

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Introduction:

The year to 26 June 2025 was one of consolidation for The Ferns.

The SARC is managed and run by Mountain Healthcare, funded by Police and NHS. The Charity no longer has any direct involvement.

The ISVA Service is funded by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

Whilst the SARC and ISVA service work in collaboration, they are separate services. The Charity has focussed on building its direct relationship with the ISVA Service to provide support.

SARC services:

- Immediate over-the-phone rape and sexual assault support and signposting to specialist services
- In-person rape or sexual assault crisis support and healthcare including access to medicine
- Forensic medical examinations
- Holistic examinations and care for non-recent cases
- Collection and storage of forensic samples
- Comprehensive Risk Assessments
- Referrals to specialist counselling and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) support.
- Follow-up calls after an appointment.

Services are offered based on your individual needs and can be used as much or as little as required.

ISVA services:

An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) is a specially trained worker who is there to provide all survivors of sexual violence and abuse with a non-judgmental, safe, and confidential space to access support.

The support offered can be accessed regardless of the person's gender, age and when the offence happened. Those accessing our support are not expected to travel to any office to access the service, ISVAs will work to identify a safe place or method to have contact.

Support can be accessed whether a police investigation is engaged or not.

The ISVA service will not make anyone report to the police.

The ISVA's role is to work with the survivor and to help them to access services to address both short term and long-term needs. They will complete an initial assessment to identify these requirements.

ISVA's can provide support and advice across a wide range of issues such as housing, health, and education. If the police are involved, the ISVA service can provide advice and support alongside the criminal justice system, including supporting the survivor at court.

If required, an ISVA can refer a survivor to different agencies or assist in accessing the services of these agencies.

The ISVA service is non-therapeutic, which means the ISVA is not able to provide counselling or therapy, but they can advise on the therapeutic support available.

The ISVA service is a free and confidential service.

An ISVA cannot discuss the evidential detail of what has happened.

Activities for the period:

Financially, the Charity has recorded a deficit for the year of £2,681. This is largely on account of the slowdown of direct fundraising activities whilst the best future of the Charity is considered by the Trustees. There is approximately 2 or 3 years of reserves at the current run-rate.

Payments for equipment and client services, such as counselling, have remained largely consistent with the prior year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Trustees. I especially would like to thank everyone at the Ferns and the ISVAs for the hard work they do in very difficult circumstance. I propose that the accounts are adopted as laid before this meeting.

Luke Morris

Chairman

11 September 2025

FRIENDS OF THE FERNS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 26/06/2025

	£ 2025	£ 2024
INCOME		
Fundraising Events	-	230
Donations & Grants	1,251	777
Gift Aid	-	49
	<hr/> 1,251	<hr/> 1,057
EXPENSES		
Equipment	3,776	4,153
Fundraising Expenses	-	-
Totalgiving/Sprite charges	5	7
Website/Services	150	313
Critical Incident Work	-	300
	<hr/> 3,932	<hr/> 4,772
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) :	<hr/> - 2,681	<hr/> - 3,715
<i>Balance Carried Forward:</i>	<i>6,967</i>	<i>9,648</i>