



SEW POSITIVE

FOR POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025/26





Sew Positive is a unique UK charity helping socially excluded people mend, repair, upcycle and repurpose textiles to calm the mind, improve mental health and wellbeing, and help our planet.

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ABOUT SEW POSITIVE

Charity Registration Number
1192682

Company Registration Number
CE022958

Registered Address
1 Fountain Lane, Haslingfield
Cambridgeshire CB23 1LT

Independent Examiner
Lisa King
Burdett King Accountancy Limited
8 The Hamiltons, Newmarket, CB8 0NF

CEO
Melissa Santiago-Val

Governance Structure
Sew Positive is a Registered Charity (No:1192682) and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered in England (CEO22958)

Trustees
Jane Webber (Chair)
Joseph Barker-Sherry (Outgoing Treasurer)
Elke Taylor (Incoming Treasurer)
Alison Heron
Judi Coe
Karin Read
Alison Pritchard
Theodoros Panagiotidis
Ruth Laslett (Joined April 2026)
Daniel Murton (Joined August 2026)





CREATIVITY, CONNECTION & WELLBEING

At Sew Positive, textiles are the starting point, but people are always the focus. Through creativity, we help reduce social isolation, improve wellbeing and create opportunities for people to build confidence, purpose and meaningful connections.



We support people across Cambridge and the surrounding area who experience health inequalities, often intensified by poverty, trauma, poor mental health, neurodivergence or cultural barriers.

Many of the people who join us have struggled to find support that feels welcoming, accessible and non-clinical. Our creative community offers a safe place to learn new skills, meet others and feel part of something, often for the first time in many years.



By making, mending, repairing and creating together, participants build friendships, develop confidence and discover strengths they didn't know they had. This year, we welcomed and trained our first cohort of Sew Positive Ambassadors, who will take on various roles they have created, both to represent Sew Positive and to help new participants feel more welcome and supported.



Creativity is the catalyst, but the lasting impact is stronger, healthier and more connected communities.







WELCOME FROM OUR CEO





Six years ago, working from a tent in Norfolk at the end of the pandemic, I set up Sew Positive with a simple belief: that creativity could help people reconnect with themselves, with others and with their community. This year feels like a turning point in making that vision sustainable.

For the first time, we have the stability to look beyond simply surviving. Securing three years of National Lottery Reaching Communities funding, moving into our permanent Sew Positive Hub and employing our first member of staff have fundamentally changed what our charity is capable of achieving. These milestones are not the result of one project or one person; they reflect years of building trust, listening to our community and strengthening the organisation behind the scenes.

This year has also been about investing in people and infrastructure. We welcomed Ollie Howitt-Sutton as our freelance Programme Manager, who had originally joined Men's Hems as a volunteer in October 2025; launched our first Sew Positive Ambassador Programme; developed our new participant and volunteer portal to make joining, booking and staying connected simpler.

We strengthened our governance and financial systems, and continued to grow an extraordinary team of volunteers whose professional skills, lived experience and generosity make our work possible every day.

Together, these investments are creating a stronger, more resilient charity that is better equipped to support our community into the future.

Our services have continued to grow too. Thanks to National Lottery funding, we secured the future of Men's Hems and K2Tog while launching our new Sewcialise Good Mood Café in partnership with CPSL Mind. Seeing these services thrive reminds us that what many people need is not another clinical appointment, but somewhere they feel welcome, valued and able to build genuine connections through creativity.







The move to our new hub has transformed more than our timetable. It has given participants a place to call their own, volunteers somewhere to share their talents, and the charity a permanent base from which to grow. It has also enabled us to plan our launch of Gather, our new social enterprise, creating opportunities to generate unrestricted income while providing progression routes for participants and helping secure Sew Positive's long-term sustainability.

One of my greatest highlights this year has been watching our community step forward. Participants becoming ambassadors. Volunteers sharing their workplace skills, leading projects and representing Sew Positive across Cambridge. Fundraisers turning races into opportunities to tell our story.

Every one of these moments reminds me that Sew Positive has never simply been about textiles. They are the starting point. What we are really creating is confidence, purpose and belonging - and people who, having experienced that themselves, choose to help someone else find it too.

None of this would have been possible without our participants, volunteers, trustees, tutors, partners, funders and supporters, who continue to believe in what we are building together. Thank you for being part of our journey. I hope this Annual Review gives you a glimpse of what can happen when creativity, community and kindness come together with a shared purpose.

Melissa

Melissa Santiago Val







EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & TREASURER'S REPORT







This financial year has been one of significant growth and organisational development. We said goodbye, with our sincere thanks, to Alison Heron, Judi Coe, Karin Read and Joseph Barker-Sherry, who helped guide Sew Positive through an important stage of its journey. We also welcomed new trustees Elke Taylor, Alison Pritchard, Ruth Laslett, Theo Panagiotidis and Daniel Murton, whose professional expertise in finance, governance and business and marketing strengthens the Board for future.

Alongside expanding our services, we have invested in the foundations of the charity. Increased investment in professional bookkeeping, continued support from our Independent Examiner, improved financial reporting, trustee development and our new participant and volunteer portal all strengthen governance while helping trustees make better-informed decisions. These improvements also make it easier for participants and volunteers to engage with Sew Positive and provide funders with greater confidence in our reporting and accountability.

Financially, the charity continues to grow from a position of strength. Income increased significantly, enabling expenditure on charitable activities to rise from £47,494 to £73,386.

Alongside major grant success, we secured £22,734 of unrestricted income through charitable trusts, community fundraising, corporate support and a legacy from Cambridge Community Arts. This flexible funding has strengthened our reserves and allows us to invest in the systems and governance that restricted grants rarely cover.

As trustees, we know that strong governance and sound financial management are essential to delivering lasting impact. By continuing to diversify income, strengthen our governance and invest in the charity's long-term resilience, we are ensuring Sew Positive remains well placed to support our community for many years to come.

As the charity has grown, so too has our commitment to continuous improvement. During the year we strengthened our budget monitoring, developed a more strategic approach to risk management and introduced enhanced reporting to support trustee decision-making. These improvements not only help us meet the expectations of funders and regulators but also ensure we can respond confidently to new opportunities while managing the risks that inevitably come with growth.





BUILDING FUTURE TALENT

This year we were delighted to welcome James Holland through the John Lewis Partnership Golden Jubilee Trust, working with Sew Positive for two days a week as part of a six-month Finance Secondment. Studying Accountancy at the University of Manchester while working in Technical Support at John Lewis Cheadle, James has helped strengthen our financial, operational and digital systems, supported the technical set-up of our new hub and assisted participants with our first Exhibition and Sale. He not only joined our Trustee Development Day, gaining valuable insight into charity governance while being mentored by our incoming Treasurer, but also travelled to support our participants to set up POS systems and help set up our first exhibition at the hub.

BEHIND THE SEAMS

We were equally proud to launch our first supported work experience programme, designed for young people who may face additional barriers to securing placements due to mental health challenges, neurodivergence or social isolation. We welcomed a Year 10 student from North Cambridge Academy and a Year 12 student from Comberton Sixth Form, giving them a genuine insight into life in a small charity. From attending services and safeguarding training to editing photographs, creating dog bandanas for our CPSL Mind partnership, making their own staff lanyards, learning about governance and charitable funding - and even helping launch Sew Positive on TikTok - they became valued members of the team while building confidence, skills and experience for the future.

2025/26 AT A GLANCE

Income ▲ 54%

Charitable expenditure £73,386

Unrestricted income £22,734

Three-year National Lottery funding secured





OUR IMPACT 2025-2026

SEW POSITIVE
FOR POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH



3340 HOURS DONATED...



... BY 54 VOLUNTEERS & FUNDRAISERS



MOVED INTO THE SEW POSITIVE HUB



187 SESSIONS & EVENTS



971 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS



1340 TOTAL EVENT VISITS



TOTAL INCOME OF £73,386



47 GRANT, CORPORATE FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



6 HALF MARATHON & 2 LONDON MARATHON RUNNERS



12 SEWING MACHINES SAVED FROM LANDFILL

OUR FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

94% felt more socially connected and less isolated *

96% said sewing, creativity and stitching had a positive impact on their wellbeing and mental health *

87% said they had gained skills that inspired them to reuse textiles, make clothes and reduce textile waste *

83% cited a connection to nature or materials through stitching *

100% of respondents expressed an interest in taking part in further Sew Positive services to support their wellbeing.*

100% rated the support they received at our one-off events and activities as "very happy" **

95% expressed an interest in further engagement with Sew Positive through services, volunteering, collaboration or support.***

27 Individuals applied to be Sew Positive volunteers in the past year

13 volunteers awarded an 'Oscar' at our celebration event in 2026

** 46 Participant responses across drop in and longer courses in 2025-26*
*** 17 Participant responses across one-off events and services in 2025-26*
**** 25 Volunteer, fundraiser and trustee survey responses in 2026*

THE ISSUES WE ARE FACING - 2025/26

HEALTH INEQUALITIES, CONNECTION & WELLBEING

Around 123,500 working-age adults across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough are living with anxiety or depression. (1)

People living in the poorest areas of Cambridge spend around 12 fewer years in good health than those in the wealthiest parts of the city. (2)

More than half of 18 to 24 year-olds in Cambridgeshire report often feeling lonely. (3)

Refugees consistently identify social connection, belonging and community participation as key to rebuilding wellbeing after displacement. (4)

Creative health programmes improve wellbeing, reduce loneliness and help people better manage stress, anxiety and chronic pain. (5)

Creative health can reduce pressure on the NHS. Social prescribing programmes have reported up to a 40% reduction in GP appointments and a 21% reduction in hospital admissions. (6)

TEXTILE WASTE & THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Almost half (49%) of unwanted clothing in the UK is thrown away in household bins rather than reused or recycled. (7)

The average person in the UK throws away around 35 items of clothing every year. (8)

It is estimated that more than half of fast fashion is discarded within a year of being produced. (9)

UK textile reuse and recycling organisations handled 210,000 tonnes of used textiles in 2024. (10)

The UK's textile reuse sector spends around £88 million every year handling worn-out clothing. (11)

Up to 40% of clothing produced globally each year is never sold or worn – around 46 billion garments. (12)

The evidence behind our approach:

1. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Mental Health JSNA
2. Cambridge City Council – Health Inequalities.
3. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Mental Health JSNA
4. UK Government – Refugee Mental Health & Employment
5. National Centre for Creative Health
6. National Centre for Creative Health
7. WRAP
8. WRAP
9. Ellen MacArthur Foundation
10. UK Textiles Pact Annual Progress Update
11. WRAP
12. Oxfam











SHARING SKILLS, CHANGING LIVES



Our volunteers bring far more than their time. They contribute professional expertise, lived experience and encouragement that help participants build confidence, learn new skills and feel part of a welcoming community.

This year we welcomed 12 new volunteers to grow our hive to 36 bees – from organisations including Cambridge University Press & Assessment, the NHS, UK Health Security Agency and the software sector, some of whom first connected with Sew Positive through workplace volunteering before choosing to continue supporting us.

Volunteers also represented Sew Positive at community and corporate events, including Cambridge City Council's Engage Conference, NHS Community Pain Appointment Days, workplace wellbeing events and Anglia Ruskin University's Third Sector Conference.

We continue to invest in our volunteers through regular supervision, engagement days, socials and high-quality training.

Working with NHS partners, volunteers have taken part in training covering trauma-informed practice, supporting people with Complex Emotional Needs (CEN) and neurodivergent safeguarding. Two volunteers and our CEO also completed the RSPH Level 2 Award in Understanding Health Improvement, strengthening their confidence to support public health messaging across our services.

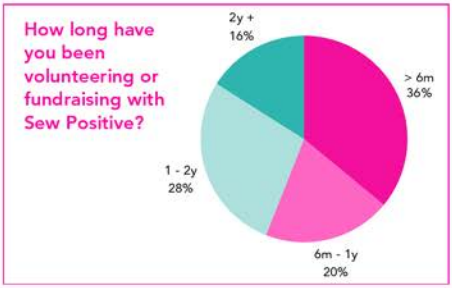


We also celebrated our first Volunteer Oscars, recognising the outstanding contribution of our volunteer team. Featured in the *Cambridge Independent*, the event perfectly captured Sew Positive's creativity.Our volunteers have supported wellbeing beyond our own community, delivering a creative wellbeing session for staff at Turtle Dove Cambridge CIC, a local social enterprise supporting young women to build confidence, skills and opportunities.






In August 2025, volunteer Hilary O, facilitated two, three-hour workshops exploring 'What's great about volunteering with Sew Positive and what could be even better?' Feedback informed improvements including volunteer sign-up through our new portal, communications, socials and ongoing support.



Our volunteer survey, run in both 2025 and 2026 received 25 responses each year. 100% agreed they feel cared for and appreciated, are treated in a friendly and professional manner, feel part of the team, intend to continue volunteering or fundraising, and are satisfied overall.

Feedback from our volunteers...

"I feel that I'm getting just as much benefit from volunteering as the participants do from the sessions. Each session that I have supported has been enriching and joyful."

"I'm not sure how Sew Positive could do better honestly. Everything is done with ease of use as a priority and delivered with consideration for every possible aspect."

"I have loved being part of the SP community and have felt supported and valued at every step. It is a joy and privilege to work alongside participants and see how they find comfort and confidence in the safe space of shared creativity."

"Sometimes I wonder if the mental health benefits are just for the participants or also for the volunteers. Actually, it's a no-brainer - it is such a supportive community that I love volunteering and feel more connected with the outside world as well as having the added dopamine hit from working with some truly amazing participants."

98%
strongly agreed that SP cares for & appreciates volunteers & fundraisers

92%
strongly agreed they would recommend volunteering with SP to friends & family.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS







"Sew Positive has helped me find my tribe when returning to Cambridge after many years. It has given me a sense of belonging by being part of a creative community, with a shared understanding, that through sewing, we are we looking after our mental health and each other."

"I received a warm welcome and support from Sew Positive at the most difficult time in my life. I would like to be able to encourage someone in a similar difficult position to attend Sew Positive in the hope it will improve their quality of life and give some relief from the troubles they are facing."

"Working with my hands has been a very therapeutic experience. It has allowed my mind to relax and enabled me to find peace with things which, sometimes, is all one can have."

"Men's Hems has given me a much needed, dedicated space to explore a personal interest strictly for my own enjoyment and understanding - not anyone elses! This has kept me mentally healthy in an otherwise responsibility-laden home and work life. I'm very out-going, so I've not been particularly after connection, yet the SewPositive team and other participants have been so warm and friendly I've found it even without trying, while still feeling able to switch off when I need too."

"It was a joy to share my memory quilt. I found it extraordinarily uplifting that people were interested in the work and loved the conversations that were sparked by the stories behind it – all while hearing the positive buzz of the same thing going on with the other exhibits all around. "

"I suffer from severe Anxiety and I've been very isolated as a result. I was the only male on the course as was very worried about going, but the organisers and volunteers went out of their way to address my concerns. This allowed me to attend, socially interact with others and learn some very useful skills. I'm very impressed that this course has been created to help others in similar situations and I hope they hold it again so that others can benefit in the way that I have."

"I wanted to become an ambassador as I realised I had reached a level of confidence as a Sew Positive participant; so as to help new participants on their journey. By sharing my story of being a nervous 'beginner' who has experienced mental health problems, I hope that I can help other people overcome their anxiety when joining Sew Positive."

"I've connected with people I would never have spoken to and I think we've been able to learn from/inspire each other in different ways."

"Please keep doing what you're doing! You're evidentaly listening to peoples feedback, and meeting them where they are at - that's the most important thing for mental health so thank you!"

"The Men's Hem sessions have provided me with a great sense of belonging, a highlight of the week that I don't get elsewhere. Men's Hems is a a vital ingredient of my active well being strategy, and is helping me avoid my reliance on medication."

"I have found it really helpful attending the group. I went through a very tough time personally and the group provided a much needed focus for my week. Chatting to other participants was helpful and rewarding. I found I had a lot in common with the other women and it was lovely to share experiences and knowledge about crafting as well."

"Working with my hands has been a very therapeutic experience. It has allowed my mind to relax and enabled me to find peace with things which, sometimes, is all one can have."

"This course has made a real difference to my wellbeing, confidence, and sense of connection."

"Attending Sew Positive as as a participant on a Monday helps me to be creative with the help of the volunteers and other participants in a safe place, also has given me confidence and helped with my anxiety. It is something I look forward to attending every week and when I am there feel happier and more calm. Thank you for great charity."

"It was exciting to meet and work with people from different cultural backgrounds. We were like classmates following the tutor to learn sewing skills. The feeling was amazing when we had the same goal – learning to use a sewing machine and do basic stitches. We were well supported by the fabulous tutor and volunteers."

"It has been such a wonderful experience for me to join Sew Positive, this wonderful charity. I'm immensely grateful for the group of women I get to meet and share our talents and crafts. I have gained new skills since I joined and that has definitely been a boost to my mental health and well being."

"I have been attending Men's Hems at Sew Positive since it first launched, and I cannot praise this group enough. It is so much more than just learning how to mend or upcycle clothes. For me personally, it has been a massive catalyst for getting out of the house, breaking routine, and sitting down to chat with people from all walks of life, people I probably never would have crossed paths with otherwise."








ROUTES IN
Self Refer
Social Prescribing or GP
Other Charity
Support Worker
Carer
Mental Health Worker
Housing Association
Website
http://
REASONS FOR JOINING
OUR SERVICES
OUTCOMES
Isolation
Family or Relationship issues
Neuro-diversity
Loneliness
Financial Hardship
Carers
Discrimination
Sew Creative
K2Tog
Sewcialise Drop-in Services
Gather Social Enterprise
Sewing Cafe
New Friends
Sense of Community
Selling Work/Income Generation
Creative Outlet

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

We continue to discover the wide impact of our services on participants and volunteers alike, developing and co-producing further activities together.



OUR GOAL: Engaged communities who use sewing, upcycling and mending to improve creativity, mental or physical health and togetherness in a circular economy.

IMPACT

- Connecting people from different cultures & ethnicities
- Reduced health inequalities
- Increased volunteering & ambassador roles
- Move towards a circular economy
- Reduced textile waste
- Increased self-management of health
- Recognition of soft skills & sewing skills

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

SEWCIALISE

Our flagship weekly service continues to support people experiencing isolation, poor mental health and other challenges through mindful mending, hand sewing, upcycling and repair. Originally established at Cambridge Women's Resource Centre before moving to the Bermuda Rooms, we were delighted to welcome the group into our new Sew Positive Hub after Easter 2026. Having a permanent home has created a safe, welcoming and consistent environment where participants can build confidence, friendships and skills week by week.

This is the second of two years' of National Lottery Awards for All funding for the current programme, with National Lottery players having supported Sewcialise for four years in total. Our new hub has enabled participants to access a wider range of equipment, including more technical sewing machines, while the service continues to be led by our fantastic team of volunteers. During school holidays, volunteers also run free 'Sewing in the Sunshine' sessions at Cambridge University Botanic Garden using our Community Group membership, helping participants stay connected between terms.

To celebrate National Lottery Open Week in March 2026, we welcomed National Lottery players into our new hub to take part in a family textile activity inspired by the leaves and foliage of Mill Road Cemetery. Visitors met participants, volunteers and tutors, experienced our work first-hand and discovered how National Lottery funding is helping create a more connected, creative community.

Our Sewcialise participants say:

"I have more confidence to talk to people I don't know well. Also have been able to start sewing and knitting at home whereas previously I couldn't due to a very big mental block of starting new sewing projects."

"Sewcialise has opened a huge door for me. This is genuinely a true community to me. From the CEO to the volunteer to the other participants I have real connections with beautiful people. We are all different and from different backgrounds and the original connection was sewing but in reality it goes deeper than that. There is understanding, support, encouragement, care. My mental health has exponentially improved since SP entered my life."








MOVING TO OUR NEW HUB

Moving into our new Sew Positive Hub was one of the biggest milestones in our charity's history and wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers and families.

Together, they transformed an empty industrial unit into the welcoming, creative space our community now calls home.

From rescuing and lovingly repainting a chest of drawers from the local recycling centre, to carrying donated sofas upstairs, collecting industrial sewing machines, painting walls, assembling furniture and sorting mountains of donated fabrics (more than once!), volunteers gave hundreds of hours to help create a space that reflects the warmth and creativity of Sew Positive.




The move has enabled us to bring our services together under one roof, offering a permanent base where participants can build confidence, friendships and sewing skills. We are also delighted to share the building with Cambridge Chronicles, whose tenancy helps make the space financially sustainable while creating exciting opportunities for collaboration. In our very first week together, they hosted a photoshoot for our first exhibition, demonstrating the creativity and mutual support that can flourish when community organisations work alongside one another.

The result is far more than a building. It is a shared achievement that demonstrates the power of community, kindness and partnership. Every painted wall, organised shelf and carefully restored piece of furniture tells the story of the volunteers who made our new home possible, while our partnership with Cambridge Chronicles shows how sharing resources can help local organisations thrive together for the benefit of the wider community.



NATIONAL LOTTERY REACHING COMMUNITIES - A TURNING POINT

Receiving £205,000 from The National Lottery Community Fund's Reaching Communities programme was a moment in the life of our small charity that changed everything. More than funding three years of activity for three services, this award recognised the strength of the charity we have worked tirelessly to build and our ambition to create lasting change for our community.

Behind every sewing session are years of work strengthening our governance, safeguarding, financial management, policies, partnerships and impact measurement. Becoming a trusted organisation capable of securing one of the UK's largest and most competitive community grants is something everyone connected with Sew Positive – participants, volunteers, staff and trustees – should feel incredibly proud of.

We are especially grateful to our Funding Officer, Heidi Haxeltine, whose encouragement and thoughtful support throughout the application process helped us present our vision with confidence. We also thank National Lottery players, whose support is making this transformational investment possible.

As a result, we featured on BBC Breakfast and Look East, have had a spread in *Charity Times*, and taken part in two podcasts about charity collaborations and creative health.

















The greatest gift this funding has given us is stability. It has enabled us to secure a permanent home, employ our CEO for the first time after six years of leadership, recruit a part-time Programme Manager, invest in volunteer engagement and strengthen the systems that will support Sew Positive for years to come. Rather than constantly replacing short-term funding, we now have the confidence and capacity to plan for the future.

The grant immediately secured the future of Men's Hems and K2Tog after previous funding came to an end. For our K2Tog group, this was initially funded by a £1500 fundraising campaign led by Adam Cleevely, our Peer Support Leader who helped make the group come to fruition, along with one of our participants. It also enabled us to launch our new Sewcialise Good Mood Café in partnership with CPSL Mind. In just a few months, the Sewcialise Good Mood Café has become one of our busiest weekly services, providing a safe, welcoming and creative space where people can talk openly about their mental health while connecting with others. Together, these three programmes are helping tackle social isolation, health inequalities and poor mental wellbeing through creativity and community.













Building confidence for the future

For the first time in six years, we can spend less time worrying about survival and more time building the future our community deserves.

This investment reaches far beyond the life of the grant. It gives future funders confidence that Sew Positive is a well-governed, financially resilient charity capable of delivering lasting impact. Most importantly, it gives us the time and stability to focus on what matters most -our participants, our volunteers and the communities we serve.

Feedback from our participants...

"Working with Sew Positive has allowed me to contribute in a way that feels meaningful and authentic to who I am. I believe strongly in the value of creative peer support and in creating spaces where people feel welcomed, respected and encouraged."

"I feel more confident in asking for help and talking about mental health."(Sewcialise Good Mood Cafe)

"It's been a great way to meet people - I've felt very isolated previously and meeting people can be difficult, so having a group to participate in has been great. And especially one that's so friendly and welcoming!" (Men's Hems)



BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Four matched grants from Cambridge City Council Community Fund, Cambridge City Council United with Ukraine Fund, South Cambridgeshire District Council Community Chest and South Cambridgeshire District Council Homes for Ukraine enabled us to deliver one connected programme across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

Rather than separating people according to their funding eligibility, we brought together Ukrainian refugees, families and other local residents experiencing isolation. Participants learnt alongside people from different cultures and backgrounds, creating natural opportunities for conversation, mutual support and friendship through shared creative activity.















Our eight-week Sew Basic course supported 25 participants across the four grants. Beginners learnt to use sewing machines, complete projects and support one another through paired working and shared problem-solving. Participants then had opportunities to progress to Sew Practical, an eight-week intermediate course exploring patterns, garment construction, alterations and upcycling. The group transformed donated duvet covers into pyjama bottoms before celebrating together with a final pyjama party.

Six full-day Saturday Sewing Cafés provided a relaxed space for people from all four funded programmes to continue making and connecting. Across the cafés, 81 unique participants attended, including 26 Ukrainian beneficiaries. Participants worked on individual and collaborative projects, including our Community Quilt, while guest practitioners introduced creative approaches exploring storytelling, identity and even the combination of stitch and coding.







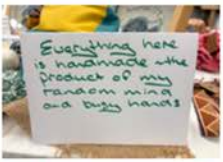
Two subsidised trips helped remove financial and confidence barriers to cultural activities. The first took Ukrainian adults, children and volunteers to the Stitch Festival in Birmingham, offering inspiration and the chance to experience a major creative event together. A second evening trip to Anglesey Abbey, delivered with the National Trust, combined an exhibition, live music and time in the gardens.

Our partnership with Red Hen brought accessible family creativity into CB4. We delivered Wellbeing Wednesday and school holiday activities including cyanotype printing, badge-making and upcycled bag-making. A Pumpkin Party welcomed 43 children and 29 adults, while repurposed bedsheets were transformed into 35 reusable bags. Demand far exceeded our original target of 40 beneficiaries, with 123 children and adults supported. Several families subsequently joined other Sew Positive activities, and one participant progressed into our Ambassador Programme.

Participants interested in developing their creative practice also joined our Sell Your Work programme, exploring marketing, pricing, goal-setting and the realities of turning a hobby into a small business. This led into our first Exhibition and Sale, where participants displayed and sold garments, upcycled pieces and textile art. The event welcomed 126 visitors and generated £2,500 in participant sales, with participants donating £230 to Sew Positive.

Across the four grant funded activities alone, we provided 231 places across six projects, supporting 63 unique adults and 12 children. Together, the four grants created a progression route from learning and social connection through to cultural experiences, confidence, enterprise and public celebration.

"Sharing my work meant that I felt seen by everyone at Sew Positive. It led to meaningful conversations that I may not have otherwise had. Alongside incredible projects and work, the feeling of community and inclusion was the essence of this exhibition and sale. This event brought all communities of Sew Positive together." **Participant from the Sell Your Work programme.**





AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

Thanks to funding from PEM, we launched our first Sew Positive Ambassador Programme, creating a new progression pathway for participants who wanted to give something back to the community that had supported them. We are grateful to The Red Hen Project for sharing some of their early experiences of running an ambassador programme, which helped inform our initial thinking. From there, we co-produced a model unique to Sew Positive with our participants, co-facilitated with volunteer Hilary. Together we designed an approach where ambassadors remain participants in their own right, recognising that wellbeing is an ongoing journey. We developed an Ambassador Charter, explored welcoming others, safeguarding, boundaries and representing Sew Positive, before creating our own handmade Ambassador T-shirts. By making rather than buying them, participants developed new skills while creating a shared identity and sense of ownership.















Feedback from our future Ambassadors...

"Being asked to become an ambassador has given me a stronger sense of belonging to the wider Sewcialise community, as well as a huge milestone in improving my own wellbeing. I can't wait to get started!"

"I wanted to become an ambassador because I believe everyone deserves to feel welcome, included, and valued. Throughout my life I've seen how a simple conversation, a smile, or someone taking the time to listen can make a real difference. I hope to use this role to encourage others, help people feel connected, and be a positive representative of the organisation. If I can help even one person feel like they belong, then I'll know I've made a difference."



PART OF OUR PLACE

Attending community events is about far more than raising awareness. It enables us to build trusted relationships across our local communities that lead to collaborations, funding opportunities and new ways of reaching people who might otherwise remain isolated.

This year we worked alongside NHS partners, Cambridge City Council, businesses and local charities to engage communities experiencing health inequalities, chronic pain and social isolation. Participants and volunteers represented Sew Positive at Community Pain Appointment Days, events for older people, Cambridge City Council's Engage programme and conferences focused on reducing health inequalities, ensuring lived experience helps shape local conversations around creative health and wellbeing.

A highlight of the year was receiving the Cambridgeshire Lieutenancy Award for Voluntary Service 2025 - Sew Positive was Highly Commended, recognising our King's Award for Voluntary Service nomination.

Celebrating alongside participants, volunteers, staff, our nominator Ashish Dasgupta MBE and our families was a proud milestone in Sew Positive's journey and reinforced the importance of volunteering within our community.



These connections continue to create lasting impact. Relationships developed through networking have led to new funding, pro bono expertise, corporate partnerships, media opportunities and community collaborations. Deputy Lieutenant Hanadi Jabado first met Sew Positive at a local networking event, later attended our first exhibition and is now running the Cambridge Half Marathon with her family to raise funds for the charity. It is a wonderful example of how investing in our local place strengthens both Sew Positive and the communities we serve.

Reaching men through health and community partnerships

In June we joined Cambridge's Men's Health and Nutrition event at the Abbey Stadium, alongside 22 local organisations. The event attracted 85 people, with a particular focus on the health and wellbeing of older men. Our stand was run alongside Adam Cleevely, an original Men's Hems participant, who raised £1,500 to launch K2Tog and volunteered to talk to other men about our services. This event encouraged men to think about physical and mental health, social connection, volunteering and becoming more active. Being part of events like this helps us reach men beyond our own doors and challenge assumptions about who sewing, making and creative community activities are for.



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

Our community doesn't just attend Sew Positive - it helps sustain it. Community fundraising and donations are becoming an increasingly important part of our future, creating unrestricted income that allows us to respond to new opportunities while keeping our core services free.

We believe fundraising is about belonging. Our runners, volunteers and supporters become part of the Sew Positive community, coming to services, helping collect donations, meeting at parkruns, sharing fundraising and training milestones and encouraging one another along the way.

This year six Cambridge Half Marathon runners and our first two London Marathon Gold Bond runners helped inspire others to get involved. Trustee Joseph and fundraiser Gabi raised more than £6,500, while returning fundraiser Isla has also committed to the London Marathon - an even bigger challenge for 2027.

The fundraising of our Cambridge Half Marathon runners also unlocked a further £3,000 unrestricted donation from Ali Kinnear of the Bransford Trust.

Fundraising can be just as rewarding for those taking part too.

















One of our London Marathon runners told us:

"Fundraising for Sew Positive gave me such purpose in training for the marathon. In my final few miles, as I was really having to motivate myself to keep running, each pound that had been donated to the charity kept me going."

Beyond running, Isla has organised craft sales, offered to donate her tutoring fee from a pattern drafting workshop, and even created her own Sew Positive running outfit!

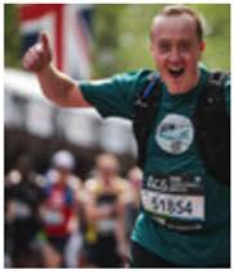
Our relationships often grow into much more than one form of support. Sarah Coates of Tees Law has provided more than £4,000 of pro bono legal property support, volunteered at our first Hub exhibition and is now running the London Marathon to raise funds for Sew Positive. She has also involved her daughter:

"I've relished the opportunity to involve my daughter where I can and show her the importance and benefits of this type of activity. It's helped sewing and craft become a shared hobby for us."

Connections made through local networks are growing our fundraising community too. Deputy Lieutenant Hanadi Jabado DL first met Sew Positive through a With Purpose Network event and subsequently visited our first Hub exhibition. She, her husband and daughter have now all signed up to run the 2027 Cambridge Half Marathon for us.

"The work that Melissa and Sew Positive do inspire me beyond words and motivate me - which is why I will be running the Cambridge Half in 2027 in support of Sew Positive." - Hanadi Jabado DL









Our supporters contribute in many different ways. Prinfab, have twice donated the digital printing of our Sew Positive logo onto fabric. Volunteers use these squares to create their own personalised lanyards, which have become a Sew Positive rite of passage. Each is completely unique, celebrating individual creativity.

We were finally able to accept three industrial sewing machines, alongside several Janome sewing machines, specialist equipment and generous fabric donations. These gifts enable us to teach more advanced skills, reduce textile waste and make the very best use of donated resources.

Every mile run, logo printed, machine donated, metre of fabric saved and pound raised helps more people discover the confidence, creativity and community that Sew Positive provides.

KEY FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



We are incredibly grateful to the organisations, businesses and individuals who have supported Sew Positive this year through funding, partnerships, volunteering, professional expertise, pro bono services and advocacy. Together, they enable us to deliver the work highlighted throughout this Annual Review and to continue building a stronger, more connected community.

OUR FUNDERS

- Arnold Clark Community Fund
- CambsCuisine
- Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
- Cambridge City Council
- Cambridge Community Arts
- Cambridge Management Consulting
- CPSL Mind
- Grand Arcade Cambridge
- John Lewis Cambridge
- PEM
- Queen Edith's Forum
- Romsey Mill
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- The Bransford Trust
- The Cole Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Waitrose Community Matters









COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS & ADVOCATES

- Ashish Dasgupta MBE
- The Lord-Lieutenant's Office for Cambridgeshire
- Deputy Lieutenant Belinda Sutton
- Deputy Lieutenant Hanadi Jabado
- Deputy Lieutenant Caroline Bewes





OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

- Ali Lyons (Impact Model Review)
- BBC Breakfast
- BBC Look East (Mo Bakshi & Steve Hubbard)
- BBC Radio Cambridgeshire (Tom Jackson, Dotty McLeod & Bella Hassan)
- Cambridge City 4 Primary Care Network (Personalised Care Team)
- Cambridge Chronicles
- Cambridge Design Rooms
- Cambridge Independent (Adrian Peel & Keith Heppell)
- Cambridge University Botanic Garden Communities Team
- Cambridge University Press & Assessment
- Charity Recruit Podcast (Emily Formby)
- Charity Times (Melissa Moody)
- COEL
- Fair Collective
- Fullscope
- Giles Yeo
- How Are You Cambridge and South Cambs
- John Lewis Golden Jubilee Trust
- Julia Ajayi (Fundraising support)
- Making Stitches Podcast (Lindsay Weston)
- Metro Bank
- Mills & Reeve LLP
- NatWest Community Rooms
- NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Board (Neighbourhood Health & Partnerships Team)
- Prinfab
- Red Hen Project
- Sarah Lou Studio (Sarah Bevan)
- Support Cambridgeshire (formerly CCVS)
- TEOM (The Expert On Ourselves)
- Tees Law (Sarah Coates)
- THEMS Freelance (Emma Stewart)
- With Purpose Network (Rachel Hales)











Thank you all!



Sew Positive CIO

Strategic Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Financial review
Policy on reserves.

Donation income and income from events for businesses are our primary funding sources for our core fund from which we support all of the organisation's fixed costs. The charity has secured a number of grants covering up to three years of funding. At the same time, the charity has taken on an employee and signed a three year lease for premises.

This presents the Trustees with new legal obligations around minimum notice periods and employee rights. The Trustees have therefore agreed to set aside designated reserves for these minimum legal obligations.

Additionally, donated income cannot always be predicted, and the success of funding bids is not guaranteed. Trustees have therefore considered carefully the level of undesignated reserves that should be held back as it is important that as much of the charity's income as possible is used to provide services to participants. The Trustees believe it is prudent for the charity to work towards a minimum reserve equivalent to 0.5% of income. This will provide:

- the ability to meet unforeseen expenditure (excluding contractual obligations arising should Sew Positive be wound up as these would be met by designated reserves);
- and flexibility in achieving our objectives.

We have a reserves policy as noted above, with a current undesignated reserve of 0.4%. In accordance with the Charity Commission's guidelines, the Trustees review this policy annually and consequently manage the cash flow in an appropriately prudent manner. For this financial period, our total income was £64,318, made up of donations of £5,779, grants of £46,584, Gift Aid of £1,457, and other fundraising and trading income of £10,498. After the year's expenditure, we ended the period with a finishing balance of £9,400. In addition to this, we carry forward £43,783 of grants which were awarded at the end of the financial year to fund activities during the financial year 2026-27.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 2 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Elke Taylor
Trustee

Sew Positive CIO

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution.

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on ..2.September.2026.. and signed on its behalf by:



Elke Taylor

Trustee

Sew Positive CIO

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Sew Positive CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sew Positive CIO for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Sew Positive CIO 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 Sew Positive CIO'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.

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 Sew Positive CIO 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.



.....
Lisa King
Burdett King Accountancy Limited

8 The Hamiltons
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 0NF

1 September 2026

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	5,779	-	**5,779**
Charitable activities	3	16,955	41,584	**58,539**
Total income		**22,734**	**41,584**	**64,318**
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		(1,053)	-	**(1,053)**
Charitable activities	4	(10,029)	(62,303)	**(72,332)**
Total expenditure		(**11,082**)	(**62,303**)	**(73,385)**
Net (expenditure)/income		**11,652**	**(20,719)**	**(9,067)**
Transfers between funds		(6,073)	6,073	
Net movement in funds		**5,579**	**(14,646)**	**(9,067)**
Reconciliation of funds				
Funds brought forward as previously stated	14	344	14,646	**14,990**
Prior year adjustment		3,477	-	**3,477**
Funds brought forward as restated		3,821	14,646	**18,467**
Total funds carried forward		**9,400**	**-**	**9,400**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	5,209		5,209
Charitable activities	4,338	40,473	44,811
Total income	**9,547**	**40,473**	**50,020**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	(1,457)	(144)	(1,601)
Charitable activities	(9,575)	(36,318)	(45,893)
Total expenditure	(**11,032**)	(**36,462**)	(**47,494**)
Net (expenditure)/income	**(1,485)**	**4,011**	**2,526**
Net movement in funds	**(1,485)**	**4,011**	**2,526**
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	1,829	10,635	12,464
Total funds carried forward	**344**	**14,646**	**14,990**

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods. The funds breakdown for 2026 is shown in note 14.
The notes on pages 7 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Sew Positive CIO

(Registration number: 1192682)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 (restated) £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	243	286
Current assets			
Debtors	11	-	
Cash at bank and in hand	12	53,299	38,661
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	**(44,142)**	**(20,480)**
Net current assets		**9,157**	**18,181**
Net assets		**9,400**	**18,467**
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		-	14,646
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		9,400	3,821
Total funds	14	**9,400**	**18,467**

The financial statements were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 2 Sept 26 and signed on their behalf by:

Elke Taylor

Trustee

Sew Positive CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued 1st January 2026, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
Sew Positive CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is regonised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with suffcient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £200.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Plant and machinery	25% straight line

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.
Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.
Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

2 Income from donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Donations from individuals	445	445	5,209
Lottery Income	169	169	-
Legacy donation from Cambridge Community Arts	5,165	5,165	-
Total	**5,779**	**5,779**	**5,209**

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Fundraising income	8,749	-	8,749	1,838
Grants	5,000	41,584	46,584	42,973
Primary Purpose Trading	1,455	-	1,455	-
Bank Interest	294	-	294	-
Gift Aid	1,457	-	1,458	-
Total	**16,955**	**41,584**	**58,539**	**44,811**

	2026 £
Income from donations and legacies	5,779
Income from charitable activities	58,539
Total income received in the year	**64,318**
Income received in the year and carried forward	43,783
Income deferred at 31 March 2025 released in the year	10,000

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs	202	-	202	566
Grant funding of activities	-	-	-	4,217
Allocated support costs (see below)	9,477	62,303	71,780	40,165
Governance costs	350	-	350	945
Total	**10,029**	**62,303**	**72,332**	**45,893**

Allocated support costs	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Freelance Costs	4,032	36,290	40,323	27,234
Materials	338	4,618	4,956	3,955
Advertising & Marketing	-	1,369	1,369	553
IE and Accountancy Fees	1,872	1,973	3,845	2,973
Bank Charges	9	-	9	485
CRM Costs	-	2020	2020	-
DBS Checks	1	211	212	173
General Expenses	102	-	102	-
Insurance	282	-	282	1,001
IT Software and Consumables	-	2920	2920	342
Legal and Professional Services	50	-	50	533
Repairs and Maintenance	-	106	106	49
Salaries	-	2,481	2,481	486
Stationery & Office costs	-	135	135	1,744
Subscriptions	422	196	617	416
Telephone and Internet	273	94	366	-
Training and Conference costs	1,543	-	1,543	-
Travel	188	84	272	-
Venue	296	9,356	9,653	-
Volunteer Expenses	69	450	519	221
TOTAL	**9,477**	**62,303**	**71,780**	**40,165**

5 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	2026 £	2025 £
Independent examiner fees	350	945
	350	**945**

6 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year include:

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	202	566

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2026 £	2025 £
Examination of the financial statements	350	945

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2025	1,854	1,854
At 31 March 2026	2,013	2,013
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2025	1,568	1,568
Charge for the year	202	202
At 31 March 2026	1,770	1,770
Net book value		
At 31 March 2026	243	243
At 31 March 2025	286	286

11 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors		-

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2026 £	2025 (restated) £
Cash at bank	53,299	38,661

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Accruals	350	480
Other Creditors	9	-
Deferred income	43,783	20,000
Total	**44,142**	**20,480**

14 Funds

	Balance 1 April 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2026 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	3,821	22,734	(11,082)	(6,073)	9,400
Unrestricted Total	**3,821**	**22,734**	**(11,082)**	**(6,073)**	**9,400**
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	8,362	24,468	(33,477)	647	-
Government Grants	11,750	17,116	(28,826)	(40)	-
Core Costs	(5,466)	-	-	5,466	
Restricted Total	**14,646**	**41,584**	**(62,303)**	**6,073**	-
Total Funds	**18,467**	**64,318**	**(73,385)**	**-**	**9,400**

Note.

Transfers between funds represent the clearance of historic fund deficits and the release of residual balances on completed projects to general funds, following a fund-by-fund review carried out during the year. All restricted fund balances were fully applied or released by 31 March 2026; grant income received for future periods is held as deferred income (note 13).

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

Analysis of funds by grant / project

	Balance at 1 April 2025 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2026 £
Restricted funds					
Cambridge City Council United With Ukraine 25/26	9,832	4,516	(14,221)	(127)	–
Cambridge City Council Community Fund 25/26	–	10,000	(10,000)	–	–
Cambridge City Council UWU Crewelwork	1,380	–	–	(1,380)	–
SCDC Community Chest	1,711	–	(2,005)	294	–
SCDC Homes4Ukraine	–	2,600	(2,600)	–	–
National Lottery Reaching Communities 26–29	–	13,251	(13,251)	–	–
National Lottery Sewcialise AWA 25–27	–	10,000	(10,000)	–	–
CPSL Mind Good Life Fund Plus	8,678	–	(8,509)	(169)	–
PEM Ambassador Training 2026	–	1,217	(1,217)	–	–
PEM (Sewcialise Jan–March 2025)	422	–	–	(422)	–
Arnold Clark Grant	–	–	(500)	500	–
Cheshire Community Foundation	1,014	–	–	(1,014)	–
Corporate Wellbeing Events	1,412	–	–	(1,412)	–
The Red Hen Project	200	–	–	(200)	–
Fund deficits brought forward (see footnote 1)	(10,003)	–	–	10,003	–
Total Restricted Funds	**14,646**	**41,584**	**(62,303)**	**6,073**	**–**
Unrestricted Funds					
Cole Charitable Trust (designated)	–	2,000	(2,000)	–	–
The Bransford Trust (designated)	–	3,000	(3,000)	–	–
General fund (restated)	3,821	17,734	(6,082)	(6,073)	9,400
Total Unrestricted Funds	**3,821**	**22,734**	**(11,082)**	**(6,073)**	**9,400**
Total Funds	**18,467**	**64,318**	**(73,385)**	**–**	**9,400**

Footnotes

1. Fund deficits brought forward comprises the deficit balances within restricted funds at 1 April 2025 as reported in the prior year financial statements: Government Grants £(1,173), Core Costs £(5,466) and £(3,364) within other restricted funds. These deficits were cleared by transfer from unrestricted funds during the year.
2. Transfers between funds represent the clearance of brought-forward fund deficits and the release to general funds of residual balances on completed projects, following a fund-by-fund review carried out during the year. All restricted funds were fully applied, released or cleared by 31 March 2026; grant income received for future periods is held as deferred income (note 13).
3. The balance at 1 April 2025 is stated after a prior year adjustment of £3,477 to unrestricted funds. See the prior year adjustment note.

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

16 Prior Year Adjustments

During the year it was identified that cash at bank at 31 March 2025 was understated by £3,477 in the previously issued financial statements (reported: £35,184; per bank records: £38,661). The comparative figures have been restated accordingly. The effect of the restatement is to increase cash at bank and total funds at 31 March 2025 by £3,477, increasing opening unrestricted funds at 1 April 2025 from £344 to £3,821. There is no effect on the net movement in funds for either year.







SEW POSITIVE

FOR POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH



sewpositive.org

SewPositiveCharity

@SewPositiveCharity

info@sewpositive.org

Our full Annual Report and Accounts 2025/26 can be downloaded from the Charity Commission website.

Sew Positive is a Registered Charity (No:1192682) and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered in England (CEO22958)

Registered Office: 1 Fountain Lane, Haslingfield, Cambridge, CB23 1LT