

Trustees' Annual Report 2024-2025

Charity Name: Chaffinch
Registration Number: 1206986
Registered Address: 3 Spurr Court, York, YO24 3ND
CEO: Sarah Woods

Trustees (for the period February 2024 to April 2025):

Trustee Name	Office	Dates of Changes
Ben Edwards	Chair	
Neil Hutton	Treasurer	
Paul Chaytor	Secretary	
Kate Williamson		
Elizabeth Mandziuk		Appointed 25 November 2024
Susan Rippon		Appointed 25 November 2024
Sofia Alaines Guzzo		Appointed 25 November 2024
Lorenzo Amorosino		Appointed 20 January 2025

Chaffinch is a newly incorporated charity, registered on 12 February 2024, with a constitution adopted on that date. It employs no staff and is managed by a Board of Trustees and volunteer CEO with support from other volunteers.


During this period, we welcomed four new trustees. Trustees are elected by membership vote, or by appointment by the charity trustees, and serve a term of 3 years, with eligibility for re-election, at AGM, for further 3 year periods.

For this period, Chaffinch has produced an annual report for members and supporters, giving details of the charity's main activities and the impact of these achievements. Throughout, consideration of public benefit and risk awareness have been paramount in accordance with the requirements of registration as a charity.

The Reserves Policy allows for a reserve of approximately £5,000 to be maintained - equal to three times monthly income from the Child Sponsorship programme - to cover core running costs in the event of an unexpected shortfall in donations, plus the option of an additional £11,000 in a project reserve (if the Trustees so wish), giving a maximum reserve of £16,000. No project reserve was maintained in this period.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the combined annual report and financial accounts.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Ben Edwards
Chair

2024 - 2025
ANNUAL
REPORT



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Dear Supporters and Friends,

As Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am proud to present this year's annual report for Chaffinch. It has been a year of growth, resilience, and renewed commitment to our mission of supporting vulnerable children in Kibera. Our flagship partnership with Future Stars continues to provide life-changing support in the form of education, food, clothing, and care to the children who need it most. Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to sustain and strengthen this vital work.

We extend a heartfelt welcome to our new members joining us on this journey, to our longstanding supporters, thank you, your continued belief in our work makes everything possible. We hope that with your help we can extend our reach and impact even further.

Together, we are changing the future for these wonderful children.

Ben Edwards

Chair of the Board of Trustees



To the Chaffinch family,

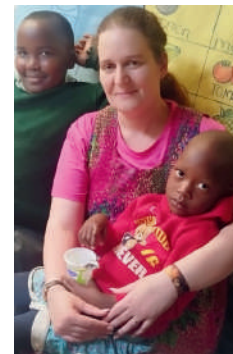
It seems a little odd to be writing to you in the very first Annual Report for Chaffinch as registered charity 1206986. As Chaffinch's founder, I've been working hard for over 11 years now but the majority of those were with the original Chaffinch, registered charity 1173464. I know it can be a little confusing but please be assured that we are still very much the same charity that we have always been and the children's welfare still takes centre stage.

On my visits to Kenya, I see the very real difference that our donors are making through the support of local people encouraged to create positive change in the Kibera community. I've always been passionate about local people leading the way, and our ability to provide the financial and administrative support they need to achieve success.

This year has seen positive change in the lives of so many children and I'm humbled by the hard work of the *Future Stars* staff who make it all possible. I look back on the past year with great pride and look forward to the next with hope and expectation.

Sarah Woods

Founder & CEO



OUR MISSION

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Bringing *hope, positivity, and empowerment* to Kenya's disadvantaged children



Delivering our aims through the passion and skills of local people in Kibera builds stronger, more resilient, and more independent communities.



56

Children had their essential needs supported through the Child Sponsorship Programme.

215

Children received a quality education, who were otherwise unable to attend school.

33

Children were housed when experiencing periods of homelessness or family disruption.

Over the course of the past year, we have continued our work with the *Future Stars Development Centre* to provide for some of Kibera's most disadvantaged children. This has included support for education, food, healthcare, and much more.





Kenya's ongoing cost of living increases have led to more children relying upon meals served at the *Future Stars Development Centre*. We have continued to provide both breakfast and lunch for every child attending the pre-school and primary school, as well as feeding the children and young people currently residing at the centre.



The delivery of our aim to reach more children with a reliable and quality education has meant continued growth at the *Future Stars* school. We have been able to supply large quantities of exercise books and stationery as well as empowering teachers with further resources and wage support.



In this period, we saw many children accessing the accommodation at the *Future Stars Development Centre*. For some this was a single night of crisis. For others, their stay has lasted all year while efforts continue to find them a stable and suitable home.



Thanks to a contact at *Médecins Sans Frontières*, we were able to ensure provision of extensive first aid kits and basic medications for the children of *Future Stars*. We also funded visits to a local clinic when children were more seriously unwell, and an ongoing deworming programme for every child we reach.

OUR WORK - VISUALISE THAT

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Providing meals for over 200 children requires a lot of food! The menu is basic and largely vegan with the most common meals being rice and beans or ugali and green leafy vegetables. There's also a mug of hot, sweet porridge every morning.



1,384 kg maize flour (for ugali)



769 kg porridge flour



1,578 loaves of bread



924 kg beans



2,390 kg of rice

...and so much more!

KPSEA Exams

In October, seven children from *Future Stars* were registered to sit for their Kenya Primary School Education Assessment. This comprises a series of exams at the end of grade 6 and marks the end of primary education.

As *Future Stars* only had seven candidates, they travelled to *Anajali Primary School* in nearby Lang'ata where they joined many other children eager to show what they had learned.

Following the exams, all seven children were enrolled in a junior secondary school where they will continue their education. This gives them real hope for the future with education remaining the #1 route out of the extreme poverty into which these children were born.



Deworming

This might not seem like the 'nicest' topic for an impact story but it's certainly an important one.

In communities like Kibera, where poor sanitation is the norm, intestinal parasites can cause real problems, especially for children.

By providing deworming tablets every three months, we can ensure the children don't develop serious health problems as a result of these parasites. This improves school attendance rates as well as contributing to healthy growth and development.

It's not cheap to treat the whole school but its value is significant. Good health provides a strong foundation and gives the children the opportunity to thrive.



Play and Learning

We arranged for Timothy from *Ajibu Community*, in Uganda, to visit the *Future Stars Development Centre*, bringing with him their 'Variety Play Pack', an extensive supply of sturdy wooden blocks and shapes.

The teachers were trained in the importance of learning through play and they identified many skills that the children practised as they played. This is play + learning + creativity + cognitive development, and included skills such as team building, conflict resolution, mathematical and scientific principles, sharing, imagination, and problem solving.

The resources are now available to all teachers at *Future Stars* with large blocks for the primary school and smaller, colourful blocks for each pre-school class.



Scovia, 12

In this photograph you can see Scovia practising her crochet skills, which form part of the grade 6 primary school curriculum.

Sadly for Scovia, it looked like primary school was going to be the highest level of education she would receive as there was simply no money available at home to enrol her in a junior secondary school and provide all the needs of that vital ongoing education.

Thankfully, at the last minute, through our *Child Sponsorship Programme*, we found a wonderful sponsor for Scovia. Because of this, Scovia was able to join a local junior secondary school with a brand new uniform and all the supplies she needed.





Graduation

In October, the Pre-Primary 2 class at the *Future Stars Development Centre* celebrated their graduation. This event marked the end of their pre-school days and celebrated their achievements so far.

Graduation is a very important event as it highlights the value of education and encourages families to prioritise their children's ongoing attendance as they move on to primary school.

For the first time, gowns were not hired but instead were produced specifically for *Future Stars*. These can now be used for years to come, reducing overall costs despite the outlay needed to buy fabric and accessories.



Grace, 19

Having completed high school and also a short course in fashion and design, Grace was finally able to enrol in college and take a step closer to achieving her dreams. She was enrolled at *Nairobi Women's Hospital College*, studying to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Grace also took the next step towards independence by moving out of her familiar *Future Stars* dormitory and into a college hostel where she quickly found new friends.

Her early results have been extremely promising and Grace is thoroughly enjoying the course, which could give her a qualification leading to reliable employment and a life away from extreme poverty.



Laban, 11

In January, while playing with his friends at school, young Laban had an unfortunate accident resulting in a broken wrist.

Thanks to the provisions of our *Child Sponsorship Programme*, Laban was able to be quickly treated at *St Mary's Mission Hospital* where he had his wrist x-rayed and placed in a plaster cast.

Even though Laban was very unhappy not to be able to run around and play football with his friends, he and his mother were very grateful for Chaffinch's support as it would have been very difficult for them to pay the medical bills when rent and food take priority.

Building Dreams: Transforming Lives

A film for Chaffinch by Frederik Dharshie



We continue to raise awareness of Chaffinch's work and the lives of Kibera's children through a short film produced by award-winning videographer Frederik Dharshie.

SCAN ME



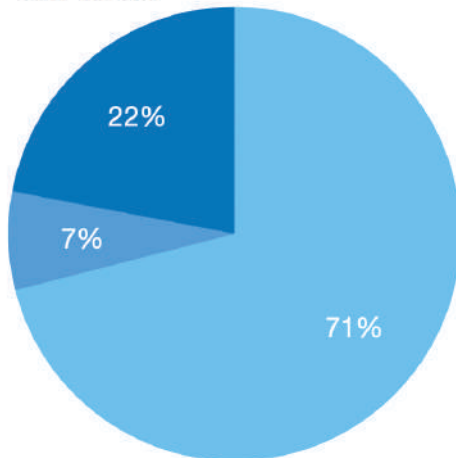
You can view the film on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/COgYnXfNkIU>



With Chaffinch run 100% by volunteers, that means more of our supporters' valuable donations can be used to further our work with Kibera's children. This year, approximately **95p out of every £1** was spent directly delivering our aims in Kenya.

Revenue: £24k

Child Sponsorship Programme Sales
Other Income



As this is our first Annual Report, the reporting period is slightly longer than one year, beginning 12 February 2024 and ending 5 April 2025.

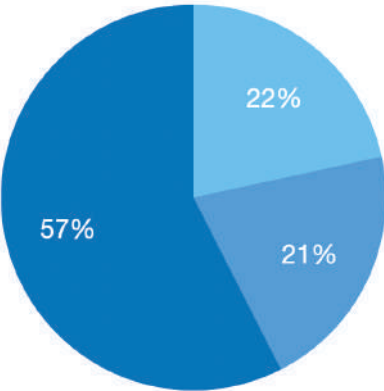
Additional income of £14k, not included in the revenue, was received following the closure of *Chaffinch*, registered charity 1173464 (England & Wales) and the transfer of its remaining assets to ourselves. This was part of the process of transforming Chaffinch into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

A further **£3k of Gift Aid**, associated with this year's income, will be claimed in the 2025/26 period.

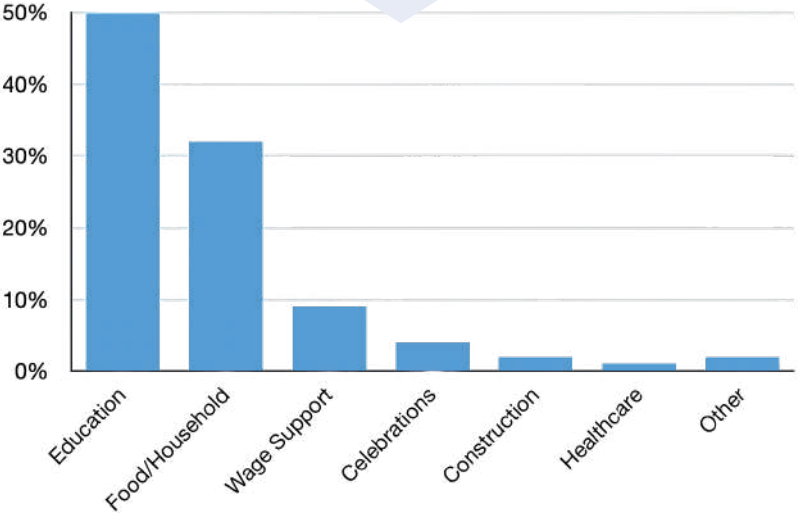
Whilst we do our best to keep overheads low, there are inevitable expenses e.g. postage for items sold in our online stores, website hosting fees, and banking fees for the transfer of funds to Kenya. This year our largest expenditure, in Kenya, was on education, followed by the costs associated with our feeding programme at *Future Stars*. Wage support is funding provided to *Future Stars* to assist with vital payments made to the centre's teachers and support staff, who themselves live in Kibera.

Overheads: £1.6k

- Postage and Materials
- Banking Costs
- Other Overheads



Expenditure in Kenya: £27k





With the vast majority of our fundraising efforts this year being restricted to the online environment, we know that we need to work harder to create meaningful face-to-face connections with our supporters.

It hasn't all been about financial donations. We have also received donations of goods to sell in our online stores, and items to be provided directly to our beneficiaries in Kibera.



eBay

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, our eBay shop has continued to provide valuable income despite a general downturn in this market. Over the course of the year we have sold everything from CDs to plumbing supplies!

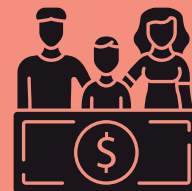
Online sales allow us to make people all over the country aware of the valuable work that Chaffinch is doing.



Recycling

We have continued to work with *Terracycle UK* to recycle materials that would usually end up in landfill or incinerators. Collecting this waste has provided those local to York with a way of supporting Chaffinch without the need to donate funds.

Over the past year we have collected bakery packaging, empty coffee bags, and biscuit wrappers. *Terracycle UK* have paid us for this waste, by the kilogram.



This year saw 56 children directly benefitting from the *Chaffinch Child Sponsorship Programme*.

This programme provided reliable access to education, healthcare, food, and social and psychological support. This support extended beyond just the sponsored children, ensuring many more could benefit from our sponsors' generosity.

We ended the year with over 50 sponsors spanning Europe, Asia, and North America.



Education matters

From playgroup to high school, the sponsorship programme ensured that children were able to access a quality education. The majority of these children were at high risk of dropping out of education entirely due to financial difficulties and pressures at home.

Sponsorship provided everything needed for school, from exercise books to uniforms.

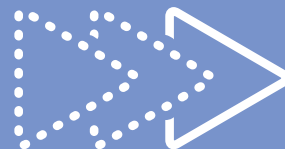


A human connection

Something that lies at the very core of our *Child Sponsorship Programme* is the idea of building connections.

It's about showing a child that someone cares about them, even if that person lives thousands of miles away.

Many of our sponsors chose to write letters and even send Christmas gifts to the children they sponsored. The children contact their sponsors a minimum of 4 times a year.



This Annual Report is our first as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with our new registered charity number. We have now fully taken over operations from the original Unincorporated Association founded back in 2014.

With our new status, we hope to continue our growth and development, working ever more effectively to support the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in Kibera.



Increasing regular donations

Regular donations are vital to the work of charities and Chaffinch is no exception. These donations provide reliable income, allowing us to budget effectively.

Even just £5 every month makes a big difference. This regular income means we can plan ahead and sustain both existing and new projects. With Gift Aid added, a small donation can go even further.



Growing our team

With Chaffinch run 100% by volunteers, it's vital that we have enough people to rely upon.

There are many opportunities to get involved, including graphic design, social media management, and fundraising.

We expect effort, not perfection, and we welcome people from every walk of life and from all over the world.



In-person interactions

While the internet is a wonderful means of communicating with our supporters, and potential supporters, around the world, it's also important that we invest time in face-to-face interaction.

Over the course of the next year, we hope to focus on holding some events, or at least having a presence at established events, particularly in the York area where Chaffinch was born. Come and meet the team!



Volunteer

We are always on the look-out for new volunteers, and hope that we can provide a rewarding experience for anyone joining our team. We have volunteers based all over the world and from a wide variety of different backgrounds. chaffinch.org.uk/volunteer-with-us

Donate

Raising funds is, of course, a large part of our remit. Without the financial support of our donors, we couldn't effectively deliver our aims out in Kibera. Even small donations can go a long way. chaffinch.org.uk/donate

Speak

Raising awareness of Chaffinch and the work that we do is crucial as we aim to grow our support. In some areas, we are able to come and talk to your group or school so get in touch and see how we can help: contact@chaffinch.org.uk

Shop

Take a look at our online shops! Every purchase makes a very real difference out in Kibera:

- charity.ebay.co.uk/charity/Chaffinch/72687
- numonday.com/shop/chaffinch

Craft

Are you creative? We are always looking for donations of high-quality hand-crafted items to sell online in our numonday craft shop. Contact us to discuss how you can help in this way: contact@chaffinch.org.uk





www.chaffinch.org.uk | 3 Spurr Court, York, YO24 3ND | Registered Charity 1206986 (England & Wales)

Photo credits throughout: Philemon Amolo, Frederick Dharshie, and Sarah Woods



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Chaffinch

On accounts for the
period ended

5th April 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1206986

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 5th April 2025

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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:

AP Fuller

Date:

30/9/2025

Name:

Adrian Fuller

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

BSc

Address:

19, Bilsdale Close, York, YO30 5TT

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Chaffinch Unincorporated Charity was closed on 8th July 2024, and its assets transferred to a new body, Chaffinch CIO.

The trustees of the Chaffinch Unincorporated Charity and the Chaffinch CIO have both agreed that all transactions made up to 8th July 2024 shall be treated as relating for the Unincorporated Charity, and all transactions after that date shall be treated as relating to the CIO, whichever bank account was used for any transaction.

The accounts have been produced and examined on this basis.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
CHAFFINCH (New CIO)

No (if any)
1206986

CC16a


Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	12/02/2024	To	05/04/2025
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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 £
A1 Receipts					
CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME	16,865		-	16,865	
SALES CHANNELS	1,660	-	-	1,660	
OTHER DONATIONS	4,859	391	-	5,250	
		-	-	-	
INTEREST ON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	55	-	-	55	
Closing UA Charity funds moved to CIO	13,654	210	-	13,864	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	37,094	601	-	37,695	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
none	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	37,094	601	-	37,695	
A3 Payments					
Funds awarded	27,324	41	-	27,365	
Other costs	1,566	-	-	1,566	
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	28,890	41	-	28,931	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
none	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	28,890	41	-	28,931	
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,204	560	-	8,764	
A5 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	8,204	560	-	8,764	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account (inc Paypal/Stripe)	8,149	560	-
	savings account	55	-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	8,204	560	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	none		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Neil Hutton	21/10/2025