

HUNTINGDON AREA MONEY ADVICE**Trustees' Annual Report 2025**

Report for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

<u>Charity Name</u>	Huntingdon Area Money Advice (HAMA)
<u>UK Charity Number</u>	1152382
<u>Charity Address</u>	83a High St, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3DP
<u>Financial Conduct Authority</u>	Registration number 705295
<u>Information Commissioner's Office</u>	Registration number: ZA018457
<u>Web-site</u>	https://www.huntsmoneyadvice.co.uk

Trustees and staff

Trustees who have served in the course of the year: -

David Busk	Chair (until 30 th September 2025)
Kevin Burdett	Elected 11 th March 2025 and Elected Chair 30 th September 2025
John Leigh-Brown	Elected 11 th March 2025 and Elected Quality Control Officer
Richard Hough	Resigned 4 th July 2025
Rob Alliot	Deputy Chair and Elected Treasurer from 1 st April 2025
Paul Moxham	Trustee Responsible for Safeguarding
Nicola Harrison	Treasurer resigned 31 st March 2025
Monstford Keuneman	Consumer Duty Champion and Deputy Trustee Responsible for Safeguarding

Volunteer staff:

John Pickersgill	Centre Manager, Debt Adviser & Approved Intermediary
Roger Hickling	Senior Adviser & Approved Intermediary
Colin Borland	Debt Adviser
Grace Obed	Debt Adviser
Chris Nye	Elected Adviser January 2025 initial training completed September 2025
Claire Pitcher	Designated Person for Safeguarding

Independent Examiner

Mr Steven Sheppard ACA

**Huntingdon Area Money Advice · 83a High Street · Huntingdon · PE29 3DP**E-Mail: help@huntsmoneyadvice.co.uk · Tel: 01480 418866Website: [huntsmoneyadvice.co.uk](https://www.huntsmoneyadvice.co.uk)

UK Charity No. 1152382

Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority: FRN705295

Structure, Governance and Management

HAMA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The governing document is the Constitution dated 29 May 2013. Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustee body.

HAMA works with and is supervised by the national charity **Community Money Advice** (Charity number 1111436) to provide the debt advice service. HAMA is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Objectives and Activities

The objective of HAMA is the relief of financial hardship or poverty amongst persons in the Huntingdon area by any such means that are exclusively charitable at law, particularly but not exclusively by providing debt counselling services, advice and assistance in financial matters.

Public Benefit

HAMA has demonstrated public benefit in providing free advice to those in financial hardship or poverty in order to provide relief. Since the inception of the Charity in 2013 **1156** people have been registered for our services and many have ongoing contact with our advisers to help them remain free of debt. Our services are available to all who have need of them within our local area, without any limitations of race, beliefs, gender or any other discrimination other than need. Although a Christian organisation, run and mainly financed by Christians HAMA does not use protected characteristics as defined in the Charity Commission guidance. We do not take advantage of the provision in Annex A of the guidance which allows those Charities whose purpose is for the relief of poverty to restrict those who may benefit. Anyone from outside of our local area would not be denied help, but where appropriate would be signposted to another similar organisation closer to them.

The founding Trustees had regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in setting up the Charity and subsequent Trustees have not departed from that guidance in exercising their powers.

Summary of Achievements in the reporting year

We have had 126 new referrals in 2025 (135 in 2024).

At the end of the year, all referred clients had been allocated to an adviser, so there was no one on a waiting list.

	2025	2024
New clients approaching HAMA in year	126	135
Clients from previous years at beginning of year	102	85
Total contacting or being helped during year	228	220
Clients whose debt help was concluded during year	108	85
Clients still being helped at end of year	94	96
Clients on waiting list at end of year	0	6
Clients terminating (usually they ceased to engage with us) in the year	21	33
Referred to other debt advice agencies	5	
Total	228	220

Our advisers helped 58 clients with DROs during 2025 (64 in 2024), and 3 clients with bankruptcies (3 in 2024). The total debt cleared by insolvency for the year was £1,142,582.36 (£1,227,804 in 2024).

We have put 17 clients into a Breathing Space in 2025 (7 in 2024).

There were 21 Terminations in 2025 (clients who, having been referred to us, did not engage when allocated to an adviser, or ceased to engage with the adviser), down from 33 in 2024.

Our model of engagement with clients recognises that many come with multiple issues, particularly mental health issues, which mean their debt problems are just part of the spectrum of challenges they are facing. This often requires us to have multiple appointments with clients over many months – making slow but positive steps forward each time in helping them to manage their finances and regain control of their lives. We work closely with a number of other agencies who are also providing support to the client and his or her family – thus together providing a package of care and support to the client. As well as managing debts, this support has included helping clients obtain benefits to which they are entitled, helping them with housing-related issues, supporting them in addressing tax issues with HMRC and with helping them put together a budget to ensure their finances remain under control.

A recent anonymised testimonial is posted on our website.

We work with the clients to assess their assets and debts, to maximise income and minimise expenditure, and then to agree a way forward which is best for the client – usually one of several repayment or insolvency options. For most of the debt solutions the adviser is able to contact the creditors and negotiate on behalf of the client.

Our Senior Adviser - Roger Hickling, and Centre Manager – John Pickersgill, are also 'Approved Intermediaries' which allows us to submit applications to the Insolvency Service for Debt Relief Orders for our clients.

In January 2025 we had four debt advisers. A new adviser was recruited and trained in the course of the year, so we have ended the year with 5 advisers. With this small team, we have managed the workload and the waiting list is now at zero.

We have continued our outreach work in Ramsey and have seen Ramsey-area clients either at the Foodbank or in the Library, so that they have not had to travel to Huntingdon. Where it is necessary, advisers have travelled to visit clients in their own homes.

Annual appraisals of the advisers have been conducted by the Centre Manager, who has himself been appraised by a Trustee.

In 2023 the FCA introduced the Consumer Duty, which applies to the debt advice sector as well as to the creditors with whom we engage on behalf of clients. One year from its introduction, we were required to produce a Consumer Duty Report to show how we had met the duties. The Trustees appointed Monty Keuneman as Consumer Duty Champion in 2024 to lead on the writing of this this

report and to ensure that implementation and improvements remain on the agenda. He has completed his second report for 2025.

The Trustees meet every 3 months.

The Trustees are mindful of the need for an awareness of Safeguarding in our work. This includes training our personnel to follow best practice in their own conduct as well as to be aware of potential issues in the lives of clients who may be vulnerable adults, or in the lives of children in their family. All advisers received Level 2 Safeguarding training in 2025 through the Eastern Baptist Association. We have a Safeguarding Team comprised of the Centre Manager, the Trustee Responsible for Safeguarding and deputy, and the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS). The Trustees are satisfied that the one safeguarding concern raised during the year has been appropriately handled. None of the concerns raised were directed against HAMA personnel.

We remain very grateful to Gerald Thulbourn of Websanity for his continued technical support and updating of our website, www.huntsmoneyadvice.co.uk, which he constructed for us in 2018.

Policy on Reserves

The Trustees seek to retain reserves equivalent to 3 months of total budgeted expenditure. Should the reserves fall below this amount the Trustees will propose a plan to restore the reserve within a defined time period.

At the start of the year the 2025 budget gave a reserve (3 months of expenditure) of £1,985 and at the time the unrestricted balance was £22,397. We have maintained a balance above the reserve limit throughout the year, with a closing unrestricted balance of £2,777 plus £15,000 in a high interest 1 year bond with United Trust Bank and £5500 in a lower interest rapid access account with the same bank. UTB is regulated by the FCA and part of the FSCS recovery of funds service.

HAMA is totally reliant on donations and grants for its income and the continued availability of these are outside of our control. Nevertheless, the income is from a variety of sources, reducing the risk that all income would be lost at the same time. A reserve of 3 months of expenditure allows the Trustees time to react if a major source of income is lost without notice but is not an excessive reserve in comparison to the level of risk.

We currently hold a lot more than the reserves policy requires. This is because we have received some very generous grants in recent years, which will secure the financial needs of the service for a number of years to come. It is anticipated that the balance will fall in the coming years as these grants are used.

Financial Review

The Trustees are grateful to those Churches, individuals and grant-making bodies who have supported us financially in 2025.

Expenditure in the year has increased by £781 compared to prior year of which is due to an increase in the ongoing computer costs and increased training costs. There were three bankruptcies this year fully funded by HAMA.

We are particularly grateful to Huntingdonshire Community Church who have continued to provide us, with dedicated office accommodation and rooms for meetings with clients. This generosity greatly enables and enhances the service which HAMA is able to provide to our clients. The contribution we make for the use of our offices will increase by 20% in recognition of their continued support and the room was decorated in 2025. Godmanchester Baptist Church have also provided meeting rooms for the use of HAMA, for which we are grateful. We are also very grateful for the support, financial, practical and in prayer, which is received from various Churches and individuals.

Above all we thank, and give thanks to God for, our small team of advisers and trustees who selflessly give of their time and skills to bring help and hope to those in the grip of debt.

Approved by the Trustees at the meeting on 13 Jan 2026.



Kevin Burdett (Chair)



Rob Alliot (Treasurer)

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 Dec 2025

	£	£	£	£
INCOME	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
Donation - Church	£2,355	£0	£2,355	£2,120
Donation - Personal	£2,075	£0	£2,075	£1,195
Donation - Corporate	£4,120	£0	£4,120	£5,120
Grant	£0	£0	£0	£186
Gift Aid	£270	£0	£270	£289
Interest income	£35	£0	£35	£0
Total	£8,855	£0	£8,855	£8,910

EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted	Restricted		
CMA	£1,250	£0	£1,250	£1,200
Insolvency Fees	£2,040	£0	£2,040	£1,690
Training	£1,491	£0	£1,491	£535
Publications	£0	£0	£0	£0
Accommodation / Travel	£317	£0	£317	£628
Stationery & Copying	£51	£0	£51	£0
Postage	£325	£0	£325	£169
Telephone	£237	£0	£237	£144
Computer & Web costs	£896	£0	£896	£1,549
Memberships & Fees	£72	£0	£72	£104
Insurance	£421	£0	£421	£500
Room Hire	£600	£0	£600	£400
Trust Folio	£240	£0	£240	£0
Miscellaneous	£0	£0	£0	£240
Total expenditure	£7,940	£0	£7,940	£7,159

Balance 1st January	£22,397	£0	£22,397	£20,646
Annual surplus/(deficit)	£915	£0	£915	£1,751
Balance 31st December	£23,312	£0	£23,312	£22,397

Statement of assets

Current Account	£2,777	£0	£2,777	£22,397
Savings Accounts (UTB)	£20,535	£0	£20,535	£0
Liabilities	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total	£23,312	£0	£23,312	£22,397

Signed: 

Robert Allott, Treasurer

Notes to Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025

1. These accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

2. All monetary assets of HAMA are held as follows.

Metro Bank current account	£2,777
United Trust Bank (UTB) 1 year easy access bond	£5,535 (£35 total interest in 2025)
UTB 1 year fixed rate bond (matures 24/6/26)	£15,000

3. HAMA has no Endowment Funds or Investments.

4. The non-cash assets of HAMA are restricted to office equipment and stock. Other than the cost of purchase, their value is not considered in these accounts.

5. We had no restricted income grants during 2025.

6. Unrestricted church donations

Godmanchester Baptist Church	£1,875
All Saints, Hartford	£480

7. Payments to Trustees are solely for the reimbursement of expenditure on behalf of HAMA, on production of a receipt. In 2025 there were no repayments to any Trustees.

8. HAMA has no employees; all the advisers are volunteers and receive justified expenses verified by the Centre Manager, whose own expenses are verified by a trustee. Expenses are only paid on production of a valid receipt.

Independent examiner's report on the accounts


CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Huntingdon Area Money Advice

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/12/2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1152382

Set out on pages

271-8

**Respective responsibilities
of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. ~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Accountants.]~~

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

SR Sheppard

Date:

14th April 2026

Name:

Steven Sheppard

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

ACA

Address:

30 Sweetings Road

Godmanchester, Huntingdon

PE29 2JS

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems. (E.g. accounting records have not been kept in accordance with s132 of the Charities' Act 2011 and those accounts do not comply with the requirements of the 2008 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts; any material expenditure or action which appears not to be in accordance with the trusts of the charity; any failure to be provided with information and explanations by any past or present trustee, officer or employee; and any material consistency between the accounts and the trustees' annual report.)

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose.