

# ANNUAL REPORT

## The Together Free Foundation

For the year ending 31 December 2025



### Charitable Status

The Together Free Foundation is a registered charity in England. Charity Number 1185728

### Registered Address

6 Clarence Road  
Southend-on-Sea  
Essex  
SS11AN

### Trustees Serving During 2025

Peter Dominey

Jackie Raja

Gemma Cartwright

Sam Goodman  
Commenced Sept 2025

The charity is established by means of a constitution with trustees appointed by the trustee body.

## Summary of Objectives and Activities

Between October 2024 to September 2025 there were a total of 338 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Offences in Greater Essex. This included forced criminality, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, trafficking and other (Essex Police). The Together Free Foundation (TFF) helps local communities partner towards ending modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) within their locality. This is done through establishing Antislavery Partnerships and catalysing community assets to partner towards slavery-free communities. Within the last eight years, TFF has catalysed and is developing three Antislavery Partnerships: a) Southend Against Modern Slavery; b) Chelmsford Against Modern Slavery, and; c) Colchester Against Modern Slavery.

TFF mobilises local charities, community groups, local authorities and law enforcement to find local solutions for local problems of exploitation through: 1) partnership development and collaboration; 2) raising awareness within the community and among at-risk groups; 3) developing and delivering training to community groups and front-line responders; 4) developing referral pathways to ensure the effective safeguarding of victims and; 5) supporting victims and survivors of modern slavery through community-based survivor care.

During 2025 the charity employed four-five part-time staff in the equivalent of 1.5 full time roles. The charity relies on volunteer and community engagement, thereby offering excellent value for money for its output.



### SAMS Partnership Awareness Raising Event at Victoria Shopping Center, Southend

Southend Against Modern Slavery (SAMS) Partnership continued to strengthen multi agency collaboration across the City of Southend during 2025. The partnership worked with statutory partners, education providers, voluntary sector organisations, care providers and local business networks to increase awareness, improve professional confidence and promote coordinated responses to modern slavery and exploitation.

During 2025, SAMS delivered 20 professional training sessions across Southend, including sessions for Southend City Council, Children's Social Care, South Essex College, care sector providers, safeguarding boards and community safety networks. These sessions reached approximately 400 professionals across the year.

In addition to training delivery, SAMS maintained an active public presence through 23 awareness raising and networking events, including business briefings, community events, conferences, partnership forums and public stalls. Events included participation in safeguarding conferences, business partnership meetings, community days, antislavery and hate crime awareness week activities, and the White Ribbon Event at Victoria Plaza. These activities strengthened partnership accountability, increased professional knowledge in identifying and responding to exploitation, and reinforced Southend's coordinated community response to modern slavery SAMS Survivor Care Project

In 2025 SAMS Survivor Care Project was rebranded to SAMS Connect. The Project provides community-based support to survivors of modern slavery and trafficking in the City of Southend. The project provides regular long-term and bespoke wrap-around support in the form of befriending, mentoring, and practical help.

In 2025 SAMS Connect provided support for eight survivors of modern slavery, originating from six different countries. Additionally, four children indirectly benefited from the support given to their parents. A total of 286 hours of befriending, mentoring, casework, and practical help were provided. Practical help for the survivors included: supermarket and clothing vouchers, school clothing, household items, computer, toiletries, cinema vouchers, birthday presents for children, electric meter top ups, Christmas hampers and transport to London. Support was also provided by attending court hearings with a survivor and providing translation support in meetings in Southend. Signposting support was also given for local services and well-being activities.

Survivor feedback: *For me personally, SAMS are very helpful, even little things they do. I am very grateful. They have people who can understand and be on my side when I need most. It means a lot for me; from the bottom of my heart.*

**SAMS Connect**

Support for survivors of  
Modern Slavery and Human  
Trafficking in Southend

**Information  
for Survivors**

Find us on Facebook  
@samspartnership

Find us on Instagram  
@sams\_partnership

Partnering towards a slavery free  
Southend-on-Sea



Colchester Against Modern Slavery started in April 2023, with Colchester Council inviting TTF to catalyse the antislavery partnership. CAMS now comprises of 50 participating organisations. In 2025 4 partnership meetings occurred with 21-35 participants attending each. Events and conferences have been well attended with participants enthusiastic and interested in the issues. Eleven local representatives from the Council, Police, and third sector provide oversight for CAMS.

In 2025 CAMS actively engaged the vibrant multi-cultural community groups in Colchester resulting in increased engagement and opportunities for training. 31 training workshops were delivered with over 1000 attendees from charities, faith groups, housing association, the Council, Colchester Institute and Essex University. Community ambassadors are being developed to deliver training and awareness within the community.

CAMS held nine community engagement days with over 900 engagements with the public. These included the University's Fresher's Fair



As part of Antislavery Day (18th October), CAMS organised the Conference, Breaking the Silence: The Impact of Modern Slavery on Women and Girls. 80 participants took part from 30 organisations. 6 organisations presented including local and regional organisations. The conference explored how exploitation impacts women and girls. Input explored county lines, refugees and migrants, advocacy and police responses. A networking lunch was provided by Colchester's Bangladeshi Women's Group.

*Essex Police has a long-standing partnership with the The Together Free Foundation, particularly within Colchester City, and this collaboration has been instrumental in tackling modern slavery. The Foundation has been an exceptional resource and the driving force behind CAMS. Modern slavery is a hidden and insidious crime that thrives in silence. Essex Police is committed to safeguarding our communities, and I wholeheartedly endorse the expansion of our local anti-slavery partnership. This initiative enhances our ability to identify victims, pursue perpetrators, and dismantle the networks that exploit vulnerable individuals.*

Inspector Shah, Colchester Neighbourhood Policing Inspector, Essex Police

 A promotional poster for the event 'Breaking the Silence: The Impact of Modern Slavery on Women and Girls'. The poster features the CAMS logo at the top left. The background is a dark, abstract image with glowing orange and yellow light streaks. Text on the poster includes:
 

- Date:** 16 October 2025
- Time:** 09h30 - 14h30
- Location:** Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1JH
- Speakers:** Essex Police, Justice and Care, Rafiki, RAMA
- Ambassadors:** (Listed below speakers)
- Other details:** Coffee available on arrival from 09h00. The programme will conclude at 13:00, followed by a complimentary lunch and networking until 14h30.
- Free tickets available from:** <https://breakingthesilenceessex.eventbrite.co.uk>





Since August 2022, The Together Free Foundation has been collaborating with Chelmsford City Council in establishing and developing the Chelmsford Against Slavery Partnership (CASP). Quarterly CASP meetings are well attended with 24-28 participants at each, representing 45 participating organisations.

TFF's part-time antislavery coordinator sits within Chelmsford Council and Police's Community Safety Hub to stimulate the development and objectives CASP. This is done alongside the Steering Group of ten representatives from Chelmsford Council, Police, Social Care and third sector. Ongoing work has been around CASP's three year strategy of: 1) developing an agile and dynamic partnership; 2) developing survivor care for victims of modern slavery and; 3) developing a well sustained and resourced partnership.



*Awareness stall on Chelmsford High Street*



*Training workshop at Chelmsford Cathedral*

Key outcomes include:

- 12 community engagement days with over 720 engagements with the public
- Two awareness campaigns for the World Day Against Trafficking and Antislavery Day. This included sending training resources for various key-stages to primary and secondary schools and within the area.
- 16 training workshops were delivered with over 600 attendees. This included charities, Essex Adult Safeguarding Board, community groups, the NHS and faith groups including Chelmsford Cathedral
- Work was done with partner organisations around encouraging the submission of intelligence reports relating to modern slavery. 6 intelligence reports were submitted. 2 disruption activities were undertaken resulting in 3 arrests.
- CASP hosted the International Recruitment in Care Conference. More than 80 people attended with six contributing organisations including UK Visas and Immigration. Exploitation within the care sector was explored and best practice for care employers.

Please note: To attend this conference, you need to be working in the Care Sector in Essex.

## International Recruitment In Care Conference

5th February 2025  
9:30am - 2:00pm  
Civic Centre, Chelmsford,  
CM1 1JE

Partner agencies have come together to bring you a conference focused on International Recruitment, and looking positively at some of the challenges this can bring.

Confirmed speakers include UKVI, Caremark, Anglian Care, Lifted Talent, Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) as well as presentations from a lived experience perspective.

The half-day session will end with a Q & A panel. There will be networking opportunities following the event.



Tickets are £10 per delegate

Refreshments are provided throughout the day. Lunch will not be provided. Please bring your own lunch for networking.



Scan the QR code to book your tickets



*Together Free have been instrumental in working with the City Council and other agencies to develop a multi-agency partnership focused on tackling modern slavery and human trafficking. Recognising that no single organisation can address this complex issue alone, the charity has served as both a trusted intermediary and a catalyst for collective action and the production of the Chelmsford Against Slavery Partnership (CASP).*

*Through its leadership and partnership, Together Free has helped partners move from isolated interventions to a genuine partnership model—one that combines prevention, education and protection, to those affected by modern slavery; there is a major effort to ensure that the voices and needs of survivors are at its core. This collaborative approach has enhanced local intelligence-sharing, improved referral pathways, and fostered a culture of shared responsibility across sectors.*

Karen Buttress, Operations Manager, Public Health and Protection Services, Chelmsford City Council

### **Together Free Appreciates Funding in 2025 from:**

- Colchester City Council
- The Eastern Baptist Association
- Essex Community Foundation
- Leeze Charitable Fund
- White House Farm Charitable Fund.
- Christopher Holmes Charitable Fund
- The National Lottery
- Police, Fire and Crime Commission for Essex
- Police Property Act Fund

## **Public Benefit Statement Accounting Basis**



The charity's trustees continue to have regard for both the charitable objects set out in the governing document and to ensuring that the activities of the charity, as described, meet the public benefit test. In so doing, they take account of the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when planning the charity's programme of activities. The trustees of the Together Free Foundation are confident that the activities of the charity demonstrate strong evidence of

The accounts were prepared on a receipts and payments basis. Report prepared by. D Pratt



Signed on behalf of the Trustees by P. Dominey

## Independent Examiner Report

 <b>CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES</b>		<b>Independent examiner's report on the accounts</b>	
<b>Section A Independent Examiner's Report</b>			
Report to the trustees	The TOGETHER FREE FOUNDATION		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2025.	Charity no (if any)	1185728
Set out on pages			
Responsibilities and basis of report	<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended .</p> <p>As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.</p> <p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or</li> <li>the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or</li> <li>the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</p>		
Signed:			Date: 12/03/2025
Name:	CHRISTINE FRANCES WARNER		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	MAAT.		

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Oct 2018

## Independent Examiner Report continued...

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Address:

386 Southbourne Gr.

Westcliff-on-Sea

Essex SS0 0AP

**Section B****Disclosure**

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.



## Statement of Financial Activity

### Up to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>				
<b>Voluntary income</b>				
Donations	100	1,068	1,168	162
Grants	11,738	58,679	70,417	80,339
Other	-	-	-	1,727
<b>Total Voluntary Income</b>	<b>11,838</b>	<b>59,747</b>	<b>71,585</b>	<b>82,228</b>
<b>Investment income</b>				
Interest	1,233	-	1,233	1,034
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>13,071</b>	<b>59,747</b>	<b>72,818</b>	<b>83,262</b>
<b><u>Resources Expended</u></b>				
Charitable activities				
Operational Costs	2,927	4,876	7,803	8,002
Staffing	5,406	52,420	57,826	51,649
Awareness resources	-	1,387	1,387	1,686
Survivor Care Support	-	1,788	1,788	1,742
Other	30	-	30	78
<b>Total Resources Used</b>	<b>8,363</b>	<b>60,471</b>	<b>68,834</b>	<b>63,157</b>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	4,708	(724)	3,984	20,105
Transfer between funds	5,597	(5,597)	-	-
Net movement in funds for year	10,305	(6,321)	3,984	20,105
Fund Balance at 31 December 2024	7,999	45,981	53,980	33,875
Fund Balance at 31 December 2025	<b>18,304</b>	<b>39,660</b>	<b>57,964</b>	<b>53,980</b>



## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

### Up to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
CAF Bank	18,304	39,660	57,964	53,980
Cash in hand	-	-	-	-
	<u>18,304</u>	<u>39,660</u>	<u>57,964</u>	<u>53,980</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>	<b>2025</b>		<b>2024</b>	
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
General Fund	18,304		7,999	
		<u>18,304</u>		<u>7,999</u>
<b>Restricted</b>				
SAMS & Survivor Care & National Lottery	14,550		24,244	
Chelmsford (CASP)	4,857		7,148	
Colchester (CAMS)	20,253		14,589	
		<u>39,660</u>		<u>45,981</u>
<b>Total reserves</b>	<u>£ 57,964</u>		<u>£ 53,980</u>	

## Notes to the Accounts Up to 31 December 2025

### 1) Accounting Policies

#### Basis of preparation

Receipts and Payment accounts have been prepared.

### 2) Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund			Total 2025	Total 2024
	General Fund	SAMS & Survivor Care & National Lottery	Chelmsford (CASP)	Colchester (CAMS)		
Donations	100	1,068	-	-	1,168	162
Grants	11,738	27,117	6,625	24,938	70,417	80,339
Books Sales	-	-	-	-	-	9
Other	-	-	-	-	-	1,718
	11,838	28,185	6,625	24,938	71,585	82,228

### 3) Resources Expended

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund			Total 2025	Total 2024
	General Fund	SAMS & Survivor Care & National Lottery	Chelmsford (CASP)	Colchester (CAMS)		
Operational Costs	2,927	2,822	1,040	1,014	7,803	8,002
Staffing	5,405	29,884	7,153	15,383	57,826	51,649
Awareness resources	-	1,193	29	164	1,387	1,686
Survivor Care Support	-	1,788	-	-	1,788	1,742
Other	30	-	-	-	30	78
	8,363	35,688	8,222	16,561	68,834	63,157

### 4) Movement of funds

2025
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	31/12/2024	Incoming	Out goings	Transfers	31/12/2025
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General Fund	7,999	13,071	8,363	5,597	18,304
<b>Restricted</b>					
SAMS & Survivor Care & National Lotter	24,244	28,185	35,688	(2,191)	14,550
Chelmsford (CASP)	7,148	6,625	8,222	(694)	4,857
Colchester (CAMS)	14,589	24,938	16,561	(2,713)	20,253
	53,980	72,818	68,834	-	57,964

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

### Up to 31 December 2025

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#### 5) **Trustee Remuneration and benefits**

No Trustee received a salary or income from The Together Free Foundation in 2025.

6) <b><u>Staff Costs</u></b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Wages and salaries	57,826	51,650

During the year the Charity employed between 4-5 members of staff. All staff are on part time basis and various hours depending on grant funding.

#### 7) **Reserves policy**

Reserves will be maintained to ensure core activity can continue during any period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves will be maintained in a readily realisable form. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle. It considers:

- i. Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
- ii. Planned activity level
- iii. The charity's commitments

On this basis, and having reviewed the policy during the year, the Trustees believe that for 2025 a reserve equivalent to at least three months' running costs should be maintained. The reserves policy will be reviewed annually.