



**Trustees' Report and
Financial Statements
for the year ending
31st March 2025**

turning disabilities into **abilities**

Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1158743

Constitution

Social Link was formed on 14th August 2014 and registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 1st October 2014 with the Charity Commission. Its purpose is to provide support, practical advice, and social and recreational facilities for adults with learning disabilities in Buckinghamshire.

A revised Constitution, featuring provisions for proxy voting and virtual meetings, was approved by the Board and voting members in July 2021. No further changes have been made to the Constitution since that date.

An introduction from Wendy Dunn, CEO

I am delighted to present you with our 2024/2025 Annual Report. This report provides an overview of the Charity's activities over the past year, alongside a summary and explanation of our current financial position.

In this report:

- **Beneficiaries** refers to those who attend our day and evening projects.
- **Members** refers to you—our supporters—who attend the AGM.
- **The Team** refers to those who work in support of our Beneficiaries.

Never a charity to stand still, this year has seen the further growth of Social Link's provisions, to ensure the continued development of its Beneficiaries, essential for their well-being, social inclusion, confidence and economic participation.

Provisions included:

- The grand opening of our inspirational OpportuniTEA Café – a local community café giving adults with learning disabilities the chance to gain real life work experience and providing a stepping stone to sustainable employment.
- The redevelopment of our gardening service – another offering providing authentic work experience.
- The building of the foundation blocks for our much-needed transitional age service.
- A continued programme of creative new learning and social opportunities within our evening clubs and day projects leading to a healthy increase of Beneficiaries accessing our services.

I am also delighted to report that the year ended in a positive position financially and the Charity, Beneficiaries and Team continue to flourish.

A statement from Claire Wheeler, Chair of the Social Link Board

This is my first year as Chair of the Social Link Board, and it has been both a privilege and honour to serve. As a Board, we are delighted with the continued expansion and development of the Charity under Wendy's inspirational leadership. She is supported by a wonderful leadership Team, including Victoria, and the two Co-ordinators, Jacci and Hannah, alongside the wider Team who

deliver energetic and engaging sessions for our Beneficiaries. Their collective passion, warmth and care shines through and we thank them for their tremendous efforts this year.

In the Spring, we reviewed our activity against our strategic plan and were very pleased with the targeted progress made across several areas, all of which are detailed in this report. This progress is the result of collaboration and creative thinking among our Beneficiaries, Team, and the Board.

Our Strategic Priorities:

- Establishment of OpportuniTEA Café
- Development of the Gardening Crew
- Increasing the profile of Social Link
- Extending our partnerships
- Establishment of a post-16 transitional service
- Ensuring the future sustainability of Social Link.

These priorities are underpinned by the **four pillars of Social Link**:



The achievements to date against these strategic priorities will be covered in more detail within this document.

Governance and Board Membership

The Social Link Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance of the Charity. This includes ensuring compliance with the constitution and charity law, setting long-term strategy, and holding the CEO and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) accountable for the Charity's performance including; Beneficiary experience, safeguarding, health and safety, financial management, risk identification and legal compliance.

Current Board Members:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Claire Wheeler (Chair) | • Carole Harvey |
| • Sarah Fox (Vice-Chair, Coopted) | • Glynis Wiseman |
| • Chris Thorn (Treasurer, Coopted) | • Janet Shuttlewood |
| • Craig Kaye (Coopted) | |

New Board Members (Coopted):

We are delighted to welcome three new Trustees to the Board who bring invaluable business acumen and lived experience of learning disabilities. All three have been co-opted and actively involved over the past 6 to 12 months, already making valuable contributions to the Charity.

- **Chris Thorn** – An experienced CFO at Suez, a recent sponsor of the Charity.
- **Sarah Fox** – A project manager who organised a charity ball in honour of her brother Michael (who had Down's Syndrome), which raised funds to launch the OpportuniTEA Café.
- **Craig Kaye** – A leadership development expert and parent of a daughter with Down's Syndrome.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to Steve Birch, who stepped down this year. Steve was instrumental in shaping the original café business plan and not forgetting his fabulous fundraising 100-mile bike ride!

Team Engagement

In September 2024, a MSc Occupational Psychology student from the University of Hertfordshire conducted a comprehensive staff engagement survey through questionnaires, focus groups, and interviews. The purpose was to understand the Charity from the point of view of the Team and looks to ways to improve their working lives and the service they deliver to Beneficiaries.

Key Highlights:

- The Team reported a strong sense of belonging and purpose in their work.
- The organisational culture was described as supportive, nurturing, and positive, with no areas for improvement in culture identified.



Areas for Development:

- Increased trustee and leadership visibility at all locations.
- Improved communication around funding, goals, and strategy.
- Launch of a Team newsletter.
- Career development opportunities and structured training highlighted.

Team Day

Following the feedback from the survey in March 2025, an interactive and successful Team Day was hosted, led by Wendy, Victoria and Claire. The event focused on sharing best practices, gathering input on fundraising, and presenting the engagement survey findings and actions.

Key actions shared:

- Co-ordinated trustee visits to all service locations
- Overview of sources of income and expenditure
- Overview of strategic aims and 2025+ goals
- A collaborative fundraising ideas session
- Launch of a new staff competency framework and career pathways
- Introduction of new training opportunities.

Our Team participated in workshops on a variety of topics with a view to finding new and fully inclusive ways to deliver activities, make best use of our resources and expertise, also to ensure that Beneficiaries continue to be at the heart of everything. There have been a whole host of ideas on Beneficiary-lead fundraising events for the year ahead too and we look forward to sharing details of those with you next year!

Implementation of the 2024/2025 Strategic Plan to date

(i) Establishment of OpportuniTEA Café

The creation of a café has long been talked about as we have so many Beneficiaries who are capable of working but haven't had the opportunity to gain work experience. In September, that aspiration became a reality as OpportuniTEA Café opened its doors to the public for the very first time at Holmer Green Sports Association (HGSA). After months of preparation and a volunteer day utilising the help of employees from MBNL Ltd (arranged by our very own trustee Sarah Fox) the café space at HGSA was painted, cleaned, prepped and beautified. Many hands made light work, and we would like to thank each volunteer for their time and energy. Special thanks must also be extended to Rob, Karen and the Gardening Crew for making enormous planters for growing herbs, produce and scented flowers for our customers to enjoy while dining on the deck.



OpportuniTEA Café has successfully been operating as a fully functioning café two days a week, building up a local and considerate customer base from Holmer Green and the surrounding villages. The homemade treats and meals as well as the flavoursome barista coffee has been a great attraction for many, but it is the desire to support a charitable enterprise that has built the loyalty.

**"It was great
I give my bacon sarnie
15 out of 10"**
Nathan

**"I loved it, it was yummy,
and I saw my friend
Heather working."**
Sobia

We have had the great pleasure of welcoming our first trainees Heather and Tracy. They have impressed us with their desire to learn and sunny engagement with customers. Already we have more trainees lined up and we hope the café will be the launch pad for their employment journey. Focusing on the Social Link ethos that everybody possesses skills, talents and aspirations, the café is a supportive environment for helping our trainees attain experience and qualifications towards their future employment goals. Emma, our Placement Coach has spent time getting to know our trainees with a view to developing a personalised but comprehensive training programme. Over the next year we aim to extend opening days, increase the number of trainees and continue to delight our customers.

We have some unsung heroes at the café, and those are our army of volunteers who assist Jacqui Fowler and the staff. On a weekly basis they give their time and have nurtured our trainees as well as helping to forge important community links. Thank you to Jackie, Julia, Doreen, Monique, Amanda, Gill, Kate, Sarah, Penny and HGSA's groundsman Neil.

Finally, we would like to highlight the support of Holmer Green Sports Association management and committee who have provided us with a fantastic venue in which to launch our café, and who continue to be patient, understanding and accommodating.

(ii) Development of the Gardening Crew

The gardening service has continued to go from strength to strength. Our gardeners were involved in all aspects of creating the OpportuniTEA Café planters from the concept design to the building, painting and choice of plants, herbs and vegetables to be grown. We would like to thank Huws Gray in Hughenden for their donation of wood and raw materials to build the planters, Briants for the tonne of topsoil they donated, and Amersham Dec for the free paint. Not only did these donations enable the Gardening Crew to feel that they were instrumental in the development of the café project but also that they created a relaxing sensory explosion of colour and fabulous smells for visitors to delight in for years to come.



The Gardening Crew continued throughout the year with their regular contracts with Swarthmore Care Home in Gerrards Cross - an environment the Crew love to frequent and where they get to see first-hand their hard work coming to fruition, Hill House Farm and Stables, Sladmore Farm and Holmer Green Football Club. These fabulous opportunities have assisted in the promotion of a more inclusive and equitable community.

In September the Gardening Crew were joined for the second year in a row by John Scanlon the Managing Director of Suez Recycling and Recovery UK. He managed to escape his office and join our guys in the fresh air, where he was put to work, joining the gang in tidying the grounds of the Holmer Green Sports Association. Thank you, John!

We would like to thank Sally Warminger, Angela Aldessi, Jim Smith, and Lynn O'Regan for investing in our gardening service and for continuing to give our Beneficiaries the opportunity to utilise their skills in such inspiring environments. Our appreciation also goes to our fabulous gardening leadership Team Rob and Karen alongside their incredible gardeners, Shaun, Kevin, Karla, Ryan and Ali, without whom this service wouldn't be possible.

(iii) Increasing the profile of Social Link

We were pleased to launch the new Social Link website at www.sociallinkcharity.org.uk this year. The site was carefully designed to showcase each of the Social Link services and to make navigation to essential information easier. This has had the benefit of boosting our online presence and beneficiary referrals.

Community events have been a key but informal way to promote our Charity within the communities in which we operate, including Music on the Common and Christmas on the Common in Holmer Green. We have also been regular attendees at Buckinghamshire Council provider events keeping Social Link at the forefront for Adult Social Care Commissioners and Management.

(iv) Extending and building our partnerships

During the last year partnership working has continued to be a real focus across all our services.

Jigsaw Theatre Company

The Aylesbury evening club Beneficiaries took part in a singing and dancing collaboration with the theatre company Jigsaw where they, along with six other groups, performed on stage at the Limelight Theatre in Aylesbury. Our Beneficiaries relished the opportunity to learn a dance routine, that they then went on stage to perform in front of a live audience for an afternoon showcase of music, dance and theatre. This was talked about for months after amongst the Beneficiaries and Team, the enjoyment and pleasure gained radiating in abundance.

Thames Valley Police – Cyber Crime Team

The Aylesbury day project welcomed Mark Godsland, the Cyber Crime lead for Thames Valley Police. Mark worked with the Beneficiaries to educate them on how to be safe online, how to add extra security and how to identify scams. These are current issues that our Beneficiaries face daily, so we will aim to have Mark at regular intervals to keep the knowledge learned fresh in their minds.



Red Kite Community Housing

Our relationship with Red Kite Community Housing has continued to flourish with two separate visits to their Loudwater office for our Beneficiaries to find out more about the work they do and getting hands-on with a list of tasks that the Red Kite Team had devised. The reciprocal arrangement was a group of Red Kite volunteers got their walking boots on to accompany our day project Beneficiaries on a local practice hike for their Snowdon Challenge.

NHS Panel

Two of our Beneficiaries, Tony and Anthony, have continued with their invaluable input into the NHS panel, meeting regularly online. They have worked on approving easy-to-read documents for patients which will make all the difference to supporting members of the public with additional needs to understand any medical information being given to them. Tony and Anthony, through this panel, organised a visit from an ambulance crew to Green Street to try and break down some of the fears for adults with learning disabilities in emergency situations. They were fabulous hosts and even got the ambulance crew teaching our Beneficiaries about CPR. Such a fantastic opportunity to increase awareness for both parties on communication and breaking down barriers. Well done Tony and Anthony!

Easy Read

This year we witnessed one of our Beneficiaries, Stefan, receive a well-earned certificate for his successful completion of his two-year journey in learning to read. Stefan was partnered up with a wonderful Easy Read volunteer called Ian, who worked tirelessly to support Stefan with his weekly reading sessions within our day project. They formed a close bond, a partnership of mutual respect, encouragement and determination to succeed. Two years on and to celebrate Stefan's incredible achievement, Councillor Mimi Harker came in with the head of Easy Read and the wonderful Ian to show their support and affirmation. Stefan gave a heartwarming speech about how proud he was of himself for all his hard work and commitment and thanked Ian for his support, calling him 'a helpful friend'. All of Stefan's peers watched him accept his certificate and took part in the celebration - this has now sparked new interest in the Easy Read programme as three more Beneficiaries requested a desire to learn to read too.

National Autistic Society (South Bucks Branch) & South Bucks Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) Support Group

Our operations in the café have enabled us to make important contacts within these organisations. These individuals are knowledgeable and have been keen supporters of the café by hosting special events for their groups. Having these contacts will better enable us to signpost Beneficiaries and their families in future to appropriate help and support.

Holmer Green Sports Association

Holmer Green Sports Association have played a massive role in helping us to get the OpportuniTEA Café successfully off the ground. They have provided us with a clean and safe venue with the added benefit of a brand-new kitchen. The HGSA Committee have welcomed us and share our aim of creating a community hub. We look forward to developing this partnership further.

Holmer Green Village Society

OpportuniTEA Café has been embraced by the local community, and this is in part due to the promotion and events held by Holmer Green Village Society. They have helped to spread the word via their Facebook page, local newspaper and providing us with stalls at events.

(v) Establishment of a post-16 transitional service

Great efforts have been made to build relationships with local specialist schools with a view to developing a transitional service for those young people leaving education. Transitional careers fairs at Stoney Dean School, Aylesbury Gatehouse and Alfriston School were well attended with many students and young adults seeking information on avenues available to them. Employment based



training was a draw for many and has given us the insight to create a future service based on the foundations already created in the café and Gardening Crew.

Planning has begun to provide trial days within our Gardening Crew and café for individuals leaving fulltime education. We hope this will give them a genuine flavour of work-based training and enable them to make an informed choice regarding their next steps.

(vi) Ensuring the future sustainability of Social Link

Each new development, like those described already, and networking opportunity has brought value, insight and learning. All of which undoubtedly contribute to the future sustainability of Social Link in both the long and short term. We are also in conversation with Buckinghamshire Council about extending our lease at Green Street and we continue to seek new opportunities to develop and grow our service in line with our strategic aims.

Overview of Social Link services and activities in 2024/2025

a) Day projects and evening clubs



Both the High Wycombe and Aylesbury day projects and evening clubs continue to flourish with a diverse programme of activities created by the Team to ensure all Beneficiaries are given every opportunity to grow and develop with their peers in a safe and supportive environment. Social Link prides itself on pushing against boundaries, creating opportunities, giving individuals the space to grow their self-esteem and confidence and to acquire knowledge and skills to support their personal development, including being safe and making informed choices through adulthood.

Self-learning and development opportunities have included:

- Understanding our emotions
- Understanding the effects of our behaviours on others
- Developing positive relationships
- Keeping mentally and physically active
- Keeping safe online
- Responding to difficult situations
- Learning to love oneself and supporting those around you
- Accepting compliments and recognising achievements
- Meditation – breathing exercises and calming techniques
- Body awareness
- Relaxation techniques and exercises
- Breathwork

Alongside these, Beneficiaries have been able to choose to participate in an array of other learning and development activities:

- Numeracy and literacy through cooking
- Understanding recycling
- Joining the library
- Interactive music with Paul
- Fire Safety
- Poetry writing
- Understanding personal finances, including understanding bank statements
- Healthy and easy-to-repeat cooking sessions
- Independent travel training
- Communication through drama
- The world around us and its history
- Experimenting – learning through science

- Personal safety in the community
- Expression through art and dance
- Work based skills
- Keeping active – walking in nature
- Swimming
- Independence skills
- Literacy development in the newsletter sessions
- Sports competitions between different Social Link services
- Going to the pub!

“I like coming every week because it makes me happy.”

Taira

“I like coming to Social Link to see my friend. I like doing music with Paul and cooking.”

Claire P

The Social Link Team from across all our services strive constantly to empower our Beneficiaries and this they achieve by getting to know individuals and their capabilities as well as providing reassurance and encouragement. The Team not only support our Beneficiaries with sessions, but they also enable our Beneficiaries to take some responsibility over day-to-day activities. Beneficiaries take it in turns to run the afternoon meetings, take the daily register, carrying out office tasks, getting the opportunity to take ownership of some of the charities activities.



We would like to welcome Steph back from maternity leave, after the birth of her beautiful little boy, Lenny. A special mention to Paul, our fabulous music man, whose sessions are filled to the brim with Beneficiaries – often booking up in weeks ahead!

We sadly said goodbye to Hannah Ash in December as her career took her in a new direction. Hannah has returned to studying and is working towards a formal qualification as a Speech and Language Therapist, something that we know she will be amazing at. Hannah will be greatly missed, however we know it's not really goodbye as she will be visiting the evening club in the holidays.

“...dedicated and very caring people and this makes Karen so happy when she comes to Social Link.”

Mrs L, parent

This year Christmas was made extra special with the first ever Social Link nativity. The cast was comprised of unflappable members of our Team and the script thoughtfully crafted by Hannah Smith. Audience participation was loud and merry and it was the perfect way to get everybody; Beneficiaries, the Team and Trustees all in the festive spirit! Next year it will be the turn of our Beneficiaries!



b) Day trip

Southend was the destination of choice for our Day Project Beneficiaries for their annual summer day trip. While this event only happens once a year, it is incredibly important for our Beneficiaries because for some, this will be their only excursion or holiday. Our Team made it as memorable as possible by jam-packing the time available with seaside pastimes and, of course, a traditional fish and chip lunch.



c) Football Teams

The Social Link football Teams continue to go from strength to strength. They are currently competing for a fourth year in the BOBI League and the progression, not only of the Teams, but also of the individual players has been an absolute joy to witness. Our coaches, Andy, Tim and Tom, hosted our special football awards evening at the end of last season attended by all players, their families and friends. Every player was given an individual award reflecting their specific talents and qualities, including awards nominated by the Team coaches. It was a fantastic evening enjoyed by all, lots of fabulous words of encouragement, a real celebration of their achievements alongside fun, laughter and a cheesy disco to end the night.

"Going to the BOBI League and watching our two teams play is truly inspirational, witnessing the growth of the individuals, the way they support one another, gain in confidence, the highs and the lows and their passion to win whilst remaining fair is quite awe inspiring, everyone needs to witness this."

Wendy Dunn

Social Link always encourages individuals to grow, and Tim recently stepped up from being a player to becoming a coach and has taken to his new role like a duck to water. Tim prepares in advance for all matches, keeping his players involved in all his decisions. Tim is constantly heard shouting positive feedback from the side lines and always gathers his Team together at the end to have a de-brief where they congratulate each other on their skills and have a moto of always walking away with a positive attitude.

"Football bring out the joy and lets me meet new people having fun with different people and the happiness of helping others grow as people and as football players."

Liam

"Football is life to me, especially disability football where you're not judged for who you are. You can just come along and meet new people and play the sport you enjoy."

Zak

Our new players Zak and Andrew have both very quickly become an important part of the Teams, sharing their skills and knowledge of the game, making a positive impact. Zak has recently highlighted his desire to undertake his coaching award training too.



We would like to thank Andy, Tom, Tim and Steve for overseeing and managing the Teams, without their passion and willingness to volunteer their time these Teams wouldn't exist.

"I feel the footy is important to me as I get to have a new challenge and play footy with a different teammates and learn new skills."

Dan A

"It is a privilege to play with everybody on the whole team... It is an honour for myself to play for Social Link Fc with such a fantastic bunch of people."

Nick S

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm they have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when meeting the organisation's charitable objectives. The Charity provides valuable advice and support alongside social, recreational, educational, and work-based experiences for adults with learning disabilities in the local area. The activities of the Charity are made available to all who are in need and are affordable to all who qualify. The Trustees regularly review the circumstances of the Charity's Beneficiaries and provides the financial support that is needed with appropriately lower charges in cases of financial hardship.

This year we have supported individuals in exceptional circumstances who have been unable to meet the local authority adult social care funding criteria but who we genuinely believe are at risk of social isolation without the provision of a free service.

Finance Overview

a) Financial report and reserves

In the year 2024/2025, Social Link were successfully awarded £39,833 of grants from a number of grant providers. In past years, competition for grants was fierce and grant providers were very cautious when making awards, but we believe our success has been as a result of the acknowledgement that smaller charities like Social Link are the ones in greatest need of funding due to the continued decline in personal donations.

In the 12 months to the 31st March 2025 Social Link has reported a surplus of £25,908. Like personal households, Social Link has felt the effect of cost-of-living pressures, but attempts have been made to mitigate its impact by managing costs closely, sharing an open dialogue with payees to get the correct rates paid for services and seeking alternative sources of income from grants and fundraising. The COVID Pandemic has had a detrimental effect on our charity finances for the past four years, requiring the need to utilise reserves, so this surplus marks a significant improvement and a period of recovery.

(b) Fundraising

Snowdon Challenge

In June 2024, Beneficiaries excitedly waved off an intrepid Team of climbers from Social Link venturing to north Wales to climb Mount Snowdon (a.k.a. Yr Wyddfa). At over 1000 metres high, across highly challenging terrain, this was no easy feat. Four Beneficiaries, Sarah, Linford, Rachel and Carlos, with the support of staff and leaders at the Charity, all overcame personal challenges to achieve something remarkable. None of our Beneficiaries had ever before attempted a walk of this distance or elevation. They undertook training walks in High Wycombe and the Chilterns for two months in preparation. And so, on the big Snowdon Challenge Day in June, with walking sticks, plasters and water bottles at the ready, they set off for the adventure ahead, with the ascent and descent of Snowdon taking the Team a total of 9 hours.

Carlos kept everybody's spirits high, Linford was like a gazelle making the climb look easy, Rachel chatted her way up keeping everybody engaged and positive, and Sarah took it all in her stride following a recent significant hospital procedure, determinedly making it to just below the summit. All our Beneficiaries were absolute super stars, and their support of each other was incredible to watch. Nobody complained; there were only great big smiles and words of encouragement all-round!

This extraordinary achievement was celebrated in the evening by a well-earned dinner in the local pub, including a few celebratory beers!



We were keen for every single Social Link day project attendee to take on the Snowdon Challenge too - but in their own individual way. Beneficiaries covered the same distance as the mountain climbers but at their own pace in and around the streets and parks of High Wycombe in the months leading up to the climb. For some Beneficiaries it only took them a couple of days to walk 30,000 steps, for others it took a few weeks; the focus was on the accomplishment and not the speed.

"Thank you for believing in my daughter and for offering her the opportunity to try new challenges, too many organisations are risk adverse and don't enable those with learning disabilities to be given the same choices and opportunities you and I are given in our lives."
Parent

Everybody at Social Link would like to send a big thank you to Suez Recycling and Recovery UK, and local firm MCP Property Services for covering the cost of the trip for our climbers. We would also like to thank everybody who sponsored our Beneficiaries and climbing group – your support has been overwhelming! A special thank you too, to the Team who supported the Beneficiaries with taking on this incredible challenge, giving up their time and energy voluntarily, without which this inspiring



opportunity wouldn't have been possible. Thank you Hannah, Kim, Andy, Karen, Richard, Emma, Harriet, Smudge, Lauren and Wendy.

The Snowdon Challenge raised an incredible £6,616 for Social Link, a staggering amount but not as staggering as the strength and courage our Beneficiaries and Team demonstrated during this mammoth expedition.

Sparkle Disco

We held our first ever Sparkle Disco in Aylesbury for adults with learning disabilities from across the area - not just Social Link Beneficiaries. DJ Liam provided the dance-floor fillers and made sure all our disco divas had a great night! The planning for next Sparkle Disco is already underway and scheduled for 5th September and once again we hope it will bring people together in a safe and welcoming environment.

Autumn Raffle

Sadly, the Autumn Thriller had to be cancelled due to low ticket sales, but the raffle went ahead as planned. Despite the cancellation, a total of £1,057 was raised through raffle ticket sales and generous donations.

(c) Donations

Donations continue to be as important as ever, enabling Social Link to go that extra mile for Beneficiaries and their families. Without the wonderful donations we receive, we wouldn't be able to offer such a varied programme and development opportunities. We would like to say our sincerest thanks to Laura Ripley, Lynn O'Regan, Diana Mills, Sue Croucher on behalf of Beyond Finance, Mary Faulkner French and our donor wishing to remain unnamed.

(d) Grants

Social Link continues to apply for grants to support the Charity's income, to make it as affordable as possible for our Beneficiaries and to enable us to increase opportunities. This year we were successfully awarded £39,833 in grants. We would like to say a special thank you to Patricia and the Board at MENCAP (Amersham and Chesham branch), Heart of Bucks, The Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust and The Childwick Trust.

Appreciation

The Social Link Team is renowned for its caring, passion and drive to provide the best service possible for our Beneficiaries. Our Team is always looking to go above and beyond, welcoming new challenges and always thinking creatively to ensure the growth and development of all those who attend our services – it is innate in all of us! Everyone, regardless of role, is essential to the delivery of Social Link services and in ensuring that the Charity continues to provide an exceptional experience for our Beneficiaries. The Board of Trustees and CEO would like to extend a huge thank you to every member



of the Social Link Team for their contributions to the work of the Charity. With regards OpportuniTEA Café, we would like to say a special thank you to Victoria (COO) for her passion, hard work and tenaciousness in bringing this exciting new work-based service that will benefit so many to fruition. It's amazing! We would also like to thank Jacci (Co-Ordinator) who has been a key player in the early stages of the café, fine tuning the processes with her wealth of experience as well as managing the daily operations.

Hannah (Co-Ordinator) has been at the helm of the day services in these early days of the café launch, so we would like to thank her for diligent management ensuring that Beneficiaries and the Team continue to be fully supported. And our thanks to Karen for taking on the increased workload generated from the opening of OpportuniTEA Café.

The CEO, COO and whole Social Link Team would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Trustees past and present for freely giving their time to ensure the Charity is well managed, meets all its legal requirements and continues to provide services that meet the Charity's mission statement and objectives, whilst keeping the Beneficiaries at the heart of all we do.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.



Claire Wheeler,
Chair of Social Link Board of Trustees,



Wendy Dunn,
Chief Executive Officer, Social Link

June 2025

Social Link

	2025	2024
	12 months	12 months
Income from:		
Donations (Note 2)	£11,089	£15,096
Charitable activities (Note 3)	£463,978	£412,640
Other trading activities (Note 4)	£12,441	£6,651
Income from Grants	£47,704	£13,968
Interest (Note 5)	£915	£1,018
Total income	£536,127	£449,373
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds (Note 6)	£3,326	£579
Charitable activities (Note 7)	£506,893	£482,192
Total expenditure	£510,219	£482,771
Net income and movement in funds		
Net income/deficit	£25,908	-£33,397
Movement in other funds	-£13,394	£34,791
Total funds brought forward	£135,213	£133,819
Total funds carried forward	£147,727	£135,213

The notes of pages 23 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Social Link

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

	2025	2024
Intangible fixed assets	£790	£250
Tangible fixed assets	£23,575	£32,020
Fixed Assets (Note 8)	£24,365	£32,270
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)	£93,291	£108,559
Prepayments	£4,018	£4,932
Debtors (Note 10)	£47,817	£11,640
	£145,126	£125,131
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	£21,764	£22,188
Net current assets	£123,362	£102,943
Net assets	£147,727	£135,213
Unrestricted income fund	£91,181	£65,324
Grants - Restricted	£56,546	£53,019
Unrestricted		£16,870
Total funds	£147,727	£135,213

The notes of pages 23 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Social Link

	2025	2024
Net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income/deficit	£25,908	-£33,397
Movement in debtors and prepayments	-£35,263	-£776
Movement in liabilities	-£424	-£11,112
Movement in grants	-£13,397	£34,791
Capital expenditure	-£2,665	£0
Depreciation	£10,573	£8,444
Net cash movement from operating activities	-£15,268	-£2,050
Cash at the beginning of the year	£108,559	£110,609
Cash at the end of the year	£93,291	£108,559

The notes of pages 23 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the 12 months ended 31st March 2025

1. Statement of accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies have been consistently applied. The financial statements also comply with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2022, subject to the following amendment prepared by the Charities SORP-making body in its discussion document which would bring it in line with FRS102 for other organisations. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

At its meeting it was noted that the SORP Committee had considered the accruals model for grant accounting as a good option. The ability to use the accrual model could help those more familiar with the concept of profit and loss in a commercial entity, including charity Trustees and funders, to better understand a charities financial performance. The recognition of income in advance of related expenditure being incurred can give the impression that the charity's financial position is better than it is and this may impact on funding applications. Conversely, the recognition of related expenditure in future years, creating a deficit position, may be interpreted as the charity being in a less favourable financial position than is the case.

Specifically in the case of Social Link, we have deferred the grant income for our van and copier to be released to match and offset the depreciation of those assets, thereby not creating an income surplus this year and deficits during the following years.

b) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy, and it is probable that the amount will be received. Donations under gift aid together with income tax recoverable are recognised when the donation is receivable.

c) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that activity.

The cost of small items of equipment is written off in the year it is incurred.

d) Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligations can be measured with reasonable certainty.

2. Donations

Donations include subscriptions for membership of the charity, gift aid rebates for the football services and the gardening services. Donations were also received from our many kind supporters.

3. Charitable activities

	2025	2024
Evening club revenues	£27,664	£19,683
Gardening services	£16,426	£23,470
Football services	£1,415	£1,020
Day sessions revenues	£407,350	£368,467
Café revenue	£11,123	£0
	£463,978	£412,640

It should be noted that to ensure the financial integrity of both out core services and the café, accounts for the café are held in an entirely separate bank account.

4. Other trading activities

We have held some wonderful fund-raising activities including those organised by our fabulous friends and volunteers. Fund raising has included the Snowdon climb, the Autumn Raffle and the Sparkle Disco.

5. Interest

This comprises income from the charity's bank deposit accounts.

6. Expenditure on raising funds

This represents direct expenditure on fund raising events.

7. Charitable expenditure

	2025			2024		
	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total
Evening Clubs	£11,385	£9,311	£20,696	£12,115	£5,642	£17,757
Gardening Services	£27,493	£5,529	£33,022	£31,184	£14,522	£45,706
Football	£1,255	£476	£1,731	£2,291	£1,067	£3,358
Day Sessions	£283,933	£137,110	£421,043	£283,397	£131,974	£415,371
Café Services	£27,387	£3,014	£30,401			
Total	£351,453	£155,440	£506,893	£329,987	£153,205	£482,192

Support costs, which are mainly the employment costs of the charity's employees, IT, office, insurance and other related costs, are allocated in proportion to the direct costs of the evening clubs, the gardening services, football and the day sessions respectively. Support costs for the café are managed separately.

8. Assets at cost

Intangible Assets

The trademark "Social Link" is held at cost on the balance sheet

	2025	2024
At the beginning of the year	£250	£250
Additions (OpportuniTEA Café trademark registration)	£540	£0
Disposals		£0
At the end of the year	£790	£250

Tangible Assets

	2025	2024
At the beginning of the year	£32,020	£40,464
Additions for the Cafe	£2,125	
Depreciation	-£10,570	-£8,444
Disposals		£0
At the end of the year	£23,575	£32,020

9. Cash at bank and in hand

This comprises bank current and deposit accounts plus petty cash. These are all liquid funds available for immediate use by the charity.

10. Debtors

Debtors comprise outstanding invoices in respect of day session Beneficiaries.

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year and grants

a) These provisions represent liabilities for services provided but not yet invoiced and accrued costs, all of which have been settled since the year end.

	2025	2024
Trade creditors and accruals	£9,844	£11,372
Consultants	£7,044	£4,671
HMRC	£4,876	£4,869
Pensions	£0	£1,276
	£21,764	£22,188

b) Grants	2024	Grants received in the year	Grants released in the year	2025
Grants for Van (depreciated/grant released over 5 years)	£30,264		-£7,567	£22,697
Grant for photocopier (depreciated/grant released over 3 years)	£1,756		-£878	£878
Grants for Café	£20,999	£23,550	-£18,578	£25,971
Grants for Snowdon Walk	£2,000	£1,625	-£3,625	
Grants for Holidays and Christmas	£3,500	£108	-£1,608	£2,000
Grants for IT	£6,320		-£6,320	
Grants for Core Costs	£5,050	£9,000	-£14,050	
Grants for Gardening		£550	-£550	
Grants for Activities		£5,000		£5,000
	£69,889	£39,833	-£53,176	£56,546

12. Trustees and Governance costs

No remuneration was paid to Trustees neither did they receive re-imbursment of out-of-pocket expenses, but they were reimbursed for purchases made from time to time on behalf of the Charity. There were no Governance costs.

13. Staff costs and volunteers

	12 months 2025	12 months 2024
Salaries and wages	£225,341	£215,071
Social security costs	£16,272	£15,123
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	£8,713	£8,380
Other employee benefits	£0	£0
Total staff costs	£250,326	£238,574

There are no staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

TRUE

The total amount paid to key management personnel (includes Trustees and senior management) for their services to the Charity. Key management this year includes the full year of both the Chief Executive and the Chief Operating Officer.

12 months 2025	12 months 2024
£91,983	£90,193

13.2 Average head count in the year

Parts of the charity in which the employees work

Fundraising
Charitable Activities
Governance
Total

2025	2024
Number	Number
8	8
8	8

13.3 There were no ex-gratia payments to employees and others (including Trustees).

13.4 There were no redundancy payments.

13.5 The Charity relies on the generous contribution of time from unpaid volunteers in carrying out its activities. Volunteers provide substantial support to the Beneficiaries at the evening clubs, day sessions, café, football club and trips away. The value of this contribution, which is difficult to measure, is not included as income.

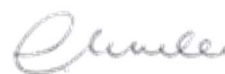
14. Taxation

Social Link is registered as a charity with both the Charity Commission and HM Revenue & Customs and is thus exempt from corporation tax on its income which is applied for charitable purposes.

15. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions.

Approved by the Trustees on 18/06/25 and signed on their behalf by-



Claire Wheeler MSc, FHE, CPABP – Chair

Address: 3 Bridleways, Wendover, Buckinghamshire, HP22 6DN



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's report
on the accounts**



**Report to the
trustees/directors/
members of**

Charity Name
Social Link

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st March 2025

Charity no.:

1158743

Company no.:

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended **31 March 2025**.

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

**Independent
examiner's statement**

The company's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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.*

IER

1

October 2018

Signed:	<u>K.D. Bailey</u>	Date:	<u>17/06/2025</u>
Name:	<u>KATHERINE BAILEY</u>		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	<u>Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales</u>		
Address:	<u>9 Wheeler Avenue</u>		
	<u>PENN, HIGH WYCOMBE</u>		
	<u>HP10 8EN</u>		

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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