

Empathy for special children Trustees' Annual Report



For the period: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

1. Reference and Administration Details

- **Charity Name:** Empathy for Special Children
- **Charity Registration Number:** 1151472
- **Principal Address:** Corvedale Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9ND
- **Trustees:** * Cherida Marie Hughes (Chair)
 - Kirsty Perkins
 - Katie King
 - Becky Dhieb

2. Structure, Governance, and Management

- **Type of Governing Document:** Constitution (registered 02 April 2013).
- **How the Charity is Constituted:** Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).
- **Trustee Selection Methods:** Trustees are appointed by the existing board based on their skills and commitment to the charity's mission. New trustees undergo an induction process covering legal responsibilities and the charity's internal policies.
- **Risk Management:** The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

3. Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects are specifically restricted to:

1. **Relieving the needs** of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD).
2. **Promoting social inclusion** for children, young people, and their families living with High Functioning Disabilities or additional needs.

Summary of Activities (2024-2025): During this period, the charity focused on reducing social isolation in Shropshire by providing:

- Safe, supported opportunities for children to practice social interaction.
- Age-appropriate recreation and new experiences in an understanding environment.
- A forum for families to meet, share peer support, and access information.

Public Benefit: The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. All activities are designed to ensure that children with additional needs and their families are not excluded from society due to their disabilities.

4. Achievements and Performance

- **Service Delivery:** 102 children / YP's from 45 families were supported through our weekly/monthly sessions.
 - **Community Impact:** We successfully hosted Connect sessions in Shrewsbury, Rushbury and Oswestry, a range of Out and About family days out during the holidays and attended local fun and community days to promote our work which allowed our members to engage with the wider community safely. Renovation work continues on the new hub, to get this facility open and up and running has been a focus for the board. The opening date is set as 2nd August 2025.
 - **Volunteer Contribution:** Our work continues to be powered by dedicated volunteers, particularly the DIY/ building work within the hub. 15 individuals have worked tirelessly to support us and whose time is invaluable to our operational success.
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5. Financial Review

- **Overview:** The charity's income for the year remained stable, primarily derived from grants and community fundraising.
 - **Reserves Policy:** It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds at a level that covers at least 3 months of core operating costs. This provides a buffer to ensure service continuity. This proves to be an ongoing challenge for the board.
 - **Principal Funding Sources:** Community Foundation Shropshire – the building works, Shropshire Council via Spacehive match funding, community fundraisers and local businesses via sponsorship.
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6. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: __



Full Name: Cherida Hughes **Position:** Chair **Date:** 31/07/ 25

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Financial Year 2024-25

Expenditure 2024-25		
Employees	Actual 2024-25	Actual 2024-25
Management/Playleader Costs	8,089.93	
Payroll Costs	1,220.15	
Health Plan	1,627.81	
Human Resources	2,339.64	
		13,277.53
Administration Costs		
Administrative Costs	1,796.09	
Insurance	1,298.76	
Hire of halls	247.50	
Premise - Rent	8,125.00	
Premises Utilities	2,821.84	
		14,289.19
Activity Costs		
Family Group Activities/Trips	4,085.66	
		4,085.66
Miscellaneous		
Refunds of Income	109.76	
		109.76
Capital Works		
Building Costs	45,462.54	
Management/Playleader Costs	6,460.00	51,922.54
Total Expenditure		83,684.68
Income		
Parents Contributions	1,351.72	
Donations/Sponsorship	6,613.00	
Fund Raising	4,879.99	
Community Fund Grant AWA	19,280.00	
Matchfunding Scheme	11,464.03	
Other Income	699.66	
Capital Grant - Restricted Funding	27,738.00	
Total Income		72,026.40
Balance Sheet as at the 1st July 2025		
Bank Current Account	11,702.73	
Saving account	4,837.40	
Total Assets 1st July 2025		16,540.13
Funded By		
Balances B/Fwd	28,195.41	
Less Loss	11,655.28	
Total Funding		16,540.13

I confirm that I have independently verified the income and expenditure financial records for the year 2024/25 and confirm the balances at the 1st July 2025 for the Accounts of the Charity Empathy for Special Children.
Accounts prepared on an Income and Expenditure Basis

C E Williams

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