total funds carried forward		179,915	350	180,265	178,885

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 16 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered number: 07623621

Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	4,938	8,690
		<u>4,938</u>	<u>8,690</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	28,121	91,397
Cash at bank and in hand		184,857	106,713
		<u>212,978</u>	<u>198,110</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(37,651)	(27,915)
		<u>175,327</u>	<u>170,195</u>
Net current assets		<u>175,327</u>	<u>170,195</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>180,265</u></u>	<u><u>178,885</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	14	350	-
Unrestricted funds	14	179,915	178,885
		<u>180,265</u>	<u>178,885</u>
Total funds		<u><u>180,265</u></u>	<u><u>178,885</u></u>

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered number: 07623621

Balance Sheet (continued)
As at 31 July 2025

The company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

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

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



L. Watson
President
Date: 20/10/25

The notes on pages 16 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	78,144	(43,567)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	491
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(2,557)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	-	(2,066)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	78,144	(45,633)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	106,713	152,346
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	184,857	106,713

The notes on pages 16 to 31 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

Chester Students' Union 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.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are each and every student who has not opted out of membership and the officer Trustees of the Union. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to one penny per member of the company.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation existence for the foreseeable future and therefore the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the company of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include project management carried out centrally. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the company's operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the company apportioned to charitable activities.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

A review of impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Office equipment	- 20% on a straight line basis
Computer equipment	- 20% on a straight line basis

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.9 Debtors

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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.

1.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

1.12 Financial instruments

The 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 measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.13 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.14 Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs 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.

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Grants	567,500	3,000	570,500

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants	525,501	19,874	545,375

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Media and Trading Sales	22,543	22,543

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Media and Trading Sales	17,812	17,812

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Bank interest received	1,956	1,956

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Bank interest received	1,801	1,801

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Improvement of Student Experience	39,700	553,919	593,619

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Improvement of Student Experience	41,144	527,556	568,700

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Summer Ball	-	10,000
Elections & Campaigns	2,730	3,312
Student Advice	3,785	2,273
Student Activities	17,921	15,685
Student Voice	3,906	9,874
Sustainability grant	2,650	-
Community building	8,708	-
	39,700	41,144

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	460,621	429,093
Depreciation	3,752	3,794
Insurance	11,956	11,910
IT costs	6,784	6,327
Staff training	16,380	12,137
Technology costs	4,243	360
Legal & professional fees	18,615	17,362
Profit on the sale of fixed assets	-	159
Miscellaneous expenditure	28,618	43,314
Accountancy fees	2,950	3,100
	<u>553,919</u>	<u>527,556</u>

7. Turnover

The whole of the turnover is attributable to the principal activity of the charitable company.

All turnover arose within the United Kingdom.

8. Net income/(expenditure)

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned by charity	3,752	3,794
Operating lease rentals	7,500	7,500
	<u>11,252</u>	<u>11,294</u>

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

9. Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	421,620	402,798
Social security costs	30,870	20,756
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	8,131	5,539
	<u>460,621</u>	<u>429,093</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Sabatical Officer Trustees	3	3
Managers	3	5
Staff	12	11
	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The total amount of employee benefits (including pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the charitable company are £134,376 (2024: £72,301).

Key management personnel comprise the CEO, Management team and Volunteer trustees. Trustees are not remunerated for their work as trustees (see note 10 below).

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The total remuneration costs for the sabbatical officer trustees amounted to £69,889 (2024: £65,985). These costs relate to remuneration received as sabbatical officers, rather than as trustees.

During the year ended 31 July 2025, trustees expenses have been incurred totalling £2,272 (2024: £837).

During the year, no trustees received any benefit in kind (2024: £nil).

During the year retirement benefits were accruing to 4 Trustees (2024: 3) in respect of defined contribution pension schemes.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 August 2024	27,893	2,296	19,855	50,044
At 31 July 2025	27,893	2,296	19,855	50,044
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2024	27,893	1,691	11,770	41,354
Charge for the year	-	302	3,450	3,752
At 31 July 2025	27,893	1,993	15,220	45,106
Net book value				
At 31 July 2025	-	303	4,635	4,938
At 31 July 2024	-	605	8,085	8,690

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

12. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	8,664	7,710
Other debtors	622	1,983
Prepayments and accrued income	18,835	81,704
	<u>28,121</u>	<u>91,397</u>

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	85	717
Other taxation and social security	10,145	7,525
Other creditors	11,140	7,378
Accruals	16,281	12,295
	<u>37,651</u>	<u>27,915</u>

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 August 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 July 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
Reserves	178,885	591,999	(590,969)	179,915
Restricted funds				
Sustainability grant	-	3,000	(2,650)	350
Total of funds	178,885	594,999	(593,619)	180,265

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 July 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
Reserves	182,597	545,114	(548,826)	178,885
Restricted funds				
Summer ball	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
SERS	-	9,874	(9,874)	-
	-	19,874	(19,874)	-
Total of funds	182,597	564,988	(568,700)	178,885

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	4,938	-	4,938
Current assets	212,628	350	212,978
Creditors due within one year	(37,651)	-	(37,651)
Total	179,915	350	180,265

Chester Students' Union
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

15. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	8,690	8,690
Current assets	198,110	198,110
Creditors due within one year	(27,915)	(27,915)
Total	178,885	178,885

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	1,380	(3,712)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	3,752	3,794
Profit on the sale of fixed assets	-	159
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	63,276	(41,723)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	9,736	(2,085)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	78,144	(43,567)

17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand	184,857	106,713
Total cash and cash equivalents	184,857	106,713

18. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 August 2024	Cash flows	At 31 July 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	106,713	78,144	184,857
	<u>106,713</u>	<u>78,144</u>	<u>184,857</u>

19. Pension commitments

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

The total cost of the year of £8,131 (2024: £5,539) represents employer contributions to the scheme. At the year end, an amount of £1,560 (2024: £50) was outstanding.

20. Operating lease commitments

At 31 July 2025 the company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>

21. Related party transactions

The charitable company's governing parent body is the University of Chester. During the year the company received grants totalling £567,500 (2024: £545,375).

During the year the union paid rent to the University of Chester of £7,500 (2024: £7,500) and other purchases from the University of Chester totalled £15,444 (2024: £23,662).

As at 31 July 2025 the amount due from the University of Chester was £Nil (2024: £Nil) and the balance owed to the University of Chester was £Nil (2024: £420).

In addition to the above, as at 31 July 2025 accrued income due from the University of Chester was £Nil (2024: £65,374).

