



“EDUCATION. SUPPORT. CHANGE.”

**ANNUAL REPORT
&
ACCOUNTS
FYE 2025**

Mission Statement

We provide education, support, and counselling to individuals, families, and professionals affected by:

- **Substance Misuse**
- **Volatile Substance Misuse**
- **Vaping**
- **County Lines**

Our aim: to provide education and support that prevent harm, reduce stigma, and build safer, healthier communities for young people and families.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF CHRISTIAN JOHN RUFFLEY

**THIS REPORT IS DEDICATED TO MY BEAUTIFUL NEPHEW,
CHRISTIAN —**

A son. A grandson. A father. A brother. An uncle. A nephew. A friend. A rapper. A soul too bright for this world, too brave for his battles, too loved to ever be forgotten.

He wasn't perfect. None of us are. But he fought. God, he fought. He faced his demons with a fire that burned... and somehow, in his own way, he came full circle —

**Raw, real, and passionate.
Christian's story isn't just his. It's a lifeline. A lesson. A legacy. He mattered. He was loved. He is loved. And his story will keep changing lives — long after this page ends.**

To his mum, my sister Hayley — thank you for letting me carry his story forward. I love you. I honour you. I stand beside you.

**Rest in peace, darling boy. I love you with every beat of my heart.
I miss you with every breath in my soul.**

"There ain't no justice... there is just us."

Always, your Ally Aunty

xxx



IN LOVING MEMORY CHRISTIAN JOHN RUFFLEY

20/08/1983 - 25/03/2007

These affirmations were written by his classmates at Wirral Met, Twelve Quays College, where Christian had just completed his counselling diploma.

Christian never got to read them. He was murdered the day before their final meeting.

Now, they stand as a tribute — to his courage, his presence, and the love that surrounds him still.

NAME Christian
Quiet, cooperative and helpful.

NAME Christian - I think you have the potential
to connect with people in order to
help them explore their problems. You are approachable

NAME CHRISTIAN - QUIET BUT ALWAYS HAS
VALUABLE POINTS TO MAKE

NAME Christian. You're a very nice bloke, look
forward to what you can do with your life
don't miss any chances take them !!

NAME Christian - I'm glad you decided to contribute
has caused ~~barriers~~ ~~your~~ ~~mind~~ to have really enjoyed it

Christian was a good laugh, a good listener
and it was a pleasure to have known him.

Name: Christian
Christian is a very pleasant person who always comes across as
having an empathetic nature – lovely to see in a young person.

NAME Christian
Keep on going Christian. Such a breath of fresh air

NAME CHRISTIAN - NICE GUY - DETERMINED TO SUCCEED,
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THROUGH A LOT FOR HIS YEARS
BUT ALWAYS SMILING - AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR NEW JOB

NAME CHRISTIAN IS A lovely person
who was willing to learn

NAME CHRISTIAN A quietly confident contributor.

NAME Christian
Has gained confidence and conquered a lot of ~~new~~ fears
and completed the course. Well done!! you deserve it

Founders

Barbara Skinner MBE



Her legacy continues to inspire everything we do.
Forever loved, never forgotten... YNWA

Ally Hodgson CEO



Certified counsellor, educator, and passionate advocate. Her lived experience drives our mission forward.

CEO Report

2025 has been a year of growth, grit, and gratitude. We've responded to rising demand with compassion and clarity — especially around vaping and volatile substances.

I'm proud to be back full-time and thrilled by our expanding reach. To our Trustees, Evolver's YPAG, Funders, and Volunteers: Thank you.

**To every young person we've supported:
We see you, we hear you, we're here for you!!!**

**Warm regards and Hugs, of course
Ally Hodgson
CEO**

Evolve... Tackling the Impact of Substance Misuse

2024-2025 AT A GLANCE

**WORKSHOPS DELIVERED:
173**

**SCHOOLS REACHED:
50 WITH OUR VAPING TOOLKIT**

**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID
SESSIONS:
EXPANDED TO PROFESSIONALS AND
CARERS**

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT:
SPONSORED FENDER FC
SUPPORTED NOCTORUM &
BEECHWOOD COMMUNITIES**

COUNSELLING HOURS:



Evolves Journey: A Timeline of Impact

2012 – The Spark

Barbara Skinner MBE & Ally Hodgson co-found Evolve with a vision to tackle volatile substance misuse through education and compassion.

2012 – 2017 – Building Foundations

Evolve becomes a registered charity #1153938 in 2013 & we have our official launch at Liverpool Football Club.

- Early workshops delivered in schools across Merseyside
- First partnerships with youth services and local councils
- Community trust begins to grow

2017 – 2021 – Expanding Reach

- Launch of Volatile Substance Misuse programme
- Counselling services introduced
- First awards received for community impact
- Deepening Support
- County Lines awareness added to core curriculum
- Mental Health First Aid training begins
- Evolve becomes a trusted name in safeguarding education

2021 – 2023 – Resilience & Recovery

- Navigating pandemic challenges with virtual workshops
- Increased demand for youth support
- Return to in-person delivery with renewed energy
- 2024 – Growth & Gratitude
- Full-time hours reinstated
- New Development Officer joins the team
- Launch of Vaping Awareness Toolkit
- Launch of Evolve Empowerment Programme
- Financial recovery and surplus achieved

2025 – Legacy & Leadership

- Farewell to Trustees Alan Skinner, Barbara Yates & Esther Maple
- Toolkit adopted by 40+ schools
- Sponsorship of Fender FC continues
- Evolves reach and reputation stronger than ever
- Support of Noctorum & Beechwood communities continues



WHY WE ARE SHARING THIS -

Our Children's Stories

Rian was a bright and adventurous soul. He experimented with drugs like so many others do. He began using ketamine at festivals and parties. Like many, he believed it was the safest drug to take but he did not know the full risks, he died aged 26 after 4 years of addiction.



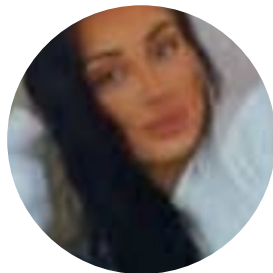
Tom loved his music and bouldering. Sometimes he struggled to cope - ketamine was his escape. It took control of his mind, he couldn't be without it, he died aged 22.

Josh loved surfing, snowboarding & music festivals. He was a talented welder. Ketamine stole him, his life at 26. He often said if he'd known the damage it does he would have never taken it.



Ellie was a bright, funny, caring and lovable 18 year old who tried ketamine three times at festivals, 1st was Glastonbury, 2nd was Sunrise and the 3rd time was Boomtown. She was dead by the time the ambulance took her out of Boomtown.

Georgia was a strong, confident mum of 2 girls, who started using ketamine after a series of life events to try and escape the emotional pain she was in, once saying "Ketamine can't kill you mum, it just lets you escape reality for a while." Little did she know that she would die 18 months later.



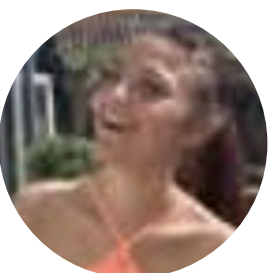
Louise was only 21 when she drowned in her bath after taking ketamine... She thought it was just another party drug.

Jamie was a sociable, kind, successful business owner who loved sport and music. He thought ketamine was safer than cocaine and died within 3 years of his addiction to ketamine.



Nathan was 36, he was a hard working dad of 3 beautiful boys, he started using ketamine, thinking it was harmless. After 15 years of addiction he drowned while fishing. His body was found 4 days later.

Louis was a brilliant artist, he had his own clothing brand with his artwork design. His friends say that he touched everyone he met with his kind heart but found it impossible to get the right kind of help for his substance misuse. He struggled, went through a lot of pain. I found him at peace age 23, a broken heart is my life now



Sophie was a social and lovable person, she knew what she wanted to do in life. She started taking ketamine like many, at festivals and nights out. This drug just took two years to destroy her body and mind and said "I'm going to die but I don't want to die. I just can't stop." Sophie died of a cardiac arrest whilst in her sleep... she was just 20 years of age.

"This flyer isn't here to judge - it's here because we lost our children. If sharing their stories helps even one person make a safer choice, then their lives continue to mean something."

**To Our Amazing Supporters... Thank
You!**

**Because of you, we've reached more
young people, expanded our
services, and responded to urgent
needs with compassion and clarity.**

**Your generosity fuels every
workshop, every counselling
session, every life changed.**

**"Evolve gave me the tools to
understand what I was going
through – and the courage to ask
for help." – Young Person, 2025**

**We couldn't do this without you.
With heartfelt thanks,**

Ally Hodgson & the Evolve Team

THANKYOU

**To our funders, partners, and supporters:
You make this possible.
Your belief in our mission fuels every workshop, every counselling session, every life changed.**



EVOLVE ACCOUNTS 2024-2025

**LJS ACCOUNTING SERVICES (UK)
LTD**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S
REPORT**

**EVOLVE TACKLING THE IMPACT
OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE &
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2025**



Evolve
Tackling The Impact Of Substance Misuse (Registered number: 1153938)

Income Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
TURNOVER	3,486	1,311
Administrative expenses	<u>40,235</u>	<u>18,380</u>
	(36,749)	(17,069)
Other operating income	<u>39,842</u>	<u>50,450</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS and SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION	3,093	33,381
Tax on surplus	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	<u><u>3,093</u></u>	<u><u>33,381</u></u>

Balance Sheet
31 March 2025

	Notes	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank		37,396	34,303
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>36,796</u>	<u>33,703</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>36,796</u>	<u>33,703</u>
RESERVES			
Income and expenditure account	6	<u>36,796</u>	<u>33,703</u>
		<u>36,796</u>	<u>33,703</u>

Approval

This balance sheet was approved by the Board of Trustees on 07th November 2025 and signed on its behalf


Chair

LJS Accounting Services (UK) Ltd

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Evolve Tackling The Impact Of Substance Misuse

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (a) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- (b) Following procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, as amended)
- (c) State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with generation directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the account presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustee's concerning 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:

To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

LJS Accounting Services (UK) Ltd

1. **STATUTORY INFORMATION**

Evolve Tackling The Impact Of Substance Misuse is a charity, registered in England and Wales. The charity's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

1. **Basis of preparation of accounts**

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the statement of recommended practice, accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005.

2. **Incoming resources**

Voluntary income and donations are included in incoming resources when they are received, except when the donors specify that they must be used for future accounting periods or donors conditions have been fulfilled, then the income is deferred. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross, with the associated costs in fundraising costs.

3. **Resources expended**

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual basis, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure which is directly attributable to specific activities has been included in these cost categories. Where costs are attributable to more than one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of these resources.

4. **Tangible fixed assets**

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost after deducting any specific grants received. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives.

5. **Governance Costs**

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

3. **EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2024 - 1).

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £
COST	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<u>630</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<u>630</u>
NETBOOKVALUE	
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

6. RESERVES

	Income and expenditure account £
At 1 April 2024	33,703
Surplus for the year	<u>3,093</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>36,796</u>

EvolveTackling The Impact Of Substance Misuse (Registered number: 1153938)Detailed Income and Expenditure Accountfor the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25		31.3.24	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Unrestricted Funds		3,486		1,311
Other income				
Government grants		<u>39,842</u>		<u>50,450</u>
		43,328		51,761
Expenditure				
Insurance	270		270	
Wages	25,417		7,846	
Pensions	1,160		269	
Post and stationery	2,005		3,371	
Advertising	410		-	
Travel and subsistence	1,837		5,573	
Computer costs	4,400		246	
Sundry expenses	1,624		-	
Subscriptions	445		204	
Accountancy	708		600	
Legal fees	<u>1,959</u>		<u>-</u>	
		<u>40,235</u>		<u>18,379</u>
		3,093		33,382
Finance costs				
Bank charges		<u>-</u>		<u>1</u>
NET SURPLUS		<u><u>3,093</u></u>		<u><u>33,381</u></u>

BEACONSFIELD
COMMUNITY HOUSE
ROCK FERRY
WIRRAL
MERSEYSIDE CH42 3YN

EVOLVE TACKLING THE IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE

EVOLVE.AH@OUTLOOK.COM
074494 77737
WWW.EVOLVENORTHWEST.COM



EvolveTacklingLegalHighs



evolve_substancemisuse



@Evolvecharity