



# Halton Speak Out Annual Report



- "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much" – Helen Keller.

2025

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## Hello and Welcome for Ged Upham- Chair of Trustee's

For 27 years, **Halton Speak Out** has been dedicated to empowering people with learning disabilities in Halton, ensuring their voices are heard and valued. For the past 6 years, they have also proudly managed and supported the people of **Brookvale**, continuing their mission to create a community where everyone is respected, included, and able to speak up for themselves.

Let's take a moment to reflect on those words: **Halton Speak Out**. They represent more than just a name — they capture the heart, the drive, and the passion of an organisation and the incredible people who work within it, tirelessly advocating for others and making a real difference every day.

And if we look closely at each letter in *Halton Speak Out*, we begin to understand what this organisation truly stands for:

- **H** is for the **Heart** this organisation has, and for what it believes in.
- **A** is for the **Amazing work** the team does for everyone they come into contact with.
- **L** is for being **ever ready to Listen** and help wherever they can.
- **T** is for the **Trust** of the people, earned over many years.
- **O** is for the **Opportunities** they take and create to help others thrive.
- **N** is for **Nurturing**—watching people and projects grow under their care.
- **S** is for the **Safe place** people call Brookvale Community Centre.
- **P** is for being **Passionate** about everything they do.
- **E** is for the **Enthusiasm** that drives them forward.
- **A** is for **Advocating** for others whenever it is needed.
- **K** is for the **Knowledge** they hold about the people they support and how best to help them.
- **O** is for every **Opportunity** they have taken to grow and improve their service.
- **U** is for being truly **Unique**—you won't find another organisation quite like it.
- **T** is for being **Tenacious**, never giving up, no matter the challenges.

So, as you can see, spelling out *Halton Speak Out* tells the story of an organisation that is built on values, dedication, and care.

As Chair of the Trustees, I look forward to hearing about the projects, the staff, and the people whose lives have been touched by this work. I'm sure you'll share my appreciation for the hard work, commitment, and heart that define the team here at Brookvale

## Brookvale CommunityCentre - Yvonne Smallman -Centre Manager

### Introduction

Since commencing my post in December 2023, we have made great progress in various areas to enhance our Community Centre and ensure it remains at the heart of our community.

### Footfall and Income Generation

Our main focus has always been to increase footfall and boost income for the Centre. The year 2024/2025 has not disappointed us, with an impressive **15.03% increase**.

### Key Drivers of Growth:

- **Enhanced Social Media Presence** – Regular updates and targeted campaigns have raised our visibility.
- **Support for Community Groups** – Engaging and assisting local groups has helped them expand their activities.
- **Room Hire Promotion** – Improved marketing and accessibility, supported by the *Know Your Neighbourhood* grant, has driven demand.

Our commitment to outreach and community support has translated into real financial growth. These efforts not only boosted income but also strengthened our role as a vibrant hub for local engagement. The Café

The café continues to thrive, increasing footfall by providing good, wholesome food at affordable prices for our community.

Highlights include:

- Children enjoying a special *Breakfast with the Easter Bunny*
- Weekly **Crochet** and **Knit & Natter** groups, offering friendship and connection

The café has become a real social hub, bringing people together to enjoy food, laughter, and company.

### Volunteers

Once again, volunteers have played a huge role in supporting the Centre. From painting and decorating both inside and outside, to welcoming new people and helping with events, their contribution has been invaluable.

We are also grateful to local companies who offered their time and resources to make our Centre a more welcoming place to be.



## Activities & Events

The Centre has been buzzing with activities and events that bring people together, including:

- **Christmas Meal for Over 50s** – A festive event with hampers, entertainment, and a wonderful sense of community spirit.
- **Youth Activities** – Free sessions during school half-terms.
- **Monthly Bingo** – Always popular, with Asda vouchers as prizes.
- **Christmas Market** – Stalls, Santa's Grotto (with free gifts for children), and festive fun supported by Area Forum funding.
- **Easter Event** – Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, with eggs and photo opportunities.
- **Weekly Group Activities** – Ongoing and growing, thanks to word of mouth and promotion.



## Know Your Neighbourhood – National Lottery Project

We are delighted that *Halton Speak Out* has successfully secured a National Lottery bid to provide a variety of group activities for the community.

These six-week courses give participants the chance to:

- Learn new skills
- Meet new people and combat loneliness
- Boost their mental health and wellbeing



Every course has been well attended, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Many people have told us how much they've enjoyed learning, making friends, and feeling part of something special.

## Conclusion

The Centre is making strong progress, and we remain committed to continuing our efforts to ensure Brookvale Community Centre is a **welcoming venue for all**.

Brookvale Community Centre is more than just a building—it's **the heartbeat of our neighbourhood**.

It's where people come together to share laughter, learn new skills, support one another, and most importantly, feel that they truly belong



For over 27 years, Halton Speak Out has supported self-advocates with learning disabilities, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs represented.

This year, we continued our strong presence on the Learning Disability Partnership Board, sharing real-life experiences from our self-advocates and the wider community. These contributions have highlighted both the challenges and successes of people with learning disabilities, helping shape decisions that directly affect their lives.

We were especially proud to be part of developing the Adult Learning Disability Strategy for Halton. Our self-advocates shared personal experiences of local services and supports, ensuring the strategy truly reflects the needs and aspirations of people with learning disabilities.



Collaboration has been at the heart of our work. We partnered with organizations including Think Local Act Personal, People Power, ADASS, and Oxford Brooks University to co-produce solutions that make health and social care more personalised and responsive. Our work has taken us across the North West, strengthening networks and learning from other communities. These connections have helped us advocate more effectively for better services and opportunities in Halton.

Alongside advocacy, we have continued to organize inclusive and fun activities that bring people together and create lasting memories. Highlights include:

- Afternoon Teas: Friendly gatherings to chat, share experiences, and enjoy a welcoming environment.
- Quizzes and Get Togethers: Fun, interactive sessions helping people connect and form friendships.
- Disco Parties: A lively August event hosted by two self-advocates as DJs, filled with music, dancing, and fun.



In summary, this year has been about empowering self-advocates, shaping local strategies, and building community connections. We remain committed to giving people with learning disabilities and/or autism a voice and supporting them to live fulfilling, independent lives.

## Volunteer Engagement & Community Involvement

This year has been an inspiring one for our volunteer programme, with several positive developments aimed at supporting, celebrating, and empowering our dedicated team.

- **Volunteer Identity & Recognition**

To ensure every volunteer feels valued and part of the team, we introduced **new Volunteer ID lanyards** for all newcomers and updated badges for existing volunteers. This small but meaningful step has strengthened our sense of community and professionalism.

- **Listening to Volunteer Voices**

Feedback has been at the heart of our approach this year. After each *Ella Show*, volunteers were invited to share their experiences through **post-event feedback forms**. These insights have been invaluable in highlighting what works well and where we can improve.

In addition, a **general volunteer feedback survey** was introduced. This not only revealed areas where volunteers are keen to explore new opportunities, but also demonstrated the incredible impact volunteering has on individuals.

**100% of our volunteers reported improvements in both their mental health and confidence**, with many also sharing how they have developed new skills. One volunteer summed it up beautifully:

*“Being part of this team has changed my life. I feel more confident, happier, and I’ve learned skills I never thought I would.”*



- **Community Presence**

We proudly represented our volunteering opportunities at several community events, engaging with local people and raising awareness about the vital role volunteers play in our work:

- o Brookvale Makers Market
- o Disability Awareness Day
- o Summer Time Special
- o Local Election Day



- **Looking Ahead**

To build on this momentum, we are now **seeking passionate individuals to join a new Fundraising Committee**. Their efforts will be vital in helping us raise much-needed

funds to continue growing our work and supporting the volunteers who give so much.

Together, these initiatives have strengthened our volunteer community, celebrated their contributions, and laid the foundation for even greater impact in the year ahead.

### Upcoming Projects & Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the progress made this year, it is clear that we have laid strong foundations to build upon—foundations that not only strengthen our organisation but also make a lasting difference in people’s lives. The impact of our volunteer programme has already shown how confidence, wellbeing, and skills can be transformed through meaningful opportunities, and we are committed to expanding this work in the year ahead.

Looking forward, our focus will be on **continuing to grow, innovate, and create even more pathways for people to flourish**. With the dedication of our volunteers and the support of our community, we are well positioned to enhance our reach, provide new opportunities, and further improve the lives of those we serve.

### Building Together: Community Engagement & Transformation

Over the past two years, we have worked hand-in-hand with our community to not only strengthen engagement but to create something truly special—a sense of shared ownership and pride in our building and gardens.

Through open conversations, calls for support, and collaborative action, our community has stepped forward with generosity, creativity, and determination. Together, we have begun the journey of **refurbishing our building and transforming the gardens** into welcoming, vibrant spaces. What once were ordinary grounds are now alive with planting pots, flowers, and greenery that brighten our surroundings and uplift the street image for everyone who passes by.



This has been more than just a refurbishment—it has been a movement of people coming together, giving their time, skills, and passion to create something lasting. The gardens and outdoor spaces are no longer just “ours” as an organisation; they now **belong to the community**. Residents and volunteers alike are using, caring for, and enjoying these areas, making them a true reflection of what happens when people unite with a shared vision.

We also note that the current post of **Volunteer Coordinator is due to conclude on 31st October 2025**. This presents both a moment of transition and an opportunity to review, strengthen, and evolve our volunteer programme so that it continues to thrive well into the future.

Together, we are building not just projects, but possibilities—creating lasting change that empowers individuals, enriches communities, and inspires hope for the years to come.



## How Our Youth Engagement delivers and Exceeds our Goals

- My role involves delivering a range of interconnected programmes, which together create a cohesive network of opportunities for young people, directly supporting our funders' objectives of engagement, skill development, and community belonging."
- Total Engagements: 753 young people – some through one-off activities, others through regular participation
- Our Youth Group: Consistent group of 7 (Ages 10-14), build upon and bring a new generation to continue the council that was set and created in 2022.
- Alignment with Funder's Goals:



Strong foundation and the building blocks in “Amplifying Youth Voice, Build Friendships and create community Belonging” (Brookvale Community Centre, 2022)

Figure 1:

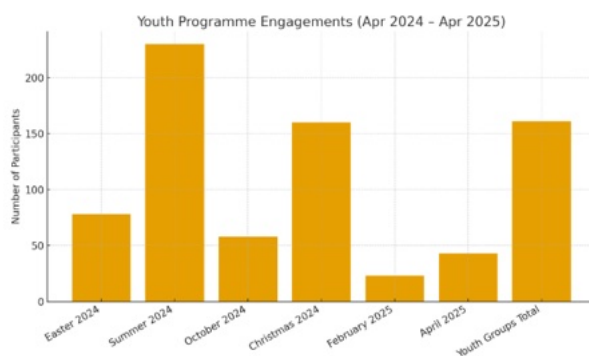
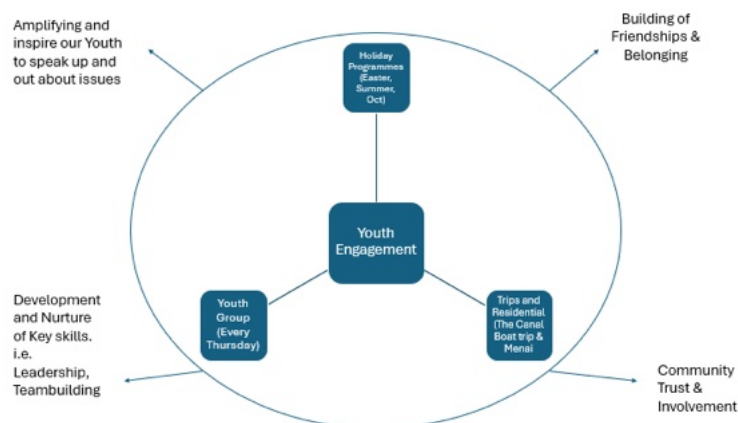


Figure 2: A Web of Youth Engagement and Community Impact



## Our Outcomes and Achievements Presently

- Young people thrive and most importantly enjoy creating from scratch (Bath Bombs, Sewing) – Soft Skills
- Trail and put out sport this summer at the centre – well received, allowing for the continued during upcoming events.
- Young Council, supported the community centre's work massively: 98 hours of Volunteering (Aug24-Apr25)



- Residential and trips (Menai – where we saw laughter, smiles and stories to tell.
- Evaluation: These experiences, have strengthened trust in the young people we engage with, Numbers are key, but sometimes the stories you get are just as important – it tells you why

## Challenges & Lesson's Learned

### Areas of Improvement:

- Strengthen our social media presence for our youth project's – trialled through our upcoming Dance Programme (Promotional video)
- Explored reasons for the drop-off in numbers in 11-14 age group
- Refocus meal programme to Brookvale Primary School
- Key Takeaway: Success needs persistence and flexibility

## Upcoming Projects (2025-2026)

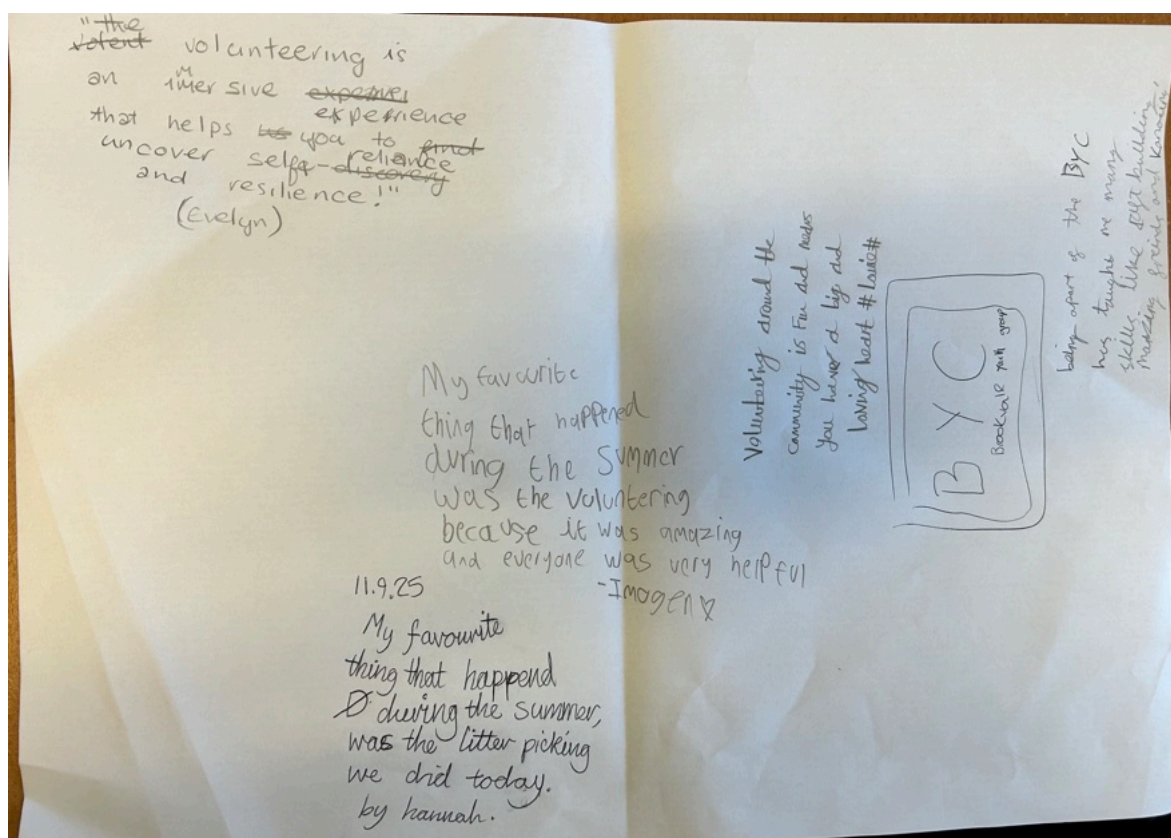
### Planned initiatives:

- 6-week youth dance programme with an intergenerational link
- Plan & run another trip to Menai

### Collaborate closely with the development manager through funding bids

- Meal Programme funded by the Police Crime Commissioner(Yr 5-6)
- More youth-led projects + Youth leadership focus
- Mentoring youth into training, volunteering and employment pathways

**Community Impact:** The voice of the young people



**Special Achievement:**

- Planning & Delivering of Menai – laughter, skills and the friendships made was amazing to witness
- Personal stories you make with the children or the children have with their peers

Funded by the National Lottery's Know Your Neighbourhood Fund programme, the initiative launched in 2023 and will conclude in October 2025. The centre was commissioned to deliver inclusive events that promote learning, wellbeing, social connection, and the formation of new community groups.

To date, a diverse programme of free activities has been successfully delivered, including:



- Beginners computer courses, two Jo Cox Foundation events
- Yoga events, floristry events, sewing events salsa, fitness Pilates, Latin & ballroom dance, arts & crafts, dancercise, crochet, sign language, mindful miniatures

Two independent groups have emerged so far—The Bobbin Along Club (sewing) and Crafty Crochet, now self-sustaining and contributing to the centre's income through room hire. These models offers a promising blueprint for future initiatives. A third group Mindful Miniatures is also in the process of becoming self-sustaining.

### Ongoing Projects

The Know Your Neighbourhood programme continues through October 2025, with further opportunities for groups to become independent and operate from the centre. To support long-term sustainability, we're helping emerging groups with financial setup, insurance, funding applications, and access to sustainability advice. Upcoming activities include pastel painting, yoga and line dancing.

Feedback has been gathered throughout the initiative and as we approach its conclusion, we're consolidating insights focused on success stories, overall impact, group sustainability, and future funding and partnership opportunities.



### Upcoming Projects (next year)

Over the coming year, I'll prioritise increasing income for the centre through a diverse mix of revenue streams, not just room hire, but also grants, fundraising events and strategic partnerships. This is about reinvesting in our community and ensuring long-term sustainability. Key actions include:

- **Maximising space usage** by reviewing underused areas and adapting them for a wider range of activities
- **Engaging local groups and businesses** with affordable, flexible hire options to attract workshops, clubs, training, and social events
- **Launching community-led fundraising initiatives** such as events and sponsorship

- **Pursuing grant funding** to support growth and impact

## **Community/Member Projects**

We've successfully achieved our intended outcomes from the Know Your Neighbourhood initiative by enhancing skills and learning, improving mental and physical wellbeing and strengthening community bonds through new friendships and shared experiences

Going forward we will continue to deliver events that genuinely reflect our community's interests and needs, keeping the centre active, visible and welcoming. We'll consult widely and co-create activities with local people and groups, encouraging shared ownership and participation. These events will strengthen our role as a vibrant hub while raising our profile and deepening connections with our community.



## **Special achievements or things we were most proud of**

The feedback collected to date has shown us how important these events have been for our community. 89.7% of people have told us they have made new connections or friendships through attending our centre.

Feedback received and has been profound, there are so many I could share but here are a few:

*"I have met a smashing bunch of people, feel welcome and relaxed. Coming here takes my mind off things worrying me at home. Also I feel supported in learning new sewing skills and don't worry about making mistakes and being judged".*

*"The group has made me feel accepted and would love to continue with the friendships I have made. I often have felt isolated and alone, but this has been so good for me socially. The tutor was also really good, patient, helpful, informative and really down to earth. I will definitely be looking out for future events".*

*"Having found the community centre, I would definitely love to attend other courses, activities. I think Lynne and Yvonne are very welcoming and make you feel so comfortable about trying new activities. I am new to the centre and think it is a great place. I have signed up for pilates and will keep an eye open for any other activities that interest me"*







# **Halton Speak Out CiO**

Charity number 1170145

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025**

# **Halton Speak Out CiO**

## **Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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**Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

# **Halton Speak Out CIO**

## **Trustees' report**

The trustees during the year were:

### **Name**

Mr Gerard Upham  
Mr Kenneth Williams  
Mrs Sheila Maloney  
Mrs Lynne Melarangi  
Mr Colin Rotherham

### **Method of appointment**

Appointment of trustees is governed by the constitution of the charity. The executive committee of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees to fill vacancies arising through the resignation or death of an existing trustee.

### **Principal address**

Higher House  
Northwich Road  
Brookvale  
Runcorn  
WA7 6PE

### **Bankers**

CoOperative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Skelmersdale  
Lancashire  
WN8 6WT

### **Governing document**

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation registered on 14th November 2016.

### **Objects of the organisation**

For the benefit of the public, the relief and support of children and adults with learning and other disabilities including persons who are vulnerable, by the provision of advocacy and like support services, training, educational and other services designed to relieve their condition, and to allow them to take their full place in society.

The provision of facilities which will enable them to take part in the dramatic and visual arts, including the provision of training, education, practical demonstrations and participative learning.

### **Independent examiner**

on behalf of:

### **Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

St Maries  
Lugsdale Road  
Widnes  
WA8 6DB



**Halton Speak Out CiO**  
**Independent examiner's report on the accounts of**  
**Halton Speak Out CiO**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 set out on pages 4 to 8

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts using procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and to state whether matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any 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 statements below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

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

Jane Williams  
MAAT

**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**  
St Maries  
Lugsdale Road  
Widnes  
WA8 6DB

29th September 2025

**Halton Speak Out CiO**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Grants and donations	(2)	40	169,612	169,652	157,412
Other Income		-	-	-	1,730
Centre Café & Room Hires		140,904	-	140,904	116,260
Bank Interest Received		-	-	-	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>140,944</b>	<b>169,612</b>	<b>310,556</b>	<b>275,402</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Salaries and NICs	(3)	72,994	98,104	171,098	160,653
Payroll fees		245	771	1,016	1,053
Consultancy		1,227	11,121	12,348	13,735
Sundry expenses		348	1,378	1,726	116
Equipment		3,152	5,427	8,579	12,244
Rent & Premises Costs		57,825	-	57,825	33,930
Postage, Stationery & Telephone		501	1,399	1,900	130
Insurance		2,040	-	2,040	1,949
Website, Advertising & Publicity		648	216	864	43
DBS Checks		94	100	194	424
Volunteers		-	-	-	623
Training		60	137	197	58
Café Supplies		21,120	-	21,120	17,626
Information & Resources		2,235	-	2,235	1,161
Project costs		3	8,813	8,816	-
<b>Governance Costs</b>		-	-	-	-
Independent Examination & Accountancy		315	-	315	300
Professional fees		2,584	-	2,584	1,528
Administration		15	-	15	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>165,406</b>	<b>127,466</b>	<b>292,872</b>	<b>245,573</b>
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		<b>(24,462)</b>	<b>42,146</b>	<b>17,684</b>	<b>29,829</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>164,296</b>	<b>(164,296)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<b>16,433</b>	<b>177,796</b>	<b>194,229</b>	<b>164,400</b>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	(4)	<b>156,267</b>	<b>55,646</b>	<b>211,913</b>	<b>194,229</b>

# Halton Speak Out CiO

## Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets (5)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors and prepayments (6)	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (7)	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Total current assets</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Creditors and accruals (8)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Net assets</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Funds</b>				
Restricted Funds		55,646	55,646	177,796
Unrestricted funds	156,267		156,267	16,433
<b>Total Funds</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229

### Approval of the accounts

The annual report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the Trustees held on 29th September 2025

Ged Upham  
on behalf of the Trustees

# **Halton Speak Out CIO**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### **1 Accounting Policies**

##### **a Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (The Charities SORP).

##### **b Income**

Donations and legacies are accounted for when received by the charity. Other income is accounted for on an accruals basis as far as is prudent to do so.

##### **c Grants**

Revenue grants are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities on receipt, subject to any required conditions being met or services being provided. Capital grants are recognised on receipt in the Statement of Financial Activities. This policy has been adopted to give a true and fair view as recommended by the SORP.

##### **d Tangible Fixed Assets**

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £250.

Rates of depreciation:

Fixtures and fittings: 25% reducing balance

Equipment: 25% reducing balance

##### **e Pensions**

Contributions are charged when they become due in accordance with the scheme rules.

##### **f Fund accounting**

Funds held by the charity are either:

###### **Unrestricted general funds**

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

###### **Restricted funds**

These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

###### **Designated funds**

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**Halton Speak Out CiO**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>2 Grants and Donations</b>	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>Grants</b>				
Halton Borough Council:				
Adult Project	-	48,118	48,118	55,500
Carers Breaks	-	1,272	1,272	2,544
Youth Engagement	-	-	-	6,600
HBC 24	-	7,872	7,872	-
Halton 50	-	574	574	-
HBC 24 Christmas	-	657	657	-
HBC Residential	-	500	500	-
The National Lottery Funding	-	75,952	75,952	68,525
The Police & Crime Commissioner	-	-	-	4,968
Talles	-	-	-	1,000
TNL: Know Your Neighbourhood	-	11,248	11,248	13,293
In Your Hands	-	-	-	1,171
Your Housing Cleaning	-	16,019	16,019	3,811
Ella Youth Fund	-	7,000	7,000	-
ASDA Community Fund	-	400	400	-
Donations	40	-	40	-
	<u>40</u>	<u>169,612</u>	<u>169,652</u>	<u>157,412</u>

<b>3 Staff costs and numbers</b>	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross salaries	130,717	120,704
Other Wages	37,974	36,639
Social security costs	2,314	2,901
Employer pension	94	409
	<u>171,098</u>	<u>160,653</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 4.8 FTE (2024:4.8)

<b>4 Restricted funds summary</b>	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Adult Project	80,298	48,118	28,471	(99,945)	-
Children & Young Peoples Prog	(4,037)	-	-	4,037	-
Carers Breaks	3,788	1,272	7	-	5,053
24 Grant	-	7,872	7,812	-	60
50 Grant	-	574	574	-	-
24 Christmas	-	657	570	-	87
HBC Residential	-	500	395	-	105
The Steve Morgan Foundation	4,891	-	4,917	26	-
Steve Morgan: Kops & Kids	590	-	612	22	-
Talles	129	-	129	-	-
TNL: Know Your Neighbourhood	8,410	11,248	7,618	(1,422)	10,618
In Your Hands	176	-	-	-	176
Your Housing Cleaning	(4,339)	16,019	10,995	(685)	-
Brindley	63,336	-	620	(62,716)	-
Police & Crime Commissioner	5,489	-	59	-	5,430
The Community Foundation	169	-	-	-	169
Ella Together Youth Fund	-	7,000	197	(579)	6,224
ASDA	-	400	-	(400)	-
Torus Foundation	99	-	99	-	-
HBC: Youth Engagement	1,393	-	892	(501)	-
The National Lottery Fund	17,404	75,952	63,499	(2,133)	27,724
	<u>177,796</u>	<u>169,612</u>	<u>127,466</u>	<u>(164,296)</u>	<u>55,646</u>

Transfer of funds relate to expenditure in previous year unaccounted for and include contributions towards rent building & running costs.



# Halton Speak Out CiO

## Notes to the accounts continued

### for the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 5 Tangible assets

	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computers & Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2024	2,769	5,592	8,361
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,769</u>	<u>5,592</u>	<u>8,361</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	2,769	5,592	8,361
Charge for year	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,769</u>	<u>5,592</u>	<u>8,361</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 6 Debtors and prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 7 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank Current a/c	211,913	194,229
	<u>211,913</u>	<u>194,229</u>

#### 8 Creditors and accruals

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	-	-
Other Creditors	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 9 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the accounting period to 31st March 2025.

#### 10 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisations) it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures.

# **Halton Speak Out CIO**

Charity number 1170145

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025**

# **Halton Speak Out CiO**

## **Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' report	2
Examiner's statement	3
Statement of financial activities	4
Balance sheet	5
Notes to the accounts	6 to 8

**Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

# **Halton Speak Out CIO**

## **Trustees' report**

The trustees during the year were:

### **Name**

Mr Gerard Upham  
Mr Kenneth Williams  
Mrs Sheila Maloney  
Mrs Lynne Melarangi  
Mr Colin Rotherham

### **Method of appointment**

Appointment of trustees is governed by the constitution of the charity. The executive committee of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees to fill vacancies arising through the resignation or death of an existing trustee.

### **Principal address**

Higher House  
Northwich Road  
Brookvale  
Runcorn  
WA7 6PE

### **Bankers**

CoOperative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Skelmersdale  
Lancashire  
WN8 6WT

### **Governing document**

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation registered on 14th November 2016.

### **Objects of the organisation**

For the benefit of the public, the relief and support of children and adults with learning and other disabilities including persons who are vulnerable, by the provision of advocacy and like support services, training, educational and other services designed to relieve their condition, and to allow them to take their full place in society.

The provision of facilities which will enable them to take part in the dramatic and visual arts, including the provision of training, education, practical demonstrations and participative learning.

### **Independent examiner**

on behalf of:

### **Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

St Maries  
Lugsdale Road  
Widnes  
WA8 6DB

**Halton Speak Out CiO**  
**Independent examiner's report on the accounts of**  
**Halton Speak Out CiO**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 set out on pages 4 to 8

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts using procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and to state whether matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any 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 statements below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

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

Jane Williams  
MAAT

**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**  
St Maries  
Lugsdale Road  
Widnes  
WA8 6DB

29th September 2025

**Halton Speak Out CiO**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Grants and donations	(2)	40	169,612	169,652	157,412
Other Income		-	-	-	1,730
Centre Café & Room Hires		140,904	-	140,904	116,260
Bank Interest Received		-	-	-	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>140,944</b>	<b>169,612</b>	<b>310,556</b>	<b>275,402</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Salaries and NICs	(3)	72,994	98,104	171,098	160,653
Payroll fees		245	771	1,016	1,053
Consultancy		1,227	11,121	12,348	13,735
Sundry expenses		348	1,378	1,726	116
Equipment		3,152	5,427	8,579	12,244
Rent & Premises Costs		57,825	-	57,825	33,930
Postage, Stationery & Telephone		501	1,399	1,900	130
Insurance		2,040	-	2,040	1,949
Website, Advertising & Publicity		648	216	864	43
DBS Checks		94	100	194	424
Volunteers		-	-	-	623
Training		60	137	197	58
Café Supplies		21,120	-	21,120	17,626
Information & Resources		2,235	-	2,235	1,161
Project costs		3	8,813	8,816	-
<b>Governance Costs</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Independent Examination & Accountancy		315	-	315	300
Professional fees		2,584	-	2,584	1,528
Administration		15	-	15	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>165,406</b>	<b>127,466</b>	<b>292,872</b>	<b>245,573</b>
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		<b>(24,462)</b>	<b>42,146</b>	<b>17,684</b>	<b>29,829</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>164,296</b>	<b>(164,296)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<b>16,433</b>	<b>177,796</b>	<b>194,229</b>	<b>164,400</b>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	(4)	<b>156,267</b>	<b>55,646</b>	<b>211,913</b>	<b>194,229</b>

# Halton Speak Out CiO

## Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets (5)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors and prepayments (6)	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (7)	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Total current assets</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Creditors and accruals (8)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Net assets</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229
<b>Funds</b>				
Restricted Funds		55,646	55,646	177,796
Unrestricted funds	156,267		156,267	16,433
<b>Total Funds</b>	156,267	55,646	211,913	194,229

### Approval of the accounts

The annual report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the Trustees held on 29th September 2025

Ged Upham  
on behalf of the Trustees

# **Halton Speak Out CIO**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### **1 Accounting Policies**

##### **a Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (The Charities SORP).

##### **b Income**

Donations and legacies are accounted for when received by the charity. Other income is accounted for on an accruals basis as far as is prudent to do so.

##### **c Grants**

Revenue grants are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities on receipt, subject to any required conditions being met or services being provided. Capital grants are recognised on receipt in the Statement of Financial Activities. This policy has been adopted to give a true and fair view as recommended by the SORP.

##### **d Tangible Fixed Assets**

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £250.

Rates of depreciation:

Fixtures and fittings: 25% reducing balance

Equipment: 25% reducing balance

##### **e Pensions**

Contributions are charged when they become due in accordance with the scheme rules.

##### **f Fund accounting**

Funds held by the charity are either:

###### **Unrestricted general funds**

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

###### **Restricted funds**

These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

###### **Designated funds**

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.



**Halton Speak Out CiO**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>2 Grants and Donations</b>	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>Grants</b>				
Halton Borough Council:				
Adult Project	-	48,118	48,118	55,500
Carers Breaks	-	1,272	1,272	2,544
Youth Engagement	-	-	-	6,600
HBC 24	-	7,872	7,872	-
Halton 50	-	574	574	-
HBC 24 Christmas	-	657	657	-
HBC Residential	-	500	500	-
The National Lottery Funding	-	75,952	75,952	68,525
The Police & Crime Commissioner	-	-	-	4,968
Talles	-	-	-	1,000
TNL: Know Your Neighbourhood	-	11,248	11,248	13,293
In Your Hands	-	-	-	1,171
Your Housing Cleaning	-	16,019	16,019	3,811
Ella Youth Fund	-	7,000	7,000	-
ASDA Community Fund	-	400	400	-
Donations	40	-	40	-
	<u>40</u>	<u>169,612</u>	<u>169,652</u>	<u>157,412</u>

<b>3 Staff costs and numbers</b>	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross salaries	130,717	120,704
Other Wages	37,974	36,639
Social security costs	2,314	2,901
Employer pension	94	409
	<u>171,098</u>	<u>160,653</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 4.8 FTE (2024:4.8)

<b>4 Restricted funds summary</b>	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Adult Project	80,298	48,118	28,471	(99,945)	-
Children & Young Peoples Prog	(4,037)	-	-	4,037	-
Carers Breaks	3,788	1,272	7	-	5,053
24 Grant	-	7,872	7,812	-	60
50 Grant	-	574	574	-	-
24 Christmas	-	657	570	-	87
HBC Residential	-	500	395	-	105
The Steve Morgan Foundation	4,891	-	4,917	26	-
Steve Morgan: Kops & Kids	590	-	612	22	-
Talles	129	-	129	-	-
TNL: Know Your Neighbourhood	8,410	11,248	7,618	(1,422)	10,618
In Your Hands	176	-	-	-	176
Your Housing Cleaning	(4,339)	16,019	10,995	(685)	-
Brindley	63,336	-	620	(62,716)	-
Police & Crime Commissioner	5,489	-	59	-	5,430
The Community Foundation	169	-	-	-	169
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ASDA	-	400	-	(400)	-
Torus Foundation	99	-	99	-	-
HBC: Youth Engagement	1,393	-	892	(501)	-
The National Lottery Fund	17,404	75,952	63,499	(2,133)	27,724
	<u>177,796</u>	<u>169,612</u>	<u>127,466</u>	<u>(164,296)</u>	<u>55,646</u>

Transfer of funds relate to expenditure in previous year unaccounted for and include contributions towards rent building & running costs.

# Halton Speak Out CiO

## Notes to the accounts continued

### for the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 5 Tangible assets

	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computers & Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2024	2,769	5,592	8,361
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,769</u>	<u>5,592</u>	<u>8,361</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	2,769	5,592	8,361
Charge for year	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,769</u>	<u>5,592</u>	<u>8,361</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 6 Debtors and prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 7 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank Current a/c	211,913	194,229
	<u>211,913</u>	<u>194,229</u>

#### 8 Creditors and accruals

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	-	-
Other Creditors	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 9 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the accounting period to 31st March 2025.

#### 10 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisations) it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures.