

# Windmills - Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One

England & Wales · Charity number 1187408

## Details

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Other names	WINDMILLS - ACUTE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN STAFFORDSHIRE, Windmills Charity
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2020-01-16
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address Windmills Charity  
Unit 1  
Campbell Road  
Stoke-On-Trent  
ST4 4DX

Phone 07765568062

Email [enquiries@windmillscharity.org](mailto:enquiries@windmillscharity.org)

Website [www.windmillscharity.org](http://www.windmillscharity.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** "TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN SOMEONE SIGNIFICANT IN THEIR LIFE IS DYING OR HAS DIED BY PROVIDING BESPOKE, FOCUSED AND SUPPORTIVE ACUTE BEREAVEMENT CARE.

**Activities:** To preserve and protect the physical, emotional and mental health of Children & Young People when someone significant in their life is dying or has died, by providing bespoke, focused and supportive acute bereavement care. Windmills differs from any other Child Bereavement Charity as it solely focuses on supporting Children (0-24 years) through the acute dying process and after death has occurred

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

## Geography

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- Staffordshire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-30	£103,268	£85,774	-	-
2024-03-30	£154,408	£145,881	-	-
2023-03-30	£64,579	£88,960	-	-
2022-03-30	£32,494	£14,247	-	-
2021-03-30	£24,703	£6,239	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Linda Forster Mrs		2025-04-06
Naomi Baxter		2026-06-01
Zoe Kasiya		2025-03-19

**Windmills - Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187408

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# Accounts

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**Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One**  
(Registered charity, number 1187408)  
**Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 March 2025**

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**Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One  
Trustees’ Annual Report  
for the year ended 30 March 2025**

**Full name** Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One

**Registered charity number** 1187408

**Principal address**

Unit 1  
Campbell Road Industrial Estate  
Campbell Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST4 4DX

**Trustees**

Lindsey Wilmer  
Nicola Wrench  
Emma Hine

**Bankers**

CAF

**Independent examiner**

Daryl Denson ACMA  
VAST  
The Dudson Centre  
Hope Street  
Hanley  
Stoke on Trent  
ST1 5DD

**Governance and management**

The charity is a CIO and operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**Aims and objectives**

To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of children and young people when someone significant in their life is dying or has died by providing bespoke, focused and supportive acute bereavement care.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

Windmills is a unique, pioneering, community-led, voluntary-sector organisation dedicated to providing free support to young people who are experiencing the anticipated loss of a loved one. Our specialist nurses help with breaking bad news, exploring disease progression to aid understanding, build cherished memories and find a positive path through life’s hardest moments. Each youngster is given the time, space and care that they need to explore the inevitable impact that death will bring to their lives. Whilst working with our youngsters we talk openly about their loved one and their plans that are no longer able to be fulfilled. We empower them to include the memory of their loved one into everyday conversations rather than waiting for permission or the spoken memory becoming too traumatic to hear. The family becomes united in their grief rather than it being the elephant in the room. This continued acknowledgement allows memories to be kept alive promoting positive grieving for the whole family not only immediately post death but ongoing for life.

## **Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One Trustees’ Annual Report for the year ended 30 March 2025**

### **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit (continued)**

Facing the sudden reality or news of the death of such a loved one can be deeply traumatic and disorientating for the surviving child. Often the response is a cauldron of confusions and emotions; anger, disbelief, guilt, anguish, withdrawal, detachment and numbing fears for all that is yet to come. Without expert and trusted care and support such responses can irrevocably scar and derail a young person’s life and outlook and negatively shape their relationships, not only with death itself, but with life and living, themselves, their family, and their friends and the wider community.

Windmills nurses will often be the first ones to share with a child the news about the death, or its imminence of a loved-one. Our specialist acute bereavement nurses provide caring, empathetic and expert support to each child through talking, by being there, by confronting the situation and sharing and working with each child through creative sessions, visits and memory making activities designed to help guide them through all the confusion and emotions that news of a loved-ones terminal diagnosis and death will inevitably bring.

We openly discuss death to aid understanding, promote exploration of death as a concept and normalise common emotions as it is experienced very individually, based on multiple factors such as culture, religion, prior experience, fear and uncertainty, to name but a few. As practicing registered nurses, we can assist with explaining a diagnosis or other medical terminology which may cloud understanding. This is fundamental going forward for our young people who will, due to age, educational needs, emotional intelligence - amongst other factors -struggle with the permanency of death.

Despite the lack of comprehensive government statistics on childhood bereavement, the rising mental health crises among young people are alarming. In 2017, the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) reported that suicide is the leading cause of death among young people in England and Wales, with bereavement identified as a significant theme. This underscores the critical role services like Windmills play in offering timely support and intervention.

### **Public Benefit**

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

### **Summary of the main achievements during the year**

At Windmills, our commitment to supporting children and young people extends beyond individual assistance; it encompasses a broad range of benefits that positively impact society.

The following highlights the keyways in which our services contributed to the wider community in the 2024/2025 period:

- **Creating and Preserving Memories for Grieving Young People:** Establishing and maintaining memories for bereaved young individuals is vital for their emotional health and aids in processing grief. It offers a means to connect with and honour the memory of the deceased, enabling them to articulate their feelings while fostering a sense of continuity. This approach can also provide validation and support throughout their grief journey.
- **Youth Advocacy:** Young individuals are given the opportunity to express their opinions and influence issues that matter to them, including personal life decisions when a terminal diagnosis has been given to a loved one and throughout the journey to death.

## **Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 30 March 2025**

### **Summary of the main achievements during the year (continued)**

- **Cultivating Coping Strategies:** Equipping young individuals with coping skills, problem-solving techniques, and emotional regulation methods can empower them to handle challenging situations and foster resilience - Facing the sudden reality or news of the death of such a loved one can be deeply traumatic and disorientating for the surviving child. Often the response is a cauldron of confusions and emotions; anger, disbelief, guilt, anguish, withdrawal, detachment and numbing fears for all that is yet to come. Without expert and trusted care and support such responses can irrevocably scar and derail a young person's life and outlook and negatively shape their relationships, not only with death itself, but with life and living, themselves, their family, and their friends and the wider community.
- **Encouraging proactive strategies within our local communities:** Communities can foster a more supportive and resilient atmosphere for young individuals, enabling them to flourish and achieve their fullest potential ensuring a smoother path into adulthood.
- **Encouraging trusted adults**—such as teachers and family members—to offer sensitive and compassionate assistance can help young people feel understood and supported.
- **Fostering relationships** - we have raised the charity's profile through proactive networking, partnerships with local businesses, and engagement with clinical teams.

Streamlined referral criteria to improve focus, efficiency and delivery of high-quality support for children and young people.

- **Creating better opportunities** – we are currently working across 85 schools in the area, in addition to supporting children referred through other channels such as hospitals, social services, and community organizations. By utilizing our marketing budget and strengthening collaborations with local authorities and hospitals, we anticipate further expanding our reach and support network. We are now actively seeking funding to implement our strategy for growth, including, appointing additional bereavement practitioners and a robust team of volunteers. With budget cuts across the NHS, we are experiencing increased numbers of the public, who are receiving a terminal diagnosis, within weeks of an initial diagnosis.

The impact of the Windmills service and care will not negate death's devastation in the lives and minds of those children who become victim to it, but it can manage and calm and, through building strong new memories, begin to pave the positive, fond pathway away from it. Our founding nurses see the impact of their work and approach with so many of their young, distressed charges. The gradual change from grieving despair to a new and managed fond remembrance and resilience of heart.

It is a service of care that changes young lives.

## **Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One Trustees’ Annual Report for the year ended 30 March 2025**

### **Other Information**

During the reporting period 2024-2025 we saw an expected decline in referrals – this was due to us actively streamlining our referral criteria to improve focus, efficiency and delivery of high-quality support for children and young people.

Having said that, to date, Windmills has successfully advocated for over five hundred children & young people to be able to make informed choices on how involved they wish to be with the death of a loved one. We have then successfully, supported them through a truly bespoke programme of care for weeks/months either before or after death, or both and whilst a loved one is taking their last breaths, surrounded by love, unity & compassion. Windmills thrive on working collaboratively with our charges and shape our service around them. We encourage their input and continue to grow in response to the needs of our beneficiaries. Our volunteers are those that have accessed our services previously along with a parent trustee. We are bringing communities together to grieve.

We feel incredibly lucky to have been nominated for several local awards, which is a testament to the impact we are making within our community. These nominations not only validate our efforts but also motivate us to continue striving for excellence in our service delivery. Furthermore, we have been fortunate to receive pro bono support from various service providers who recognise the value in what we do. This support has been invaluable in helping us enhance our operations and broaden our reach.

### **The charities’ structure**

Windmills Charity was founded by nurses Leeanne Clay and Zara Toussaint who currently provide services to children and families on a voluntary part-time basis as Acute Bereavement Practitioners. Both continue to work as nurses currently and it is their vision to transition full-time to the work of Windmills Charity to provide a 24-hour service as death does not occur within the confines of normal working hours.

Both are members of Support Staffordshire and The Childhood Bereavement Network and regulated through the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Leeanne and Zara are supported by a part-time administrator responsible for managing requests for support, scheduling bereavement support sessions, assisting with fundraising efforts and daily administrative tasks. This role is PAYE at national minimum wage and invaluable during the days where both co-founders/ bereavement practitioners are unavailable due to fulfilling their employed nursing roles.

Most decisions are agreed by both founders and trustees; however, some service delivery decisions are made by both co-founders only on a day-to-day basis as they arise. This is always explained and justified to all trustees through messaging platforms, verbally or at regularly planned meetings, either at the time or in retrospect.

### **Review of the financial position**

Restricted funds used within time frame and for the purpose that it was granted. Use of unrestricted funds has directly benefited the service user for the purpose that which the charity was founded.

**Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One  
Trustees’ Annual Report  
for the year ended 30 March 2025**

**Principal Funding Source**

Our principal source of funding is from fundraising – both applications to trust & grants and community activities/legacy donations.

70-80% of expenditure supports the key objectives of our charity.

**The charity’s policy on reserves**

As Windmills are unique and to ensure continuous service delivery, we aim to reserve a minimum of 1 month and no more than 3 months’ worth of funds to cover costs.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees:

Signed *Leeanne Clay* Date 20/01/2026

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One  
for the year ended 30 March 2025**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 30 March 2025 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in Staffordshire, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in Staffordshire 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.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in Staffordshire as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

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.

Signed  Date 21/01/2026  
Daryl Denson ACMA  
VAST

**Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One**  
**Receipts & Payments Account**  
**for the year ended 30 March 2025**

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Note</b>				
Donations		30,338	-	30,338	21,283
Fundraising		4,919	-	4,919	13,117
Gift Aid		685	-	685	7,488
Grant	3	12,383	52,978	65,361	111,988
Bank Interest		68	-	68	55
Car Sale		295	-	295	-
Sundries		1,602	-	1,602	477
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>50,290</u>	<u>52,978</u>	<u>103,268</u>	<u>154,408</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Accountancy		874	-	874	-
Bank fees		60	-	60	65
Business Rates		175	-	175	179
Car/Travel		6,555	-	6,555	7,816
Craft Supplies		151	-	151	847
Days Out Memory making		256	-	256	3,463
Event Costs		15,002	-	15,002	185
Fundraising		607	-	607	2,591
Insurance		1,239	-	1,239	1,840
Licences and memberships		72	-	72	107
Repairs & Maintenance		1,265	-	1,265	-
Office costs		251	-	251	953
Phone & Internet		627	-	627	502
Professional costs		6,465	-	6,465	33,289
Promotion		280	-	280	-
Refreshments		1,030	-	1,030	868
Rent		-	-	-	5,500
Repayment		124	-	124	-
Sundries		695	-	695	887
Trustee meeting		175	-	175	95
Utilities		100	-	100	100
Volunteer costs		-	-	-	529
Equipment		2,861	-	2,861	-
Pension		5,380	-	5,380	-
Wages		41,530	-	41,530	86,065
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>85,774</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,774</u>	<u>145,881</u>
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>		<b>(35,484)</b>	<b>52,978</b>	<b>17,494</b>	<b>8,527</b>
Cash funds at start of this period		(4,990)	21,630	16,640	8,113
Transfers between funds		40,474	(40,474)	-	-
<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>34,134</u>	<u>34,134</u>	<u>16,640</u>

**Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
**at 30 March 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Cash Assets</b>		
Bank accounts	34,134	16,640
	<u>34,134</u>	<u>16,640</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed           *Lecanne Clay*          

Dated 20/01/2026

**Windmills – Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 30 March 2025**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context “cash” includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due. For the purposes of understanding a statement of assets and liabilities at the year-end has been included.

**2. Trustees’ remuneration**

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this year.

**3. Restricted grants**

Crowdfunder - £1,967

Tesco Stronger Starts - £1,125

JD Foundation - £2,500

Noel Sweeney - £10,000

Postcode Lottery - £21,000

29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust - £4,000

Prince Of Wales Trust - £2,500

Co – op Local Causes - £2,154

Albert Hunt Trust - £5,000

Bentilee Community Foundation - £750

Arnold Clarke - £500

Electrical Lighting Grant - £1,482

**Windmills - Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187408

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# Accounts

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**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire**

(Registered charity, number 1187408)

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 March 2024**

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**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Trustees' Annual Report  
for the year ended 30 March 2024**

**Full name** Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in Staffordshire

**Registered charity number** 1187408

**Principal address**

62, Windermere Road  
Clayton  
Newcastle-Under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 3HN

**Trustees**

Lindsey Wilmer  
Nicola Wrench  
Emma Hine

**Bankers**

CAF

**Independent examiner**

Daryl Denson ACMA  
VAST  
The Dudson Centre  
Hope Street  
Hanley  
Stoke on Trent  
ST1 5DD

**Governance and management**

The charity is a CIO and operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**Aims and objectives**

To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of children and young people when someone significant in their life is dying or has died by providing bespoke, focused and supportive acute bereavement care.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

Windmills is a registered charity that provides direct specialist bereavement care and support for children and young people who are experiencing severe emotional distress at the impending death of a loved-one, or someone very close, or who are struggling to understand or manage their grieving after such a death.

This might be the sudden, often unexpected death of a sibling, parent, or friend, or of a limited-life diagnosis of a loved-one due to a terminal illness. There are no other specialist acute bereavement services available in the Staffordshire region (either charity or NHS) that provide the direct caring service and memory making therapies that are unique to Windmills.

Families can often feel uncomfortable talking about death with their children and the subject can become taboo, leaving the child even more confused and uninformed. This lack of communication with the child can be the opposite of what's best for them, not talking about important issues and events can be more harmful than talking about them. For sensitive, vulnerable, and confused children the impacts and emotional response to death can become even more devastating because of this lack of information, understanding and preparation.

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)  
for the year ended 30 March 2024**

When children are excluded from such difficult conversations they will begin to shape and imagine all manner of misinterpretations and unfounded thoughts as to why the death occurred or why it is happening - often these misconceptions can result in the child thinking that it was their fault because "they were" bad.

Facing the sudden reality or news of the death of such a loved one can be deeply traumatic and disorientating for the surviving child. Often the response is a cauldron of confusions and emotions; anger, disbelief, guilt, anguish, withdrawal, detachment and numbing fears for all that is yet to come. Without expert and trusted care and support such responses can irrevocably scar and derail a young person's life and outlook and negatively shape their relationships, not only with death itself, but with life and living, themselves, their family, and their friends and the wider community.

**Public Benefit**

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

**Summary of the main achievements during the year**

At Windmills, our commitment to supporting children and young people extends beyond individual assistance; it encompasses a broad range of benefits that positively impact society as a whole. The following highlights the keyways in which our services contributed to the wider community in the 2023/2024 period:

**1. Group Education at Schools and Colleges**

We provided educational programs designed to help students understand and navigate grief, emotional health, and coping strategies. By equipping young people with knowledge and skills to manage their feelings, we foster resilience, empathy, and healthier emotional responses in their academic and social environments.

**2. Ripple Effect of Child Support**

The support we provide to children creates a ripple effect that positively influences their families and friends. When children feel supported and understood, it not only aids their emotional development but also enhances family dynamics and encourages healthier relationships within their social circles. This nurturing environment promotes overall community well-being.

**3. Advocate for Children and Young People**

We are dedicated to advocating for the rights and needs of children and young people who may not have a voice. Our advocacy work ensures that their concerns are addressed, fostering a more inclusive and supportive community that values the perspectives and experiences of its younger members.

**4. Changing Perceptions**

Through our educational efforts and outreach, we strive to change negative perceptions held by schools regarding children's behavioural and emotional responses to grief. By informing educators about the anticipated reactions to loss and living grief, we work to build a more compassionate understanding within educational environments, reducing stigma and promoting acceptance.

**5. Filling Gaps in Service**

Many schools face limited resources when it comes to addressing the emotional and psychological needs of their students. Windmills Charity fills this gap by offering accessible and free services to all their schools. Our presence ensures that children receive the support they need, irrespective of their school's resources, thus making a significant difference in their educational experience.

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)  
for the year ended 30 March 2024**

**6. Research and Awareness**

We are actively engaged in research regarding critical issues, such as suicide rates among adults who experience bereavement as children and the links between youth offending and the death of a significant person in their lives. By conducting and sharing this research, we aim to raise awareness and inform policy decisions that could lead to better support systems for affected individuals and families. Our research helps highlight the long-term impacts of childhood grief and the necessary for appropriate interventions.

The benefits provided by Windmills Charity not only enhance the lives of individual children and young people but also contribute to creating a more compassionate, informed, and supportive society. Through education, advocacy, and accessible services, we are dedicated to fostering healthier communities that recognize and address the complexities of grief and emotional well-being.

Windmills Charity has experienced a significant surge in demand for its services during the 2023-2024 period. This increase in referrals is a result of a diverse range of sources, including hospices, schools, mental health services, and local social support networks. The growing need for assistance underscores the importance of our mission and these essential services we provide to the community.

During the reporting period, referrals to Windmills Charity have risen by an impressive 140%. This exponential growth reflects our expanding reach and the heightened awareness of the support we offer. The variety of referral sources highlights our collaborative approach to community engagement and the recognition of our services across different sectors.

In response to the increased demand for our services, Windmills Charity has employed a part time, permanent staff member. This strategic decision has substantially enhanced our operational capacity, allowing our two main volunteers and co-founders to concentrate more effectively on delivering direct services to those in need. By delegating administrative tasks to the new staff member, we have streamlined our operations and optimised our service delivery.

Furthermore, for a crucial period of 3-6 months, we were able to fund one of our co-founder to work full-time on the organisation. This initiative yielded profound results, providing the necessary time to focus on managing referrals, networking, and expanding our community of support. Collaborating with other local charities and similar organisations in the sector has been instrumental in building a strong network that enhance our service offerings.

**Performance of Fundraising Objectives**

During this period, Windmills Charity dedicated substantial efforts to developing Trust and Grant applications. Our commitment to securing funding paid off remarkably, with successful applications bringing in a total of approximately £120,000. Notable successes include:

- £24,910 from the Postcode Lottery, which will be instrumental in supporting our core services
- £15,000 from the David Riddell Memorial Grant, which will enable us to expand our reach and support more beneficiaries
- £19,000 via the ICCM's scheme, which will be used to enhance our programme and services

These funds are vital for sustaining our operations, expanding our services, and ensuring we can meet the growing demand.

In addition to these grants, our Community Fundraising income has significantly increased. Many local business connections and families that we support have stepped up to raise funds for us in various creative ways. This grassroots support reflects a growing recognition of our work and the desire within the community to contribute to our mission. The impact of this community engagement has strengthened our funding base and further solidified our presence in the region.

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)  
for the year ended 30 March 2024**

**Other Information**

We feel incredibly lucky to have been nominated for several local awards, which is a testament to the impact we are making within our community. These nominations not only validate our efforts but also motivate us to continue striving for excellence in our service delivery. Furthermore, we have been fortunate to receive pro bono support from various service providers who recognise the value in what we do. This support has been invaluable in helping us enhance our operations and broaden our reach.

Our strong Trustee team has played a crucial role in our success. Their unwavering support of our mission and goals has been instrumental in guiding our strategic direction and ensuring we remain focused on our objectives. Recognising the invaluable role of all of our volunteers, we have continued to develop our volunteer offering throughout 2023-2024. This area of focus will remain a priority for the upcoming 2024-2025 period. By strengthening our volunteer programme, we aim to build a robust team that can further enhance the support we provide to our beneficiaries.

As we move into 2024-2025, Windmills Charity is committed to addressing the increasing demand for our services while prioritising the development of our volunteer base. We will continue to leverage our network, apply for grants, and seek collaborative opportunities that align with our mission. With the ongoing support of our community and dedicated staff, we are optimistic about our ability to meet the needs of those we serve and expand our impact in the region.

In conclusion, Windmills Charity's achievements over the past year—marked by increased demand, strategic staffing changes, successful fundraising efforts, community recognition, and a strong Trustee team—have strengthened our foundation and enhanced our ability to serve our community effectively. We are excited about the future and the opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to expand our services and support for those in need.

**The charities' structure**

Windmills Charity was founded by nurses Leeanne Clay and Zara Toussaint who currently provide services to children and families on a voluntary part-time basis as Acute Bereavement Practitioners. Both continue to work as nurses currently and it is their vision to transition full-time to the work of Windmills Charity in order to provide a 24-hour service as death does not occur within the confines of normal working hours.

Both are members of Support Staffordshire and The Childhood Bereavement Network and regulated through the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Leeanne and Zara are supported by a part-time administrator responsible for managing requests for support, scheduling bereavement support sessions, assisting with fundraising efforts and daily administrative tasks. This role is PAYE at national minimum wage and invaluable during the days where both co-founders/bereavement practitioners are unavailable due to fulfilling their employed nursing roles.

Most decisions are agreed by both founders and trustees; however, some service delivery decisions are made by both co-founders only on a day-to-day basis as they arise. This is always explained and justified to all trustees through messaging platforms, verbally or at regularly planned meetings, either at the time or in retrospect.



**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
for the year ended 30 March 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 30 March 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in Staffordshire, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in Staffordshire 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.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

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.

Signed



Date 30/01/2025

Daryl Denson ACMA  
VAST

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Receipts & Payments Account  
for the year ended 30 March 2024**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total £</b>	<b>2023 Total £</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations	20,338	945	21,283	13,677
Fundraising	8,263	4,854	13,117	20,612
Gift Aid	7,488	-	7,488	-
Grant	28,328	83,660	111,988	30,250
Bank Interest	55	-	55	40
Sundries	477	-	477	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>64,949</u>	<u>89,459</u>	<u>154,408</u>	<u>64,579</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Accountancy	-	-	-	612
Bank fees	65	-	65	126
Business Rates	179	-	179	-
Car/Travel	3,763	4,053	7,816	12,285
Craft Supplies	54	793	847	1,468
Days Out Memory making	189	3,274	3,463	4,471
Event Costs	-	185	185	-
Fundraising	2,591	-	2,591	15,018
Insurance	1,663	177	1,840	350
Licences and memberships	107	-	107	120
Office costs	467	486	953	2,077
Phone & Internet	502	-	502	547
Professional costs	3,613	29,676	33,289	4,463
Promotion	-	-	-	332
Refreshments	610	258	868	219
Rent	5,500	-	5,500	5,100
Repayment	-	-	-	854
Sundries	445	442	887	222
Trustee meeting	95	-	95	98
Utilities	-	100	100	380
Volunteer costs	317	212	529	672
Wages	49,863	36,202	86,065	39,546
<b>Total payments</b>	<u>70,023</u>	<u>39,344</u>	<u>145,881</u>	<u>88,960</u>
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(5,074)</b>	<b>50,115</b>	<b>8527</b>	<b>(24,381)</b>
Cash funds at start of this period	84	8,029	8,113	32,494
<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<u>- 4,990</u>	<u>58,144</u>	<u>16,640</u>	<u>8,113</u>

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Statement of Assets and Liabilities  
at 30 March 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Cash Assets</b>		
Bank accounts	16,640	8,113
	<u>16,640</u>	<u>8,113</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed     *NW*    

Dated 30/01/2025

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Notes to the Accounts  
for the year ended 30 March 2024**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context “cash” includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due. For the purposes of understanding a statement of assets and liabilities at the year-end has been included.

**2. Trustees’ remuneration**

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this year.

**Windmills - Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187408

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# Accounts

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**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire**

(Registered charity, number 1187408)

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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6	Independent examiner's report
7	Receipts & Payments Account
8	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
9	Notes to the Accounts

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Trustees' Annual Report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Full name** Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire

**Registered charity number** 1187408

**Principal address**

62, Windermere Road,  
Clayton,  
Newcastle-Under-Lyme,  
Staffordshire.  
STS 3HN

**Trustees**

Lindsey Wilmer	
Scott Buckley	(resigned June 2023)
Helen McNicol Buckley	(resigned June 2023)
Nicola Wrench	
Emma Hine	(appointed July 2023)

**Bankers**

CAF

**Independent examiner**

Daryl Denson ACMA  
VAST  
The Dudson Centre  
Hope Street  
Hanley  
Stoke on Trent  
ST1 5DD

**Governance and management**

The charity is a CIO and operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**Aims and objectives**

To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of children and young people when someone significant in their life is dying or has died by providing bespoke, focused and supportive acute bereavement care.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

Windmills is a registered charity that provides direct specialist bereavement care and support for children and young people who are experiencing severe emotional distress at the impending death of a loved-one, or someone very close, or who are struggling to understand or manage their grieving after such a death.

This might be the sudden, often unexpected death of a sibling, parent, or friend, or of a limited-life diagnosis of a loved-one due to a terminal illness. There are no other specialist acute bereavement services available in the Staffordshire region (either charity or NHS) that provide the direct caring service and memory making therapies that are unique to Windmills.

Families can often feel uncomfortable talking about death with their children and the subject can become taboo, leaving the child even more confused and uninformed. This lack of communication with the child can be the opposite of what's best for them, not talking about important issues and events can be more harmful than talking about them. For sensitive, vulnerable, and confused children the impacts and emotional response to death can become even more devastating because of this lack of information, understanding and preparation.

## **Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2023**

When children are excluded from such difficult conversations they will begin to shape and imagine all manner of misinterpretations and unfounded thoughts as to why the death occurred or why it is happening - often these misconceptions can result in the child thinking that it was their fault because "they were" bad.

Facing the sudden reality or news of the death of such a loved one can be deeply traumatic and disorientating for the surviving child. Often the response is a cauldron of confusions and emotions; anger, disbelief, guilt, anguish, withdrawal, detachment and numbing fears for all that is yet to come. Without expert and trusted care and support such responses can irrevocably scar and derail a young person's life and outlook and negatively shape their relationships, not only with death itself, but with life and living, themselves, their family, and their friends and the wider community.

#### **Public Benefit**

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

#### **Summary of the main achievements during the year**

Since it started, demand for Windmills services has grown dramatically. In 2021 we supported 28 children, in 2022, 121 and by Dec 2023 we have already received 290 referrals. The local need for our unique service is demonstrated by ever increasing referral numbers from professionals recognising the value of our work.

The impact of the Windmills service and care will not negate death's devastation in the lives and minds of those children who become victim to it, but it can manage and calm and, through building strong new memories, begin to pave the positive, fond pathway away from it.

Our founding nurses see the impact of their work and approach with so many of their young, distressed charges. The gradual change from grieving despair to a new and managed fond remembrance and resilience of heart. It is a service of care that changes young lives. It also has a profound impact on the families of our young beneficiaries. As a father said, *'Windmills were there for Sienna and I at the most vulnerable time any parent or child of 4 can imagine. Windmills are the 'bridge'. They can't numb the pain; they can't make things 'go away'. They can't help with what has happened and they can't help you with the rest of your life and how to navigate being the author of what happens next. What they can do is offer someone at their most desperate time, a little bridge between the two. A way to step from despair to having a little structure back in your life to enable you to start the process to rebuild.'*

#### **Case Study**

Lily, Bobbie and Louis were introduced to Windmills following a referral from a local hospice. Their Mummy, Sarah, had recently received a terminal diagnosis of stage 4 metastatic cancer. Sarah's diagnosis came 21 weeks into her pregnancy with baby Louis. She managed to get to 30 weeks' gestation and then had to deliver Louis in order to start treatment. Sarah underwent both chemo and radiotherapy and then received the good news that she was cancer-free. Buall came crashing down when it was soon discovered her cancer had not gone away and had in fact spread.

The family faced the painful task of telling Lily (8) and Bobbie (10) that Mummy was going to die. Windmills Charity stepped in to support the family and help the children understand what was happening around them. Bobbie began to display anger towards Mum, hitting out and saying mean things to her. Both Lily and Bobbie were also shying away from Mum and were spending more and more time in their bedrooms. Their lives had changed so much and so quickly. Sarah moved back in with her mum -who was her main carer-and the children stayed with their stepdad at home. This left the children feeling resentful, sad, angry and confused.

They had suddenly been thrown into a world of adult emotions yet only had the cognitive ability of children their age to process these thoughts and feelings. Leeanne and Zara from Windmills

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

began weekly sessions with Lily and Bobbie, building trust and getting to know each other. They explored their feelings and were able to break down why Mum was dying, what this meant for them and what was making them so angry at Mum. Windmills helped the children make galaxy glitter bottles to help them sleep at night and stress balls to use when they were angry. They had great fun doing this and made a big mess which the kiddies loved!!

After only 2-3 weeks Bobbie settled down and stopped hitting out at Mum. Leeanne and Zara had worked hard to help him make sense of Sarah's illness and to reassure him it wasn't his fault or his mum's fault (which is what he initially thought). It was lovely to see him happier and more confident around his mum too. The sessions were fun, interactive but short as Bobbie would get very easily distracted. We revisited themes regularly and positively reinforced how special the time they had left was going to be and we helped them make the most of that time building memories with Mum and the whole family.

Towards the end of Sarah's illness, Leeanne and Zara would spend time with the children around her bed, playing board games, top trumps and painting -such simple things but so heart-warming to see the smiles and hear the laughter of them altogether. Sarah was very confused at times and came out with some random comments which had the kids in hysterics!

Previously they had been scared of her outbursts but with our help they realised that this was "just Mum" now and it was nothing to be frightened about.

The week before Sarah died, Bobbie told us he was "ready for Mum to die now". He had made sense of things and could see she was suffering and in pain. Even though he was going to be heartbroken when Mum eventually passed away, this showed just how important it is to prepare children prior to death, helping them process information and emotions and allowing them to enjoy the time they get to spend with their loved one right up until the end.

**The charities structure**

Windmills Charity was founded by nurses Leeanne Clay and Zara Toussaint who currently provide services to children and families on a voluntary part-time basis as Acute Bereavement Practitioners. Both continue to work as nurses currently and it is their vision to transition full-time to the work of Windmills Charity in order to provide a 24-hour service as death does not occur within the confines of normal working hours.

Both are members of Support Staffordshire and The Childhood Bereavement Network and regulated through the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Leeanne and Zara are supported by a part-time administrator responsible for managing requests for support, scheduling bereavement support sessions, assisting with fundraising efforts and daily administrative tasks. This role is PAYE at national minimum wage and invaluable during the days where both co-founders/bereavement practitioners are unavailable due to fulfilling their employed nursing roles.

Most decisions are agreed by both founders and trustees, however some service delivery decisions are made by both co-founders only on a day to day basis as they arise. This is always explained and justified to all trustees through messaging platforms, verbally or at regularly planned meetings, either at the time or in retrospect.

**Review of the financial position**

Restricted funds used within time frame and for the purpose that it was granted. Use of unrestricted funds has directly benefited the service user for the purpose that which the charity was founded.

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**The charity's policy on reserves**

Formal policy details yet to be finalised however a reserve amount would benefit the community in that service provision can continue given the unique support which Windmills provides.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed  Z Toussaint (Jan 26, 2024 17:13 GMT) Date Jan 26, 2024

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


I report in respect of my examination of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire 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.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

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.

Signed  Date Jan 26, 2024  
Daryl Denson ACMA  
VAST

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Receipts & Payments Account  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations	12,677	1,000	13,677	22,933
Fundraising	14,653	5,959	20,612	4,345
Grant	12,500	17,750	30,250	-
Bank Interest	40	-	40	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>39,870</u>	<u>24,709</u>	<u>64,579</u>	<u>27,278</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Accountancy	612	-	612	70
Bank fees	126	-	126	131
Car/Travel	12,285	-	12,285	-
Craft Supplies	259	1,209	1,468	709
Days Out Memory making	917	3,554	4,471	2,914
Fundraising	512	14,506	15,018	1,443
Insurance	350	-	350	-
Licences and memberships	120	-	120	-
Office costs	1,475	603	2,077	657
Phone & Internet	547	-	547	-
Professional costs	4,463	-	4,463	2,818
Promotion	332	-	332	-
Refreshments	219	-	219	-
Rent	5,100	-	5,100	4,200
Repayment	854	-	854	670
Sundries	193	29	222	-
Trustee meeting	98	-	98	-
Utilities	380	-	380	635
Volunteer costs	672	-	672	-
Wages	39,546	-	39,546	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<u>69,060</u>	<u>19,900</u>	<u>88,960</u>	<u>14,247</u>
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(29,190)</b>	<b>4,809</b>	<b>(24,381)</b>	<b>13,031</b>
Cash funds at start of this period	<u>29,274</u>	<u>3,220</u>	<u>32,494</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<u>84</u>	<u>8,029</u>	<u>8,113</u>	<u>13,031</u>

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Statement of Assets and Liabilities  
at 31 March 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
<b>Cash Assets</b>		
Bank accounts	8,113	32,494
	8,113	32,494

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed   
[Z Toussaint \(Jan 26, 2024 17:13 GMT\)](#)

Dated Jan 26, 2024

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in  
Staffordshire  
Notes to the Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context “cash” includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due. For the purposes of understanding a statement of assets and liabilities at the year-end has been included.

**2. Trustees’ remuneration**

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this year.










# Windmills Accounts 2023

Final Audit Report

2024-01-26

Created:	2024-01-26
By:	VAST Accounts (accounts@vast.org.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAYoPdkMK4v9_r4poHmUac5sNBzcQ39dX-

## "Windmills Accounts 2023" History

-  Document created by VAST Accounts (accounts@vast.org.uk)  
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-  Document emailed to windmills2019@gmail.com for signature  
2024-01-26 - 16:44:21 GMT
-  Email viewed by windmills2019@gmail.com  
2024-01-26 - 17:07:30 GMT - IP address: 142.250.32.6
-  Signer windmills2019@gmail.com entered name at signing as Z Toussaint  
2024-01-26 - 17:13:34 GMT - IP address: 89.240.215.223
-  Document e-signed by Z Toussaint (windmills2019@gmail.com)  
Signature Date: 2024-01-26 - 17:13:36 GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 89.240.215.223
-  Document emailed to Daryl Denson (daryl.denson@vast.org.uk) for signature  
2024-01-26 - 17:13:38 GMT
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-  Document e-signed by Daryl Denson (daryl.denson@vast.org.uk)  
Signature Date: 2024-01-26 - 17:24:21 GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 82.31.1.14
-  Agreement completed.  
2024-01-26 - 17:24:21 GMT

**Windmills - Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187408

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# Accounts

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## **Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People In Staffordshire**

**Registered Charity Number: 1187408**

**Registered Address: 62, Windermere Road, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire. ST5 3HN.**

### **Annual Trustee Report**

Trustees: Lindsey Wilmer, Scott Buckley, Helen McNicol-Buckley

### **Structure & Management including recruitment of Trustees**

Founding Members: Zara Toussaint, Leeanne Clay & above stated Trustees.

#### **(2) Eligibility for trusteeship**

(a) Every charity trustee must be a natural person.

(b) No individual may be appointed as a charity trustee of the CIO:

- if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
- if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause 12(1)(e).

(c) No one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the charity trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of charity trustee.

(d) At least one of the trustees of the CIO must be 18 years of age or over. If there is no trustee aged at least 18 years, the remaining trustees may only act to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

#### **(3) Number of charity trustees**

(a) There must be at least three charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

(b) The maximum number of charity trustees is five. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result, the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

#### **(4) First charity trustees**

The first charity trustees are as follows and are appointed for the following terms –

.....Lindsey Ann Wilmer..... for 4 years  
.....Scott Ian Buckley..... for 3 years  
.....Helen Isobel McNicol-Buckley..... for 2 years

#### **10. Appointment of charity trustees**

(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

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

Above copied from the Charity's constitution.

Day to day management by founding members with key decisions agreed by all Trustees both formally & informally.

#### **Activities and objectives to include achievements & performance in relation to public benefit.**

Windmills differs from other child bereavement charities as it is not a counselling service. Rather, we focus solely on supporting the children and young people through the acute dying process and during the months following the death of someone significant in their lives. The focus of our support is helping the child or young person to understand death and its permanency, whilst also making positive memories for them.

Our Specialist Acute Bereavement Practitioners provide 24-hour support to children and young people during the final days leading up to a loved one's death – this may be at a home, hospice or hospital. They have the skills and confidence to speak directly with the child or young person about death and dying and will break the news that death will occur. They also support other adults in the family to know how to include children and young people in the dying/death process. They help them explain what is happening in an age-appropriate way, whilst being on hand to support them. Whilst our focus is on helping children and young people understand and process the death of someone significant in their lives, our support encompasses the whole family. We support and equip parents and other adults in the family with tools and ways of communicating with children about death and dying. Our work creating Memory Boxes also gives adults a communication tool to start conversations with their children.

We equip parents with age-appropriate bereavement books for their children allowing them to observe their child's grieving process and open doors to talking about their loss. Parents or other caregivers feel far more comfortable talking to children about their lost loved one when they can see the joy of a memory which the child holds so dearly. The family gradually becomes united in their grief rather than it dividing families by "being the elephant in the room.". This allows memories to be kept alive and promotes positive grieving for the whole family not only immediately post death but ongoing, such as on special anniversaries.

Following the death, we continue our support for a few months depending on individual needs. In addition to making Memory Boxes, we also work with children through arts and crafts to reduce anxiety or to aid focus and relaxation. During this time, we also liaise, where appropriate, with other professionals and organisations that may be part of the child's overall care and support network, such as school/college/university, GP, social services and hospice/healthcare.

### **Governance**

Priority was given to ensuring Windmills met governance procedures with policies written to include, safeguarding, equal opportunities, data protection and lone working to mention a few.

Windmills are also members of Child Bereavement Network & Support Staffordshire.

Both founding members are, as registered Nurses, governed by the Nursing & Midwifery Council.

### **Funding/finance**

We did employ a bid writer for a fixed term and currently have a fundraising company working on a pro bono basis for us.

Multiple bids entered and we have been successful in some of these.

We are holding our first Windmills Charity Ball in Sept 2022

As a point of note Windmills does not have any debts, liabilities, assets or funds held as a custodian trustee.

Items of office furniture were donated free of charge.

## Exploring Service Level Agreements with local Hospices

### **Promoting Windmills**

Website relaunched

Social media - regular posts

Still participate in developing strategies for Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent Bereavement Network

Information shared with key departments within the local NHS trust

Direct communication from local Hospices which resulted in referrals into Windmills.

We have not yet taken any other volunteers who will be interacting with our families as yet but will ensure a robust screening and interview process once our volunteer programme is established.

### **Referrals**

Anyone can refer into Windmills and we provide a 24/7 service.

Intervention varies from client to client as we provide bespoke, focused and supportive acute bereavement care.

Unfortunately, it is certain that we will all experience death at least once in our lives. Our little people and youngsters deserve to not only understand what death is and means but also to learn that it is normal to experience a range of emotions. We use crafts to reinforce existing memories whilst building new ones so that death and grief is not perceived to be a traumatic event, never to be spoken of.

Memory making is a key part of what we do during the first few sessions with our families – when someone dies, we all worry that we will lose our memories of our loved one - this is no different for a child or young person. By gathering and saving special memories in a memory box, a child/young person can go back into the box and reconnect with those memories - happy or sad - when they are ready.

While we are making the memory boxes with children/young people we talk about what their loved one may have liked, and us being able to talk about the one they have lost and to say their name confidently means they can too. This continued acknowledgement allows memories to be kept alive and hopefully helps them move forward.

All the conversations we have whilst making memories/doing crafts, verbal or not, allows for loved ones to be thought about in a safe space. They can open up about things without having to make eye contact - it's often easier for them to be honest that way.

Part of our role is supporting schools. We receive many requests from schools regarding how to even broach the subject of death and loss with their pupils. Many struggle with knowing how to support and what to say and are extremely grateful when Windmills attends to provide 1:1 support to a child or young person. We desperately need to actively empower school faculty to open conversations around death and dying whilst providing support through education and normalising bereavement for the benefit of their pupils. We hope to deliver sessions in person to both the school faculty and pupils whilst also providing written resources and quite possibly electronic resources.

In relation to our contingency plan in the event we become over capacity we offer phone support at the bare minimum with the aim to do a face to face meeting (if required) as soon as possible.

Demand for our service has skyrocketed this last year and continues to do so - we had 6 referrals in 2020, 48 in 2021 and 120 in 2022.

### **Public benefit case study**

**We first met Lily, Bobbie and Louis following a referral from a local hospice. Their Mummy, Sarah, had recently received a terminal diagnosis of stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. Sarah's diagnosis came 21 weeks into her pregnancy with baby Louis. She managed to get to 30 weeks' gestation and then had to deliver Louis in order to start treatment.**

**Sarah underwent both chemo and radiotherapy and then received the good news that she was cancer-free.**

**But all came crashing down when it was soon discovered her cancer had not gone away and had in fact spread.**

The family faced the painful task of telling Lily (8) and Bobbie (10) that Mummy was going to die.

Windmills Charity stepped in to support the family and help the children understand what was happening around them. Bobbie began to display anger towards Mum, hitting out and saying mean things to her. Both Lily and Bobbie were also shying away from Mum and were spending more and more time in their bedrooms.

Their lives had changed so much and so quickly. Sarah moved back in with her mum - who was her main carer - and the children stayed with their stepdad at home. This left the children feeling resentful, sad, angry and confused. They had suddenly been thrown into a world of adult emotions yet only had the cognitive ability of children their age to process these thoughts and feelings.

Leeanne and Zara from Windmills began weekly sessions with Lily and Bobbie, building trust and getting to know each other. They explored their feelings and were able to break down why Mum was dying, what this meant for them and what was making them so angry at Mum. Windmills helped the children make galaxy glitter bottles to help them sleep at night and stress balls to use when they were angry. They had great fun doing this and made a big mess which the kiddies loved!!

After only 2-3 weeks Bobbie settled down and stopped hitting out at Mum. Leeanne and Zara had worked hard to help him make sense of Sarah's illness and to reassure him it wasn't his fault or his mum's fault (which is what he initially thought). It was lovely to see him happier and more confident around his mum too. The sessions were fun, interactive but short as Bobbie would get very easily distracted. We revisited themes regularly and positively reinforced how special the time they had left was going to be and we helped them make the most of that time building memories with Mum and the whole family.

Towards the end of Sarah's illness, Leeanne and Zara would spend time with the children around her bed, playing board games, top trumps and painting - such simple things but so heart-warming to see the smiles and hear the laughter of them altogether. Sarah was very confused at times and came out with some random comments which had the kids in hysterics! Previously they had been scared of her outbursts but with our help

**they realised that this was “just Mum” now and it was nothing to be frightened about.**

**The week before Sarah died, Bobbie told us he was “ready for Mum to die now”. He had made sense of things and could see she was suffering and in pain. Even though he was going to be heartbroken when Mum eventually died, this showed just how important it is to prepare children prior to death, helping them process information and emotions and allowing them to enjoy the time they get to spend with their loved one right up until the end.**



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2021	To	Period end date 31/03/2022
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Fundraising	-	4,345	-	4,345	-
Donations	22,933	-	-	22,933	24,703
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>22,933</b>	<b>4,345</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,278</b>	<b>24,703</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>22,933</b>	<b>4,345</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,278</b>	<b>24,703</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Fundraising activities	1,333	111	-	1,443	-
Days out and memory making	-	2,914	-	2,914	1,969
Craft supplies	-	709	-	709	-
Rent	4,200	-	-	4,200	2,190
Utilities	635	-	-	635	62
Office sundries	657	-	-	657	252
Bid writer services	2,818	-	-	2,818	-
travel	-	-	-	-	600
Professional costs	70	-	-	70	-
Repayment to L C	670	-	-	670	-
Bank charges	131	-	-	131	34
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>10,513</b>	<b>3,733</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,247</b>	<b>5,107</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
IT equipment	-	-	-	-	1,132
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,132</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>10,513</b>	<b>3,733</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,247</b>	<b>6,239</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>12,420</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,031</b>	<b>18,464</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,854	2,609	-	19,463	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>29,274</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,494</b>	<b>18,464</b>

**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	Bank	29,234	3,220	-
	Petty cash	40	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>29,274</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>-</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				

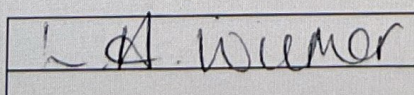
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	IT equipment		1,132	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	LC initial funding		626	31/12/2022
	ZT initial funding		849	31/12/2022
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Lindsay Ann Wilmer	18-1-23



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Windmills – Acute Bereavement Support for Children and Young People in  
Staffordshire

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 March 2022

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1187408

**Set out on pages**

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2022**.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

**Signed:** 

**Date:** 16/1/2023

**Name:** Jo Clarkson on behalf of Davenport Accountants Ltd

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

**Address:**

Yew Tree Cottage,  
Bowers, Staffordshire  
ST21 6RW

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.**

**Windmills - Preparing Youngsters For The Death Of A Loved One**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187408

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# Accounts

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## **Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support for Children & Young People In Staffordshire**

**Registered Charity Number: 1187408**

**Registered Address: 62, Windermere Road, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire. ST5 3HN.**

### **Annual Trustee Report**

Trustees: Lindsey Wilmer, Scott Buckley, Helen McNicol-Buckley

### **Structure & Management including recruitment of Trustees**

Founding Members: Zara Toussaint, LEEANNE CLAY & above stated Trustees.

#### **(2) Eligibility for trusteeship**

(a) Every charity trustee must be a natural person.

(b) No individual may be appointed as a charity trustee of the CIO:

- if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
- if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause 12(1)(e).

(c) No one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the charity trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of charity trustee.

(d) At least one of the trustees of the CIO must be 18 years of age or over. If there is no trustee aged at least 18 years, the remaining trustees may only act to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

#### **(3) Number of charity trustees**

(a) There must be at least three charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

(b) The maximum number of charity trustees is five. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result, the number of charity trustees would exceed

the maximum.

**(4) First charity trustees**

The first charity trustees are as follows and are appointed for the following terms -

.....Lindsey Ann Wilmer..... for 4 years  
.....Scott Ian Buckley..... for 3 years  
.....Helen Isobel McNicol-Buckley..... for 2 years

**10. Appointment of charity trustees**

(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

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

Above copied from the Charity’s constitution.

Day to day management by founding members with key decisions agreed by all Trustees both formally & informally. Covid-19 has significantly reduced the ability to have regular meetings, however minimum guidelines met.

**Activities and objectives to include achievements & performance in relation to public benefit.**

The idea for Windmills was born in 2017 and we started our journey towards registration by process mapping local and national services, speaking to the general public at feedback events and accessing nationally recognised child bereavement agencies/charities for support, advice and guidance.

This process validated that Windmills differs from any other Child Bereavement Charity as it solely focuses on supporting Children and Young People through the acute dying process and after the death has occurred.

Over the next several months we began to write our Governing Document and gather all the evidence we had in order to submit Windmills to the Charity Commission. Once this was done we had a tense few months waiting to hear whilst Windmills was assessed. We finally heard back on the 16 th January 2020 and Windmills was official!!

## **Governance**

Priority was given to ensuring Windmills met governance procedures with policies written to include, safeguarding, equal opportunities, data protection and lone working to mention a few.

Windmills are also members of Child Bereavement Network & Support Staffordshire.

Both founding members are, as registered Nurses, governed by the Nursing & Midwifery Council.

## **Funding/finance**

Windmills was initially self-funded however following the global pandemic we were fortunately able to access multiple small grants successfully.

The pandemic also made the process of opening a bank account protracted to the effect of six months.

The first family to be officially referred to Windmills were incredibly generous in setting up a legacy donation in memory of their loved one which amounted to approximately £19,000 for our unrestricted use.

Brief examples of resources purchased include: memory boxes, craft items & child grief literature. Please see attached accounts for further details.

As a point of note Windmills does not have any debts, liabilities, assets or funds held as a custodian trustee.

Items of office furniture were donated free of charge.

## **Promoting Windmills**

Website produced

Social media launched

Invited to join and participated in developing strategies for Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent Bereavement Network

Information shared with key departments within the local NHS trust

Pilot scheme pitched for and granted successfully – however the pandemic temporarily suspended this. We aimed to run the pilot for 6 months initially and to receive referrals from the local Hospitals Palliative Care Team and also Critical Care.

Direct communication from local Hospices which resulted in referrals into Windmills.

Volunteer processes – we joined forces with Keele University to offer a secondment for a Digital Media student to join us with the intention of launching our social media platforms.

We have not yet taken any other volunteers on who will be interacting with our families as yet but will ensure a robust screening and interview process once our volunteer programme is established.

## **Referrals**

Anyone can refer into Windmills and we provide a 24/7 service.

Intervention varies from client to client as we provide bespoke, focused and supportive acute bereavement care.

Unfortunately, it's certain that we will all experience death at least once in our lives. Our little people and youngsters deserve to not only understand what death is and means but also to learn that it is normal to experience a range of emotions. We use crafts to reinforce existing memories whilst building new ones so that death and grief is not perceived to be a traumatic event, never to be spoken of.

Memory making is a key part of what we do during the first few sessions with our families – when someone dies, we all worry that we will lose our memories of our loved one – this is no different for a child or young person. By gathering and saving special memories in a memory box, a child/young person can

go back into the box and reconnect with those memories - happy or sad - when they are ready.

While we are making the memory boxes with children/young people we talk about what their loved one may have liked, and us being able to talk about the one they have lost and to say their name confidently means they can too. This continued acknowledgement allows memories to be kept alive and hopefully helps them move forward.

All the conversations we have whilst making memories/doing crafts, verbal or not, allows for loved ones to be thought about in a safe space. They can open up about things without having to make eye contact - it's often easier for them to be honest that way.

Part of our role is supporting schools. We receive many requests from schools regarding how to even broach the subject of death and loss with their pupils. Many struggle with knowing how to support and what to say and are extremely grateful when Windmills attends to provide 1:1 support to a child or young person. We desperately need to actively empower school faculty to open conversations around death and dying whilst providing support through education and normalising bereavement for the benefit of their pupils. We hope to deliver sessions in person to both the school faculty and pupils whilst also providing written resources and quite possibly electronic resources.

Despite the pandemic we continued to operate - as health care professionals we are able to still go into hospital settings (although far less frequently due to safety) so can collate and facilitate memory making on behalf of the families we look after, arrange for Zoom calls and also see families in their own surroundings (social distancing rules aided by at all times) to continue the memory making, breaking the bad news to children/young people and to support them through the next few weeks of their journey.

In relation to our contingency plan in the event we become over capacity we offer phone support at the bare minimum with the aim to do a face to face meeting (if required) as soon as possible.

As we are new it is difficult to estimate the growth/demand for this service, however previous experience of service delivery means we can negotiate on a case by case basis with complete honesty and transparency.

### **Public benefit case study**

#### **Adam and Sienna's story**

Sienna was just 4 years old when her mum, Chloe, died from a brain haemorrhage after collapsing at home. Devastated and exhausted from the overwhelming shock of the sudden and unexpected nature of his wife's illness, Dad, Adam had no idea how to help his daughter understand and process that her Mummy was never coming home.

“Windmills Charity helped me. They were there with me when I brought Sienna to the hospital to see Chloe when we knew it was the end. I didn't have the strength or the words to tell my 4-year-old that her Mummy had died and was never coming home.

But I didn't have to do it alone - the ladies from Windmills were there with me every step of the way.”

“Windmills continued to be there for me and Sienna after Chloe died, making her smile and giving me time to do things I needed to get done. They are there when I need someone to listen, and they offer me guidance when I get worried about doing it wrong.”

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**  
**Windmills Charity 1187408**  
**For the year ended 31/03/2021**

**Income:**

Donations - restricted	£3,500
Donations - unrestricted	£21,203.21
Interest income	£0
Other revenue	£0
<b>Total turnover</b>	<b>£24,703.21</b>

**Charitable activities**

Salaries	£0
Support sessions	£1,000
Memory making activities	£968.84
<b>Total cost of charitable activities</b>	<b>£1,968.84</b>

**Gross profit**

**£22,734.37**

**Administrative costs**

Advertising & marketing	£0
Bank fees	£34.00
Book keeping	£0
Employers National Insurance	£0
Fundraising	£0
IT equipment	£1,132.20
Office Supplies	£50
Postage, freight & courier	£51.76
Rent	£2,190
Salaries	£0
Telephone & internet	£12
Travel	£600
Utilities	£50
Website	£150
<b>Total administrative costs</b>	<b>£4,269.96</b>

**Operating profit**

**£18,464.41**