



Charity Number 1157675

Annual Trustee Report 2024-2025

The trustees of ACTS FAST present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended April 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

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SUMMARY

ACTS FAST are a specialist team of support workers and counsellors. ACTS FAST works in a trauma-informed capacity by providing a three-stage trauma-informed support service to parents, carers and adult family members of children who have been sexually abused, (CSA), and parents and family members of an individual who has accessed Indecent Images of Children (IIOC).

Following a disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) “the impacts experienced by non-offending parents – and, in particular, mothers – as a result of their children’s CSA victimisation can mirror those outcomes experienced by victims and survivors” (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, 2022).

There is established and growing evidence, nationally and internationally, to both understand and demonstrate the impact on family members when someone is arrested for IIOC, widely referred to as “the knock”. Arrests usually take place within the family home when the rest of the family is present and recent research confirms the traumatic impact on the non-offending partner and children who witness not just the arrest of their loved one, but also witness the subsequent search of the family home and the removal of possessions for the purpose of forensic examination and analysis (Armitage, 2023).

Most partners of people arrested for possession of IIOC experience symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (Armitage, 2023). The impact on children cannot be underestimated – one study illustrated that children were less likely to experience a “normal childhood” following “the knock” (Kilmer & Leon, 2017) and an earlier study found that instances of depression were high (Levenson & Tewkesbury, 2009).

OUR MISSION

“ACTS FAST provides support for non-abusive family members impacted by Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), breaking the cycle of trauma and abuse, empowering them to thrive”.

OUR VISION

To live in a world free of Child Sexual Abuse and the painful fall-out from when people access Indecent Images of Children.

OUR OBJECTIVES

In setting out our objectives and developing our services our Trustees have considered the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance.

- 1) To increase and broaden our reach to potential clients in need.
- 2) To continue to enhance and improve our services in partnership with our professional staff, volunteers and client peers.
- 3) To continue to develop our Brighter Futures programme.
- 4) To sustainably increase our staff numbers with the rise of client numbers.
- 5) To continue to strive to have a minimal waiting period.
- 6) To continue to increase our links with the local community, national and international bodies.

SERVICES:

ACTS FAST provides a phased approach to recovery from trauma and each service involves a variety of psychoeducational techniques and integrates different ways of working. The three stages replicate Judith Herman's Tri-Phasic Trauma Model (Herman, 2002) and our aim is that the clients move through each service consecutively. The introduction of this model has meant that clients experience a more structured service delivery.

- 1) **Trauma Support** service to provide safety and stability for our clients.
- 2) **Counselling** to assist our clients to process and integrate their memories and experiences.
- 3) **Brighter Futures** focuses on reconnection and integration, helping our clients rebuild their lives and achieve post-traumatic growth.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

- February '24 – March '25: therapy lead Vikki Taylor completed the Practice Leads Programme with the **CSA Centre of Expertise**. This is a 12-month course which provided access to leading academics and practitioners with support for developing our client services.
- June 2024: CEO Simone Gosden flew to Taiwan to speak at an International Symposium 'Exploring family support and parenting policies from a wellbeing perspective', having been invited by the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families to share the innovative work of ACTS FAST.
- **'Expert Voices'** was launched in April 2024 which recognises our clients as the experts and invites them to evaluate their experience of ACTS FAST and influence future service development. The project is delivered in two 1.5-hour sessions for 2-6 participants and is facilitated by a trustee and our CEO. The qualitative data from this project is currently being evaluated by Bournemouth University.
- The **'Wellbeing Scale'** was developed in 2023/4 and we have continued to use this in-house scale over the last year. It continues to demonstrate a significant increase in overall client wellbeing. A quantitative evaluation is currently being undertaken by Bournemouth University.
- December 2024: **BBC South Today** report on the work of ACTS FAST as their main feature throughout the days' bulletins.
- January 2025 – present: launch of a specialist training programme; **'After The Knock'** - a trauma-informed support programme designed for professionals working with secondary victims of 'the knock', such as statutory services including the Police and Children's Social Services. Evaluation of this training programme has been ongoing with the support of an Expert Working Party made up of police officers, academic researchers and leading national specialist practitioners within the field of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.

IMPACT



“ACTS FAST helped me to separate my experience from my child’s. I am now able to hold my own trauma and my child’s trauma.”



“History is not going to repeat itself – I’m getting therapy so that I can be there for my child.”



“I no longer think about how to take my own life all day. ACTS FAST showed me life would get better. I know now that life is precious’.

In 2024/25 ACTS FAST supported 216 clients with 1965 hours of 1:1 support.

Client numbers for the financial year 2024/25		Compared to 2023/24
Total number of clients supported in the time period	216	114
Total number of new referrals	196	108
Clients (parent/carer) seeking support following a disclosure of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) from their child	112 101 female 11 male	68 61 female 7 male
Clients seeking support after a partner was arrested for downloading indecent images of children (IIOC)	84 78 female 6 male	40 39 female 1 male
Number of assessment appointments in the reporting period	166	97
Number of support sessions via telephone call or text that were recorded	56	20
Counselling appointments	460	324
Trauma Support appointments	1266	899
Brighter Futures	17	0

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The last year has posed significant challenges for ACTS FAST from a financial perspective. We are nearing the end of our 4-year funding award from The National Lottery and this deficit means that the future of the service is uncertain. Our funding strategy encompasses bids and proposals which fulfil short-term needs as well as seeking to secure sustainable funding which enables ACTS FAST not just to remain active, but to proactively scale up our infrastructure and capacity in order to meet expanding client need.

TRUSTEES

The current Board of Trustees has been in place since January 2024 and comprises five members, bringing with them a diverse range of skills and knowledge including education, policing, business acumen, criminal and family court, counselling, and specialist knowledge in research and service delivery for primary and secondary victim-survivors of sexual trauma. The Trustee Board works dynamically with the Senior Leadership Team and staff. The board conducts annual Staff and SLT appraisals, Team Appraisals, and is actively involved in wider tasks such as reviewing staff and client policies, contributing to funding ideas. The board's collective passion and belief in the importance of this critical area of work is reflected in their 'hands'on' approach and willingness to be actively involved in contributing ideas and shaping strategy in ways which will encourage sustainability of service, and enable more clients to be supported.

Recruitment and Appointment of New Trustees

Trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Trustees are advised of any online training specifically regarding their roles. Trustees have access to a "Trustees Information Pack" in addition to annual safeguarding training and access to Community Action Network trustee events and training.

The charity trustees will make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:

- (a) a copy of the current version of this constitution; and
- (b) a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees' Annual Report and statement of accounts.

Trustees

S E Walls-MacDonald

Jill Suckling

Kerensa Butcher

Sarah Vile

Joe Whalen

Rachel Skinner (resigned 23.12.24)

C. Huang (resigned 11.07.24)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Independent Examiner

Marianne Lucken, 28 Norfolk Avenue, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 2SE.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number 1157675

Principal address

Unit 5 Manor Farm Business Centre Gussage St. Michael Wimborne Dorset BH21 5HT

Approved by order of the board on16/01/26.....and signed on its behalf by:

Sarah Vile.



Sarah Vile, Chair of Trustees.

REFERENCES

Armitage, R., Wager, N., Wibberley, D., Hudspith, L. & Gall, V. (2023) "We're Not Allowed to Have Experienced Trauma. We're Not Allowed to Go through the Grieving Process" - Exploring the Indirect Harms Associated with Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Offending and Its Impacts on non-offending Family Members. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15564886.2023.2172504#abstract>

Kilmer, A. & Leon, C.S. (2017) "Nobody worries about our children: Unseen impacts of sex offender registration on families with school-age children and implications for desistance". *Criminal Justice Studies*, 30(2), pp. 181-201

Levenson, J. & Tewkesbury, R. (2009) "Collateral damage: Family members of registered sex offenders". *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 34(1-2), pp.54-68.

Receipts and Payments



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2024		31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Community Fundraising	1,868	-	-	1,868	747
Corporate Donations	5,455	-	-	5,455	-
Donations	3,135	-	-	3,135	15,577
Grants	75,000	53,930	-	128,930	97,565
Payroll Giving	1,197	-	-	1,197	-
Training	600	-	-	600	-
Other revenue		367	-	367	300
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	87,255	54,297	-	141,552	114,189
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	87,255	54,297	-	141,552	114,189

A3 Payments

Salaries	93,865	24,470	-	118,335	110,420
Employers NI	4,575		-	4,575	3,841
Pension	2,399		-	2,399	2,363
Counselling	3,333	3,400	-	6,733	1,695
Resources for service delivery	59	434	-	493	552
Consultancy	-	-		-	1,856
Fundraising Expenses	298			298	
Audit and Accountancy Supervision	1,980			1,980	1,860
Expenses	1,847	1,213	-	3,060	2,480
Overheads	1,102	42		1,144	1,105
IT Costs	12,282	4,129		16,411	15,104
Staff Training	3,761	-	-	3,761	4,708
Venue Hire	167	1,129	-	1,296	1,315
Insurance				-	1,116
HR & Recruitment	575			575	575
Subscriptions	203			203	184
	226		-	226	2,241
Sub total	126,672	34,817	-	# 161,489	151,415

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total payments	126,672	34,817	-	161,489	151,415
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Net of receipts/(payments)	-	-	-	-	-
A5 Transfers between funds	39,417	19,480	-	19,937	37,226
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,050	24,359	-	33,409	-
Cash funds this year end	-	-	-	-	-
	30,367	43,839	-	13,472	37,226

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest	Endowment funds to nearest £
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B1 Cash funds

		£	
NatWest Bank	13,472	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
Total cash funds	13,472	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

Details			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use


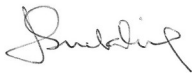
Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Computer equipment	Unrestricted	1,834	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which liability	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
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B5 Liabilities

	relates)	
PAYE due	unrestricte d	296	01 April 2025
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two
trustees on behalf of
all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Sarah Vile	19/01/202 6
	Jill Suckling	19/01/202 6

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of ACTS FAST

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of ACTS FAST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of ACTS FAST ("the Trust") for the year ended 2 April 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

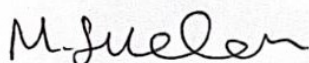
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Marianne Lucken
28 Norfolk Avenue
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 2SE

Date: 25/07/25

