

NORTH EAST CHILD POVERTY TRUST

Charity registration number 1161174

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' report) for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Registered address
c/o Northern Housing Consortium, Hope Street Xchange,
1-3 Hind Street, Sunderland, SR1 3QD

Introduction

This Report and Accounts covers the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Objectives and activities

The purposes of the Trust are as set out in the governing document to mitigate and relieve child poverty in the North- East of England by

- Raising awareness of the issue of child poverty.
- Improving knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of, and solutions to, child poverty.
- Working collaboratively with public services, voluntary bodies, employers, and young people to address child poverty.

Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit under the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

As noted in last year's report, Trustees undertook a review to produce a new strategy. This work was completed in March 2024. **Ambitious for our children and young people** confirmed the Trust's core objectives should remain unchanged. In delivering the Trust's mission the following strategic objectives were set:

- Alignment of activities with the regional strategy on tackling child poverty published in February 2024 by the North East Child Poverty Commission under the title **No Time to Wait: an ambitious blueprint for tackling child poverty in the North East**.
- Raise funds to support community based, practical activities to address child poverty.
- Work in partnership as a facilitator and enabler and deliver activities through others rather than become a direct service provider.

Trustees have developed an Action Plan to implement the new strategy.

Activities in 2024-25

During the financial year 2024–2025, the North East Child Poverty Trust did not receive any income. This marks a significant change from the previous reporting year, when NECPT received £130,174 in funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.

The result of the absence of new income was a reliance on prior year reserves, using them to complete or maintain commitments related to prior funding programmes.

Most of this year's expenditure was covered using restricted funds, which were fully utilised by year-end.

NECPT now operates with a modest unrestricted cash reserve of £2,421, but without any new income, its ability to fund future operations is significantly limited. Unless new grant funding or donations are secured, the Trust may face difficulty maintaining or initiating projects in the upcoming year.

Financial review

On 31 March 2025 the Trust had a bank balance of £2,421 which is fully unrestricted reserves.

The financial position reflects a transitional year for the Trust. As a result of the financial position, NECPT is actively engaged in seeking new funding, especially grant opportunities aligned with the charity's objectives. An obvious source for us is to re-engage with past funders such as the National Lottery Community Fund. In the short term we may look to strengthen fundraising efforts including donations, partnerships, or community engagement initiatives.

There are no uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern. The Trustees are satisfied that the level of reserves is suitable for the charity at this time and will continue to hold small unrestricted reserves pot with most of the reserves specifically allocated to relieve child poverty.

The trustees would like to acknowledge and thank Home Group for the use of One Strawberry Lane for all trustee meetings throughout the year.

Structure, governance, and management

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation is governed by its Constitution. There were no significant changes to governance arrangements. One Trustee resigned and was replaced following a recruitment process.

The Trustees during the period were:

Trustee name	Office
Sean Laws	Chair (apptd. May 204)
Satty Rai	Secretary
Jane Streather	(Resigned June 2025)
Philippa Gardiner	Treasurer
Amy Richardson	
John Downes	(Apptd. March 2025)
Thomas Sutton	(Apptd, March 2025)
Lewis Roberts	
Jim Coulter	Chair (resigned May 2024)
Jackie McHanwell	(Resigned September 2024)
Karen Deen	

Trustees reviewed the skills matrix used to assess learning and development needs and individual Trustees updated their profiles. The findings will be used to assist future recruitment to ensure the Trust continues to have a diverse, skilled and experienced Board.

Funds held as custodian

No funds were held as custodian Trustees on behalf of others.

Plans for future periods

The trust is actively seeking funding opportunities for future activities and will maintain the themes it articulated in the last Annual Report as it goes forward:

- To work in partnership and deliver through others with emphasis on supporting and enabling local communities.
- To strengthen the relationship with the North East Child Poverty Commission in fulfilment of our shared aim to tackle and eliminate child poverty.
- To emphasise the importance of communicating and sharing learning and emphasise the importance of impact for people.
- To explore gaps in provision and opportunities to promote innovative practice.
- To develop initiatives in the region acknowledging the widespread existence of child poverty.
- To identify funding sources to enable the Trust's support work to continue and secure delivery through partnerships based on a shared vision.

Approved by the Board on 08/08/2025 and signed on their behalf by the trustees:



..... Sean Laws (Chair)



..... Philippa Gardiner (Treasurer)

Notes to the Accounts

Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis of accounting due to the size of the charity.

Income Recognition

There was no income received in year.

Grants received are recognised fully on date of receipt into bank account.

Donations received during the year are recognised when received.

Donated Goods, Facilities and Services

The charity received free office space during the year to hold trustee meetings.

Activity Related Expenditure

The above SOFA splits out the expenditure in the year.

Apportionment of costs

There has been no apportionment of costs between funds. All expenditure was directly attributable to either unrestricted or restricted activities.

Trustee Remuneration and Benefits

During the year one trustee received reimbursement for payment of internet charges on behalf of the charity totalling £57.40.

Trustee expenses

A total of £125.44 has been paid for an insurance policy with Zurich Insurance plc – part of this amount is to cover Trustees' Liability Insurance.


Examiners' Remuneration

There has been no independent examination of the accounts due to the income dropping under the de-minimus threshold.

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
	-		-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund Grant	-	-	-	-	130,174
Unrestricted donation	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	-	-	-	130,174
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	130,174
A3 Payments					
Grant Leading Link National Lottery Community Fund programme					
		12,554	-	12,554	123,608
Grant to Northumberland County Council for summer National Lottery programme					
		-	-	-	-
Evaluation	-	960	-	960	-
Administration costs	468	-	-	468	1,537
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	468	13,514	-	13,982	125,145
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	468	13,514	-	13,982	125,145
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 468	- 13,514	-	- 13,982	5,029
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,889	13,514	-	16,403	11,374
Cash funds this year end	2,421	-	-	2,421	16,403

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Current bank account	2,421	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,421	-	-
	(payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds 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)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Philippa Gardiner	08/08/2025
			Sean Laws	08/08/2025