



# Annual Report & Financial Statements

For year ended  
31 December 2025

Charity Number 1150231  
Company Number 08151118

**LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

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# **LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED**

## **ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

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#### **Financial Year Ended 31 December 2025**

The Board of Trustees of the Charity, which also acts as the board of directors for company law purposes, submits their report and the financial statements for Lightyear Foundation for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. The Board of Trustees confirms that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Second Edition – October 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Objectives**

The Charity's objects, as set out in its governing document, are: To advance education in science amongst schoolchildren and adults in the UK and abroad in such ways as the Trustees see fit, including by:

- Helping establish science-oriented partnerships between schools
- Organising events that promote an interest in science
- Investigating and using new technology to communicate scientific knowledge and understanding

#### **Statement of Public Benefit**

The Charity Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

#### **The Charity's Activities**

Lightyear Foundation breaks down the barriers to disabled and neurodivergent children and young people participating in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), opening up the exciting world of science for all regardless of ability or background.

Through targeted educational programmes, outreach, training, and consultancy, the Charity works with children and young people, educators, and employers to inspire a new generation of disabled scientists, engineers, and innovators. The Charity delivers immersive STEM experiences, skills-based learning, and direct engagement with disabled role models, enabling young people to discover, explore, and thrive in STEM subjects and careers.

#### For STEM Education and Learning

Disabled and neurodivergent young people face significant challenges in accessing STEM education. Many experience inaccessible learning environments, a lack of adapted teaching resources, and few opportunities to see themselves represented in STEM fields. As a result, disabled students are less likely to engage with STEM subjects, leading to underrepresentation in STEM education and careers.

Lightyear Foundation delivers high-impact programmes designed to inspire, engage, and empower disabled and neurodivergent children and young people in STEM.

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- Immersive Sensory Science Experiences provide hands-on, multi-sensory learning tailored to diverse needs, enabling children to engage with science in a way that is both accessible and memorable.
  - Lightyear Labs and Lightning Labs give disabled students the opportunity to experiment, explore, and develop key scientific skills in a fully inclusive environment.
  - Work Inspiration Trips provide real-world exposure to STEM workplaces, allowing students to meet professionals, explore careers, and envision themselves in STEM roles.
  - Celebrating STEM Stories ensures that disabled and neurodivergent young people see positive role models in STEM, demonstrating that there is a place for them in the sector.
  - SEND in STEM Network connects educators and professionals to share best practices and drive forward more inclusive STEM education policies and approaches.
  - Policy and Influencing Work ensures that the voices and experiences of deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people inform STEM education policy and practice, helping to drive lasting systemic change across the sector.

By delivering tailored, accessible and inclusive STEM opportunities, Lightyear Foundation empowers disabled and neurodivergent children and young people to discover, explore and lead in STEM. Through our programmes, we build confidence, develop transferable skills, foster a strong sense of belonging, and support long-term progression into further study, training and employment.

#### For the STEM Sector

Despite the increasing demand for skilled STEM professionals, disabled people remain significantly underrepresented in STEM careers. Science, engineering, and technology jobs are growing at double the rate of other occupations, with an estimated 1.8 million more STEM-qualified people needed in the UK by 2025.

However, structural barriers continue to exclude disabled individuals from STEM pathways.

Lightyear Foundation works directly with STEM organisations, employers, and educators to drive meaningful and lasting change by:

- Delivering training and consultancy to improve accessibility in STEM education, outreach, and workplace environments.
- Supporting STEM organisations through the SEND in STEM Network, providing guidance on making STEM more inclusive for disabled and neurodivergent individuals.
- Advocating for policy change to ensure that disabled young people have equitable access to STEM education, training, and employment.

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- Developing partnerships with STEM employers to increase disabled representation and create inclusive hiring pathways.

Through these initiatives, Lightyear Foundation ensures that the STEM sector recognises, values, and embraces the contributions of disabled individuals—not just as participants, but as innovators, leaders, and changemakers.

#### Our Impact in 2025

In 2025, Lightyear Foundation delivered its largest and most ambitious programme to date, reaching 1,892 deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people across the UK. This represents an increase of over 108% on the previous year and marks the first year of delivering our Strategic Plan 2025–2030.

Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people are growing up in a world shaped by science and technology, yet many continue to face systemic barriers to participation in STEM education and employment. Schools remain under pressure, transitions into further education and employment are fragile, and expectations are too often lowered. Meanwhile, rapid advances in artificial intelligence, green technologies and digital industries are reshaping the labour market at pace. Without intentional inclusion, the next generation of STEM pathways risks becoming less accessible, not more.

Lightyear Foundation exists to address this imbalance. We combine practical programme delivery with sector development and policy influence, ensuring that inclusion is embedded at every level of the STEM ecosystem.

In 2025, our work spanned our four core areas:

Education and Outreach, Community Development, Sector Development, and Policy and Influence.

#### **1. Education and Outreach**

##### **Immersive Sensory Science**

- 745 young people engaged
- 5 special schools visited

Our Immersive Sensory Science programme delivers multi-sensory STEM experiences designed for accessibility from the outset. Through our pop-up planetarium and immersive storytelling, we ensure that young people with a wide range of physical, sensory and communication needs can experience awe, curiosity and scientific exploration in ways that are meaningful to them.

Teachers consistently report high levels of engagement, including among learners who do not typically access traditional STEM lessons.

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#### **Lightyear Labs and Lightning Labs**

- 21 labs delivered
- 162 young people engaged

Our fully funded small-group labs promote experimentation, collaboration and critical thinking. Sessions are delivered both in person and online and are adapted to meet diverse communication and access needs.

In 2025, we expanded our offer to include:

- Engineering Labs focused on problem-solving and design
- Technology Labs delivered in British Sign Language with deaf STEM professionals
- Continued development of physics, chemistry and robotics themes

Evaluation shows sustained impact:

- 91% of Lightyear Lab participants reported learning something new
- 92% showed higher engagement compared to their regular science lessons
- 91% expressed a desire to learn more STEM

These sessions build confidence, strengthen transferable skills and reinforce the belief that STEM is accessible and relevant.

#### **Work Inspiration Trips**

- 13 trips delivered
- 132 young people engaged
- 54 STEM professionals involved

Work Inspiration Trips provide behind-the-scenes access to STEM workplaces, enabling young people to see STEM in action and meet professionals working in the field.

In 2025, we visited ten STEM organisations including Prodrive, Wellcome Genome Campus, Renishaw and Systra. These experiences broaden understanding of career pathways and challenge assumptions about who belongs in STEM workplaces.

Following participation:

- 85% of young people reported increased knowledge of STEM careers
- 84% reported improved understanding of how STEM impacts everyday life
- 86% enjoyed the visits

#### **STEM Futures**

- 812 young people engaged

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- 65 educators directly involved
- 33 bespoke sessions co-designed and delivered
- 9 special schools connected across four UK nations

STEM Futures marked a significant evolution in our delivery model. Moving beyond one-off interventions, we developed sustained partnerships with special schools to co-create accessible curriculum models.

The programme combined direct classroom delivery with professional development, enabling teachers to embed inclusive STEM practice beyond the life of the pilot.

Outcomes include:

- 93% of young people showed increased interest in STEM
- 88% demonstrated improved STEM knowledge
- 100% of participating schools implemented sustainable curriculum changes
- Educator confidence increased by 21% on average

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This model reflects our strategic commitment to embedding inclusion, not simply supplementing provision.

## **2. Community Development**

### **Lightyear Youth Group**

In 2025, we launched our national Youth Group for disabled and neurodivergent young people aged 14–25. Developed through co-production workshops, the group now meets regularly to shape our programmes, inform advocacy and contribute to sector discussions.

This marks an important step in ensuring that lived experience guides organisational direction.

### **Celebrating STEM Stories**

- 3 new role models profiled
- Total profiles now: 30

Our Celebrating STEM Stories programme continues to challenge stereotypes and increase representation. In 2025, we profiled three disabled and neurodivergent STEM professionals, producing high-quality films to showcase diverse career pathways. Representation remains critical. When young people see professionals who share their lived experience, aspirations become tangible.

## **3. Sector Development**

### **Training and Consultancy**

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- 104 training attendees
- 10 new consultancy partnerships initiated

Through our Making STEM Accessible training and consultancy services, we support STEM organisations to embed inclusive practice in programming, management and workforce development.

Feedback remains consistently strong:

- 95% rated training content 4/5 or higher
- 98% found trainers supportive and engaging
- 86% reported increased confidence engaging with disabled and neurodivergent people

We also supported resource development, event accessibility, research steering groups and co-production initiatives across the sector.

**SEND in STEM Network**

- 472 members
- 3 network meetings delivered

The SEND in STEM Network continues to convene educators, policy makers, researchers, disability activists and industry leaders committed to inclusive STEM practice.

In 2025, meetings focused on accessible laboratory environments, engagement with young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, and peer-led roundtables.

The Network plays a critical role in driving collaboration and knowledge exchange at national level.

**4. Policy and Influence**

Creating lasting change requires influence beyond programme delivery. Throughout 2025, Lightyear Foundation strengthened its national voice in policy and sector reform. We contributed to:

- Curriculum and Assessment Review for England
- Education Scotland's Sciences Curriculum Improvement Cycle
- Parliamentary events and STEM policy receptions
- Royal Society and Ogden Trust accessibility discussions
- National SEND Employment Forum
- Cross-sector roundtables on AI, employability and accessibility



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We engaged in disability-led networks including the DPO Forum and Funding Justice Collective, ensuring lived experience informs systems-level decisions. Our role is increasingly recognised not only as a delivery organisation, but as a credible, disabled-led voice shaping inclusive STEM policy and practice.

#### **2025 in Numbers**

In 2025, Lightyear Foundation delivered its largest programme to date, reaching more deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people than at any point in our history. Year One of our Strategic Plan 2025–2030 marked a significant step forward in scale, depth and influence.

Our work continued to focus on removing barriers, embedding accessibility from the outset, and ensuring young people see themselves as active participants and future leaders within STEM.

#### **Engagement**

- 1,895 deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people participated directly in our programmes.
- 745 young people engaged in Immersive Sensory Science experiences.
- 162 young people took part in Lightyear Labs and Lightning Labs.
- 132 young people participated in Work Inspiration Trips.
- 812 young people participated in STEM Futures.
- 3 new Celebrating STEM Stories role models profiled.
- 30 total role models featured to date.
- 837 views of Celebrating STEM Stories content.

#### **Programme Delivery**

- 13 Work Inspiration Trips delivered.
- 21 Lightyear Labs and Lightning Labs delivered.
- 9 special schools engaged in STEM Futures across all four UK nations.

#### **Capacity Building and Training**

- 472 members in the SEND in STEM Network.
- 104 attendees across our Making STEM Accessible training courses.
- 54 STEM professionals facilitated Work Inspiration Trips.

#### **Partnerships and Collaboration**

- 26 schools and partner organisations engaged.
- 10 new consultancy partnerships initiated.
- Ongoing contribution to national curriculum reform, parliamentary events and cross-sector accessibility forums.

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#### **Volunteering and Community Involvement**

- 341 volunteer hours contributed in support of programme delivery, governance and sector engagement.

Lightyear Foundation remains committed to ensuring that every disabled and neurodivergent young person has the opportunity to engage with STEM, develop essential skills, and see themselves as part of the future of science, technology, engineering, and maths.

#### **Strategic Progress in 2025**

2025 marked the first year of delivering the Lightyear Foundation Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and represented a year of significant growth and consolidation. The Charity expanded its programme reach to 1,642 deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people, strengthening delivery models and launching STEM Futures to embed more sustained, curriculum-linked partnerships with special schools. Alongside programme expansion, we initiated a structured review of delivery and evaluation frameworks to ensure accessibility, quality and long-term impact remain central to our work.

During the year, we strengthened youth participation and community engagement, further developing our Youth Group and national SEND in STEM Network. We also increased our contribution to sector discussions, engaging in curriculum reform processes and national forums to ensure that disability inclusion remains central to STEM policy and practice. This marked an important step in positioning the Charity not only as a delivery organisation but as a credible, disabled-led voice within the sector.

Operationally, 2025 saw continued progress in building a sustainable organisation. Staffing structures were stabilised, governance and financial oversight strengthened, and new fundraising and communications strategies implemented. Income diversification improved and multi-year partnerships were secured, laying strong foundations for long-term resilience and growth.

#### **Acknowledgements and principal funders**

The Trustees extend their sincere thanks to all those who supported Lightyear Foundation throughout 2025. Year One of our Strategic Plan 2025–2030 has been a year of significant growth in reach, depth and influence. None of this progress would have been possible without the generosity of our funders, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the commitment of our partners across education, industry and policy.

#### **Funders and supporters**

The Charity is deeply grateful to the organisations, trusts and foundations whose financial support enabled us to deliver inclusive STEM programmes to 1,642 deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people across the UK, strengthen sector practice and contribute to national policy discussions.

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We extend particular thanks to:

- Avantor Foundation
- AKO Foundation
- Bailey Thomas Charitable Fund
- Biochemical Society
- Cawood Scientific Limited
- Civil Aviation Authority – Reach for the Sky Challenge Fund
- Community Foundation of Ireland – RTÉ Toy Show Appeal
- FB Coales Family Trust
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Howmet Aerospace Foundation
- Johnson Matthey – Science and Me
- Liberty Specialty Markets
- Manly Trust
- Merck Group / EMD Millipore Corporation
- Masonic Charitable Foundation
- National RTÉ Toy Show Appeal
- Night Sky Foundation
- Ogden Trust
- PA Foundation
- Royal Academy of Engineering
- Spectris Foundation

We are also grateful to the many individual donors who supported our work, including those who contributed to our Big Give Christmas Challenge, enabling us to exceed our fundraising target and expand access to our programmes.

**Our Partners**

Lightyear Foundation is proud to work alongside special schools, mainstream schools, multi-academy trusts, universities, research institutions, STEM employers, science centres and national sector bodies to embed accessibility across the STEM ecosystem.

In 2025, we worked with 26 schools and partner organisations, visited ten STEM workplaces, and initiated ten new consultancy partnerships. We are particularly grateful to the 54 STEM professionals who facilitated Work Inspiration Trips and the organisations that opened their workplaces to our young people.

We also thank the 472 members of the SEND in STEM Network, whose collaboration, insight and leadership continue to drive meaningful sector change.

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Finally, the Trustees extend their appreciation to our volunteers, Youth Group members and disabled-led networks who ensure that lived experience remains central to our governance, programme design and advocacy.

Your collective support ensures that deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people are not only included in STEM but empowered to thrive within it.

#### **Plans for 2026**

Building on the first year of our Strategic Plan 2025–2030, 2026 will focus on consolidating growth, strengthening evaluation, and embedding sustainable infrastructure across the organisation.

#### **Deliver High-Impact STEM Programmes**

In 2026, we will strengthen programme evaluation and impact measurement by implementing a formal data collection and analysis system aligned to agreed KPIs. Annual accessibility audits and staff training will ensure universal design and inclusive pedagogy remain central to delivery.

#### **Build Inclusive Communities**

We will expand our Community Development work, embedding youth leadership structures including Apprentice Board Members and undertaking our first annual community engagement review to assess reach, inclusivity and impact.

#### **Become a Trusted Resource**

A priority for 2026 will be establishing a formal research and evaluation framework. This will include approving a research strategy, developing partnerships with academic and sector bodies, and publishing findings to inform sector practice.

#### **Influence Policy and Practice**

We will build on firm foundations to implement a structured Influencing and Advocacy Strategy, strengthening engagement with policymakers and producing evidence-based policy recommendations. Our aim is to ensure disability inclusion remains central to STEM education and workforce reform discussions.

#### **Build a Sustainable Organisation**

Operational priorities include reviewing governance structures, strengthening Board oversight through subcommittees, embedding upgraded financial management systems, and implementing our Marketing and Communications Strategy. We will continue to diversify income streams and build reserves in line with our five-year financial plan.

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As we enter Year Two of our Strategic Plan, our focus is on ensuring that growth is underpinned by strong governance, robust evidence, and long-term financial sustainability.

#### **Financial review**

##### **Results for the year**

The Charity received income of £239,302 (2024 - £230,327) and incurred expenditure of £197,502 (2024 - £127,190) resulting in net income of £41,800 (2024 - £103,137) for the year, of which a surplus of £102,138 was attributable to unrestricted funds and a deficit of £60,338 to restricted funds. The totals funds at 31 December 2025 of £310,200 was made up of £190,248 in unrestricted funds and £119,952 in restricted funds.

##### **Reserves policy**

The Trustees have agreed a reserves policy that ensures the Charity can continue to operate effectively and meet its commitments in the event of unforeseen circumstances. The reserves policy is designed to:

- Maintain financial stability and protect against unexpected funding shortfalls.
- Provide working capital to support programme delivery and organisational development.
- Allow for strategic investment in the Charity's growth and sustainability.

The Trustees have set a target level of free reserves equivalent to five months of core operating costs, which has been calculated at £82,092. As of 31 December 2025, the Charity's free reserves stood at £190,248, exceeding this target level. The Trustees have determined that, in early 2026, the proportion of reserves above the target level will be used to implement organisational changes arising from the new Strategic Plan 2025-2030. This planned investment will support the Charity's long-term sustainability and enhance its capacity to deliver on its mission.

Reserves may be accessed, with the agreement of the Trustees, to provide working capital for new areas of work, strategic development, or emergency requirements.

The reserves policy is reviewed annually to ensure that it remains appropriate for the Charity's financial position and strategic priorities.

The Trustees remain committed to maintaining a sustainable level of reserves while ensuring that funds are effectively deployed to breaking down barriers to STEM for disabled and neurodivergent young people.

##### **Donated goods and services**

The charity is very grateful for all the pro bono support it receives but is unable to put a financial value on it.

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**Reference and administrative details**

**Charity registration number:** 1150231

**Date of registration:** 18th Dec 2012

**Company registration number:** 08151118

**Date of incorporation:** 20th July 2012

**Address:** Lightyear Foundation, 19 Penrith Road, Bournemouth, BH5 1LT

**Website:** [www.lightyearfoundation.org](http://www.lightyearfoundation.org)

**Bankers:** Lloyds Bank plc, 120 Lewisham High Street, Lewisham, London. SE13 6JG

**Insurers:** Hiscox

**Independent examiner:** Amy Beecroft

**Trustees:**

**The Trustees who served the Charity during the period were as follows:**

Dr Camila Devis-Rozental (resigned 22 September 2025)

Clive Gilbert

Kirshen Govender (Resigned 21 May 2025)

Dr Camilla Pang (resigned 21 May 2025)

Dr Josie (Co-Chair)

Peter Roberts (resigned 12 November 2025)

Lucy Williams (Co-Chair)

Chloe Askew (appointed 22 September 2025)

Anthony Dodd (appointed 22 September 2025)

Julie Eschelman (appointed 22 September 2025)

Lisa Nicholas (appointed 22 September 2025)

George O'Brien (appointed 22 September 2025)

Puneet Thikral (appointed 22 September 2025)

Mitchel Vidler (appointed 22 September 2025)

**Structure, governance and management**

**Governing document**

Lightyear Foundation is governed by its Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

**Organisational structure**

The Trustees are responsible for decisions regarding the strategy and development of the Charity, and other high-level decisions. Day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the CEO of Lightyear Foundation plus a team of employed and freelance professionals.

**Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

Lightyear Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees, who are responsible for setting the Charity's strategic direction, ensuring good governance, and overseeing financial and operational management. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Charity's Articles of Association and are subject to a formal recruitment, selection, and induction process.

During 2025, the Charity undertook a significant and successful Trustee recruitment round to strengthen the Board's capacity for the delivery of the Strategic Plan 2025–2030.

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Following a structured recruitment and assessment process, a number of new Trustees were appointed in September 2025, bringing additional expertise across governance, finance, sector leadership and lived experience. This recruitment round substantially strengthened the Board's breadth of skills and supported succession planning as the organisation enters a new phase of growth.

The Board also saw planned leadership transition during the year. Peter Roberts stepped down as Chair in November 2025, and the Trustees elected Lucy Williams and Josie Rawes to serve as Co-Chairs. This co-chairing model reflects the Charity's commitment to collaborative leadership and inclusive governance.

Regular Trustee skills audits continue to be undertaken to ensure that the Board maintains a broad and balanced mix of skills, professional expertise and lived experience. All new Trustees complete a comprehensive induction programme, including briefing on governance responsibilities, strategy, financial oversight, safeguarding, and equity, diversity and inclusion. This approach ensures that Trustees are fully equipped to support the Charity's mission and long-term sustainability.

#### **Staff and Associates**

The senior management team and staff who served during the year ended 31 December 2025 were:

- Jeff Banks – Chief Executive Officer
- Emma Zeale – Senior Programme Manager
- Hannah-Rose Ford Tomlinson – Communities and Partnerships Programme Manager and Lightyear Lab Lead
- Jade Fouracre-Reynolds – Programme Manager (STEM Futures)
- Yoli Wallbanks – Access to Work Support Worker and Assistant to the CEO
- Michelle Singer – Administrator
- Dr Claire Malone – STEM Lead
- Rupa Ahluwalia – Lightyear Lab Lead
- Beejal Parekh – Lightyear Lab Lead
- Sammy Mason – Lightyear Lab Lead and Lightyear Course Trainer

#### **Our Team and Volunteers**

The Trustees would like to thank our staff, sessional workers, and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to delivering high-quality, inclusive STEM experiences. Their passion and expertise are at the heart of Lightyear Foundation's impact. The Trustees would also like to extend a welcome to those who have joined the team as we embark on an ambitious new phase of growth and impact.

#### **Risk management**

The Trustees regularly review the risks facing Lightyear Foundation and take appropriate steps to mitigate potential threats to the Charity's operations, finances, governance, and reputation. The Charity maintains a risk register, which is reviewed and updated periodically to ensure that risks are identified, assessed, and managed effectively.

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Key areas of risk management in 2025 included:

- Financial sustainability – Managing growth responsibly while diversifying income streams, securing multi-year funding commitments, and strengthening financial forecasting and reserves in line with the five-year operational plan.
- Governance and leadership transition – Managing significant Board recruitment and leadership changes, including Chair succession, while maintaining strong governance, compliance with charity and company law, and effective strategic oversight.
- Operational capacity and growth – Ensuring staffing structures, systems and processes kept pace with increased programme delivery and organisational expansion, including the implementation of strengthened evaluation and performance monitoring systems.
- Programme quality and accessibility – Maintaining high standards of accessibility, inclusive pedagogy and safeguarding as delivery expanded geographically and in scale, supported by accessibility audits and training.
- Safeguarding and data protection – Maintaining robust safeguarding oversight, Board-level accountability and mandatory training, alongside strengthened GDPR compliance and data management systems.
- Reputation, policy engagement and partnerships – Managing reputational risk as the Charity’s national profile and policy engagement increased, ensuring that communications, advocacy and partnerships remained aligned with our values and evidence base.

The Charity has also embedded risk management into its strategic planning processes, ensuring that potential challenges are identified early and that mitigation strategies are in place to support the successful delivery of the Strategic Plan (2025–2030). The Trustees are committed to ongoing risk monitoring and proactive risk management, ensuring that Lightyear Foundation remains a stable, sustainable, and high-impact organisation.

**Statement of the Responsibilities of the Trustee Directors**

The Trustees (who are also directors of Lightyear Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees’ Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;



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- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice;
  - Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
  - State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
  - Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable 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 charitable company and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.

So far as each of the Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

- There is no relevant review information of which the charitable company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant review information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Josie Rawes, Co-Chair of Trustees



Lucy Williams, Co-Chair of Trustees

Date: 30 March 2026

# **LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED**

## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

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I report to the Charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Lightyear Foundation Limited for the year ended 31 December 2025 as set out on pages 17 to 27.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity's trustees of the company (who are also directors of the company 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 for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- The accounts do not accord with such records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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
- The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (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.

**Signed:**

**Date: 30 March 2026**

*Amy Beecroft*

**Name:** Amy Beecroft FCA

**Address:** Amy Beecroft Ltd, 19 Newton Road, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2NB.

# LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.12.2025 Total funds	31.12.2024 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Grants and donations	2	101,491	128,170	229,661	228,123
Consultancy, training and events income		9,641	-	9,641	2,204
<b>Total income</b>		<b>111,132</b>	<b>128,170</b>	<b>239,302</b>	<b>230,327</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	3	393	-	393	184
Charitable activities	4,5,6	8,244	188,865	197,109	127,006
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>8,637</b>	<b>188,865</b>	<b>197,502</b>	<b>127,190</b>
<b>NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR</b>	9	<b>102,495</b>	<b>(60,695)</b>	<b>41,800</b>	<b>103,137</b>
Transfers between the funds		(357)	357	-	-
<b>Net movement in the funds</b>		<b>102,138</b>	<b>(60,338)</b>	<b>41,800</b>	<b>103,137</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>88,110</b>	<b>180,290</b>	<b>268,400</b>	<b>165,263</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	12	<b>190,248</b>	<b>119,952</b>	<b>310,200</b>	<b>268,400</b>

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.  
All of the activities of the Charity are classed as continuing.

The comparative funds are detailed in Note 13.  
The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

# LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.12.2025 Total funds	31.12.2024 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	10	61,466	73,131	134,597	1,537
Cash at bank		132,812	46,821	179,633	267,449
		<u>194,278</u>	<u>119,952</u>	<u>314,230</u>	<u>268,986</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(4,030)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,030)</u>	<u>(586)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>190,248</u>	<u>119,952</u>	<u>310,200</u>	<u>268,400</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>190,248</u></u>	<u><u>119,952</u></u>	<u><u>310,200</u></u>	<u><u>268,400</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	12				
Unrestricted funds				190,248	88,110
Restricted funds				<u>119,952</u>	<u>180,290</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u><u>310,200</u></u>	<u><u>268,400</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 March 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Josie Rawes  
Co-Chair



.....  
Lucy Williams  
Co-Chair

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

# LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with items recognised at cost or transaction value. The Financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern due to accumulated reserves, and there are no significant current or longer-term liabilities, and the organisation has significant net assets and reserves.

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred and no material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

#### Income

All income is included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants and donations are included in income when they are received, except for significant one-off grants and donations, received after the year end but promised before the year end.

Gift aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any gift aid recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor has specified otherwise.

Legacies are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that the payment will be made, or property transferred and the amount can be quantified.

Donated services and facilities are included in the SoFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably. Donated services and facilities that are consumed immediately are recognised as income with an equivalent amount recognised as an expense under the appropriate heading in the SoFA.

The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees' Annual Report.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities or income and expenses.

# LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity costs categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

#### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

#### **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank 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.

#### **Creditors**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and have been identified as being for particular purposes by the Trustees. They are not restricted and can be transferred to general funds at any time at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for the particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

#### **Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to a sum not exceeding £10 per member of the charity.

# LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 2. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.2025 Total £	31.12.2024 Total £
Grants - unrestricted	44,988	-	44,988	23,613
Grants - restricted				
- Lightyear Labs	-	29,960	29,960	19,437
- Core Costs	-	69,710	69,710	71,529
- SEN in STEM	-	3,800	3,800	1,500
- Role Models	-	4,100	4,100	7,200
- Immersive Sensory Science	-	12,700	12,700	8,900
- Work Inspiration Trips	-	6,500	6,500	3,400
- Community Projects	-	1,400	1,400	10,500
- Signs for Science	-	-	-	11,000
- STEM Futures	-	-	-	70,252
Donations	55,715	-	55,715	669
Gift aid	788	-	788	123
	<u>101,491</u>	<u>128,170</u>	<u>229,661</u>	<u>228,123</u>

### 3. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.2025 Total £	31.12.2024 Total £
Fundraising costs	377	-	377	180
Donation website charges	16	-	16	4
	<u>393</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>393</u>	<u>184</u>

All raising funds expenditure was from unrestricted funds totalling £184 in 2024.

### 4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - CURRENT YEAR

	Direct costs £	Project costs £	31.12.2025 Total £
Charitable activities (see Note 5)	490	188,865	189,355
Support and governance costs (see Note 6)	7,754	-	7,754
	<u>8,244</u>	<u>188,865</u>	<u>197,109</u>

### CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - PRIOR YEAR

	Direct costs £	Project costs £	31.12.2024 Total £
Charitable activities (see Note 5)	510	117,057	117,567
Support and governance costs (see Note 6)	9,439	-	9,439
	<u>9,949</u>	<u>117,057</u>	<u>127,006</u>

# **LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

### **5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - CURRENT YEAR**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.2025 Total £
<u>Direct costs</u>			
Website and marketing	490	-	490
<u>Project costs</u>			
- Lightyear Labs	-	26,544	26,544
- Core Costs	-	70,009	70,009
- SEN in STEM	-	1,500	1,500
- Role Models	-	3,444	3,444
- Immersive Sensory Science	-	8,660	8,660
- Work Inspiration Trips	-	6,157	6,157
- Community Projects	-	10,582	10,582
- Signs for Science	-	170	170
- STEM Futures	-	61,799	61,799
	<u>490</u>	<u>188,865</u>	<u>189,355</u>

### **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - PREVIOUS YEAR**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.2024 Total £
<u>Direct costs</u>			
Website and marketing	477	-	477
<u>Project costs</u>			
- Lightyear Labs	33	21,582	21,615
- Core Costs	-	77,267	77,267
- Role Models	-	5,870	5,870
- Immersive Sensory Science	-	8,934	8,934
- Work Inspiration Trips	-	3,186	3,186
- Signs for Science	-	218	218
	<u>510</u>	<u>117,057</u>	<u>117,567</u>

### **6. SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.2025 Total £	31.12.2024 Total £
<u>Support costs</u>				
Operations team - freelance	300	-	300	1,350
DBS checks	-	-	-	500
Training and development	672	-	672	1,402
Travelling and hotels	271	-	271	2,318
Printing, postage and stationery	32	-	32	541
Subscriptions	-	-	-	172
Sundry	87	-	87	133
Bank charges	72	-	72	64
Bookkeeping and accounts	2,576	-	2,576	1,035
	<u>4,010</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,010</u>	<u>7,515</u>
<u>Governance</u>				
Insurance	-	-	-	325
Independent examiner's fee	480	-	480	-
Impact report design	1,830	-	1,830	790
Strategy and policy reports	1,400	-	1,400	740
Companies House fee	34	-	34	34
Data protection registration fee	-	-	-	35
	<u>3,744</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,744</u>	<u>1,924</u>
Total support and governance	<u>7,754</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,754</u>	<u>9,439</u>



# LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 6. SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS (CONTINUED)

Support and governance expenditure from unrestricted funds totalled £9,439 in 2024.

### 7. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.2025 Total £	31.12.2024 Total £
Gross salaries and wages	-	87,056	87,056	-
Employer pension	-	1,927	1,927	-
Employer national insurance	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>88,983</u>	<u>88,983</u>	<u>-</u>
Freelance staff				
- Charitable activities - projects	-	26,437	26,437	31,024
- Management and governance	300	13,615	13,915	67,829
	<u>300</u>	<u>40,052</u>	<u>40,352</u>	<u>98,853</u>
Total staff costs	<u>300</u>	<u>129,035</u>	<u>129,335</u>	<u>98,853</u>

### STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.2024 Total £
Gross salaries and wages	-	-	-
Freelance staff			
- Charitable activities - projects	-	31,024	31,024
- Management and governance	1,510	66,319	67,829
	<u>1,510</u>	<u>97,343</u>	<u>98,853</u>
Total staff costs	<u>1,510</u>	<u>97,343</u>	<u>98,853</u>

There were four members of staff employed during 2025 (2024 None).

No members of staff received staff benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the year of more than £60,000.

The remuneration of the key management personnel (2025, 4 people) amounted to £88,983 (2024, 3 people all freelance, £40,300).

# LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 8. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTIES

#### Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for the year ended 31 December 2024.

#### Trustees' expenses

There were Trustees' expenses paid to two Trustees of £80 for training courses for the year

#### Trustees' donations

Three Trustees made donations totalling £500 in the year (2024 Nil).

### 9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

#### This is stated after charging:

	31.12.2025 £	31.12.2024 £
Independent examiner's fee	480	-
The above fees have been paid to the Independent Examiner for their review (2024 - £NIL) and they have not provided any other assurance or advisory services.		

### 10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.2025 £	31.12.2024 £
Grant income	73,131	1,000
Local Giving	10,137	12
Donations	46,502	-
Trading income debtor	4,827	525
	<u>134,597</u>	<u>1,537</u>

### 11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.2025 £	31.12.2024 £
Tax and social security	1,701	-
Other creditors	971	-
Accruals	1,358	586
	<u>4,030</u>	<u>586</u>

# LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	At 1.1.2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.12.2025 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	88,110	111,132	(8,637)	(357)	190,248
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Lightyear Labs	11,281	29,960	(26,544)	(4,059)	10,638
Core Costs	65,495	69,710	(70,009)	-	65,196
SEN in STEM	1,500	3,800	(1,500)	-	3,800
Role Models	1,330	4,100	(3,444)	4,110	6,096
Immersive Sensory Science	4,221	12,700	(8,660)	-	8,261
Work Inspiration Trips	4,929	6,500	(6,157)	306	5,578
Community Projects	10,500	1,400	(10,582)	-	1,318
Signs for Science	10,782	-	(170)	-	10,612
STEM Futures	70,252	-	(61,799)	-	8,453
	<u>180,290</u>	<u>128,170</u>	<u>(188,865)</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>119,952</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>268,400</u>	<u>239,302</u>	<u>(197,502)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>310,200</u>

### MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	At 1.1.2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.12.2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	71,634	26,609	(10,133)	-	88,110
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Lightyear Labs	13,426	19,437	(21,582)	-	11,281
Core Costs	71,233	71,529	(77,267)	-	65,495
SEN in STEM	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Role Models	-	7,200	(5,870)	-	1,330
Immersive Sensory Science	4,255	8,900	(8,934)	-	4,221
Work Inspiration Trips	4,715	3,400	(3,186)	-	4,929
Community Projects	-	10,500	-	-	10,500
Signs for Science	-	11,000	(218)	-	10,782
STEM Futures	-	70,252	-	-	70,252
	<u>93,629</u>	<u>203,718</u>	<u>(117,057)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180,290</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>165,263</u>	<u>230,327</u>	<u>(127,190)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>268,400</u>

#### General fund

The general fund is used for the administration costs of the charity.

#### Lightyear Labs

These funds provide virtual science workshops for disabled children.

## LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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#### 12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

##### **Core costs**

This funding covers core costs relating to developing the charity's future programmes.

##### **SEN in STEM**

This fund covers training and hosting inclusivity events in the STEM sector.

##### **Role Models**

This funding covers linking children with disabled professionals in STEM industries to inspire them to consider the industry as a career option.

##### **Immersive Sensory Science**

This fund is to offer accessible and interactive STEM experiences for disabled children to create a multi-sensory experience to STEM learning.

##### **Work Inspiration Trips**

This fund facilitates days where young adults and children can visit a STEM workplace to encourage them to explore the STEM industries as a career.

##### **Community Projects**

This fund supports a Young Peoples' Group to engage young people in STEM subjects.

##### **Signs for Science**

This fund is for a project combining resource development in British Sign language and Makaton.

##### **STEM Futures**

This fund supports the launch of the STEM Futures initiative aimed at transforming STEM education in Special schools.

# LIGHTYEAR FOUNDATION LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 13. PRIOR YEAR FUND COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.2024 Total funds £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Grants and donations	24,405	203,718	228,123
Other	2,204	-	2,204
<b>Total income</b>	<b>26,609</b>	<b>203,718</b>	<b>230,327</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	184	-	184
Charitable activities	9,949	117,057	127,006
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>10,133</b>	<b>117,057</b>	<b>127,190</b>
<b>NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>16,476</b>	<b>86,661</b>	<b>103,137</b>
<b>Net movement in the funds</b>	<b>16,476</b>	<b>86,661</b>	<b>103,137</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>71,634</b>	<b>93,629</b>	<b>165,263</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>88,110</b>	<b>180,290</b>	<b>268,400</b>