

Charity registration number 297935 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 2162724

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs D E Brearley	
	Mr J R Goff	
	Mr C Haseman	
	Mrs J Ainger	
	Mr Leslie Nicoll	
	Mrs S Nicholson	
	Mrs C Towler	
	Mr D Chable	(Appointed 16 October 2025)
Charity number	297935	
Company number	2162724	
Registered office	The Ark Family Resource Centre 36 Main Road Harwich Essex CO12 3LU	
Independent examiner	Streets Whittle & Partners LLP c/o The Old Exchange 64 West Stockwell Street Colchester Essex CO1 1HE	

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

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THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The primary objective of the Ark Family Resource Centre is to continue running a high quality sessional preschool nursery with well trained staff in a safe and happy environment.

The Ark offers responsible and innovative non-judgemental support responding to the varying needs of the local community while retaining our long held reputation for excellent and caring service.

The trustees respect and abide by the guidance given by the Charity Commissioners.

Achievements and performance

The Ark Centre has continued to build on the stability achieved last year and is operating with a strong, cohesive management team who are flourishing in their roles. For the first time in many years, the Ark has successfully gathered financial reserves, providing a secure foundation for future growth and resilience.

The centre continues to expand and enhance its services through new funding opportunities and partnerships. We have built a new relationship with Creative Collective, who have awarded us support that will strengthen our outreach and additional services in 2025 and 2026. The Ark Centre has also been successful in securing a bid to partner with the Essex Activate Holiday Activities Fund to run Specialist SEND respite support for primary school children throughout the Easter, Summer, and Winter school holidays 2025. This marks the first time the Ark Centre has been selected for this programme and we are really excited for this new partnership and to be the only Level 4 respite service in the area which will provide such great support to parents and carers in our community.

We continue to be supported locally through Harwich Town Council, Harwich Secret Gardens, locals pubs and community centres, The Rotary Club and of significance is a local businesswoman Colette Franklin who has once again shown outstanding dedication to the Ark, hosting low cost and accessible charity events throughout the year to support local children and raise funds for new nursery resources and additional services.

A major milestone this year has been the launch of the Ark Food Bank, created to compliment our outreach services and to support the residents of our community that we serve. We are extremely proud to be the only food bank in our area open every day of the week, offering non-judgmental, unbiased and accessible support to anyone in need whilst also working collaboratively with existing local services supporting similar services to ensure our funds stretch as far as possible. This project has been supported by the Association of Local Councils over the winter period, and by The Trafalgar Pub and other local fundraisers, who collectively donated over £2,000 during the year.

This year, the Ark was awarded a grant from Catalyst to transform an existing office space into a purpose-built Baby Room, allowing us to welcome children from birth to two years old for the first time. This development met a clear local need for affordable, high-quality childcare, enabling more parents to return to work while ensuring their children receive the best possible start. The new provision also aligns with the Government's extension of funded hours for younger children, allowing families to access fully funded places where eligible.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

A key focus of the Baby Room is early intervention for children identified as having additional needs. In recent years, EHCP assessments and specialist school places have become increasingly difficult to obtain, leaving many children without a suitable school placement when they reach statutory age. By introducing earlier observation and assessment, our SEND Support Team can now engage much sooner – putting strategies in place to monitor, track, and enhance development, while referring families to appropriate services where needed. The Baby Room launched in September 2024 with a three-day introductory pilot, which quickly expanded to five days per week due to high demand. By Christmas, the room was fully booked, with 40% of children identified under our Early Intervention Tracking and Support framework. The project has already demonstrated significant community impact, both in supporting family employment and strengthening early SEND identification and response.

We are also delighted to report that the Henry Smith Charity, who have supported the Ark for three years, have approved a fourth and final year of funding under their current portfolio, with the last payment due in September 2025. This funding guarantees a further two years of outreach support for our community – including our food bank, domestic abuse and mental health support, baby group for under-2s, respite services, and our community SENCO clinic, which provides advice, benefit form assistance, and referral support for families across the area.

The Ark also received funding from Tendring District Council's Rural England Prosperity Fund, enabling a full revitalisation of our community garden space. This project included new equipment, weatherproof awnings to allow year-round access, improved fencing and security, and enhanced accessibility for people with disabilities – all of which have greatly benefitted our respite and nursery services.

The Preschool continues to thrive, operating at full capacity each term. The Government's introduction of funded hours for babies and extended hours for working parents has been well received, with over 90% of children now fully funded and an average of 40 children on roll daily – a reflection of the strong local trust and demand for our services.

We continue to promote training and professional development within the setting, using apprenticeships to provide young adults with valuable workplace experience while bringing new skill sets into the team and supporting the sustainability of the Centre. We are also proud that five members of staff are currently progressing from Level 3 to Level 5 qualifications, enhancing our expertise and the quality of care provided.

The Ark once again took part in the Guy Carnival with the theme "The Ark is historic but not extinct", celebrating our long history and vibrant role in the community. We were supported by a wealth of parents and volunteers, and the Rotary Club awarded the Ark 1st place in the Small Business category, along with a £1,000 grant presented at Christmas – a wonderful recognition of the team's creativity and spirit.

Finally, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to our trustees, whose loyalty, belief in the Ark, and steadfast support of the management team have been instrumental in achieving this year's success. Their guidance, encouragement, and commitment continue to be the foundation on which the Ark's achievements are built.

Overview of Services – March 2025

Preschool Nursery

Nursery sessions have continued to run at full capacity throughout the year, with a consistent waiting list across all sessions. Demand for places remains exceptionally high, reflecting the trust and reputation the Ark Nursery has built within the community.

The introduction of Government-funded hours for babies and extended hours for working parents has been warmly received, with over 90% of children now fully funded. The new Baby Room, opened in 2024 with the support of Catalyst, continues to flourish and is now operating at full capacity with a full register of under-2s. This provision has become an invaluable service for local families and has further strengthened the Ark's early years offer.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Nursery continues to operate smoothly with over 40 children attending daily. Staff morale remains high, and the team continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to providing a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for all children.

In support of professional growth and sustainability, the Ark continues to invest in apprenticeships, providing valuable opportunities for young adults to gain workplace experience in early years education. This initiative not only supports local employment but also benefits the Ark by introducing new skill sets and perspectives into the team. We are also proud to report that three members of staff are currently progressing from Level 3 to Level 5 qualifications, further strengthening the Centre's capacity to deliver high-quality, professional early years education and care.

The Nursery Manager continues to work closely with the Early Years Advisor to ensure smooth operation and compliance with all regulatory requirements. The setting remains fully staffed, and staff training and development remain key priorities.

The Ark has continued to embrace innovation, investing in new resources and refurbishments throughout the building. The revitalised community garden, funded through the Tendring District Council Rural England Prosperity Fund, has provided an inclusive and accessible outdoor learning space for both nursery and respite users. New equipment, fencing, and weatherproof awnings have allowed the garden to be used year-round, significantly enhancing our children's outdoor experiences.

Outreach

Services

The Ark continues to deliver a wide range of outreach services designed to meet the needs of families and individuals across our community.

Ark Xtra – Respite weekend and holiday group for children with additional needs aged 2 to 8 years continues to operate successfully, with strong attendance and excellent feedback from parents. Current sessions funded by Colchester Catalyst with sessions booked in advance and always with a waiting list.

Baby Beyond – The weekly Stay and Play group continues every Wednesday, offering support for parents and children from birth to two years. This group provides valuable social opportunities for families and remains free to attend, with monthly links to Children's Health and Well-being Services for baby weighing and advice.

The Ark Club – Funded by Harwich Haven Authority through to March 2026, the Ark Club provides much-needed social opportunities for children aged 6–11 years, including those with additional needs. Attendance remains high, with a waiting list for places. The Club continues to offer a free hall, a hot meal, and a safe, welcoming environment for children to socialise and play.

The Ark Food Bank – Launched this year, the Ark Food Bank is a cornerstone of our outreach programme. It is the only food bank in the local area open every day of the week, providing immediate, non-judgemental support for individuals and families. The service has received generous support from the Association of Local Councils, The Trafalgar Pub, and other local businesses.

The Ark Sensory Room – This facility continues to be hired privately and by local organisations. Adaptations made for accessibility, including wheelchair access and key-safe entry, have made the space more inclusive and practical. The room continues to be used regularly by carers and adult service users.

Counselling Services – The counselling service continues to operate at capacity, offering up to ten-week blocks of sessions for up to ten clients at a time. This provision remains in high demand, offering vital support to those experiencing anxiety, trauma, and other mental health challenges.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Community SENCO Support Clinic – Our in-house SENCO continues to provide weekly drop-in sessions for families seeking advice on special educational needs, assistance with benefit applications, and support with referrals and diagnosis pathways. This service is funded by Essex Unpaid Carers and has proven to be an invaluable addition to our community outreach offer, ensuring that families across the district have free access to expert guidance and advocacy.

Cancer Support Partnership - Through dedicated funding, the Ark continues to support individuals and families affected by cancer. This service provides information and guidance on early detection, helping people to recognise signs and access medical care promptly. In addition, the programme offers transport assistance for hospital appointments, reducing the financial burden of travel and ensuring that those without access to transport can still attend vital appointments. The service also provides emotional and practical support for people who may feel anxious or frightened about attending hospital visits, ensuring that no one faces their cancer journey alone.

The Ark Family Resource Centre continues to adapt and expand its services in line with the needs of the community. With strong partnerships, a dedicated staff team, and the ongoing support of our trustees, funders, and volunteers, the Ark remains a trusted, inclusive, and compassionate resource for families across our area.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Trustees are proud to report that the Ark Family Resource Centre has entered 2025 in a position of strength, stability, and confidence. The Centre has flourished under the leadership of a dynamic management team, supported by a dedicated Board of Trustees whose unwavering belief in the Ark has made this success possible.

This year has been one of development and consolidation – refurbishing our building, renewing resources, and securing vital funding that will protect and strengthen the Ark's future. With secure reserves and diverse funding streams, the Ark is now able to plan proactively and sustainably.

The introduction of new services, including the Ark Food Bank and revitalized SEND respite program, the expansion of early years provision, and continued outreach through our community SENCO and support programmes, have all deepened our impact within the community. The success of these initiatives, alongside major capital improvements such as the Rural England Prosperity Fund Garden refurbishment, demonstrates our ongoing ability to innovate and respond effectively to community needs.

The Trustees also recognise the exceptional commitment of our staff, whose professionalism, creativity, and dedication underpin every aspect of our work. Through apprenticeships and professional development opportunities, we continue to invest in the next generation of early years and community support professionals.

With a strong foundation now firmly in place, the Ark Family Resource Centre looks ahead with optimism. Plans are underway to extend nursery services to include breakfast and after-school sessions and to expand respite and outreach programmes to reach even more families in need.

The Ark remains steadfast in its mission – to provide inclusive, non-judgmental, and compassionate support for all. With the continued partnership of our funders, trustees, and community, the Ark is fit for both today and the future, ready to grow and serve for many years to come.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial review

Current contracted funding continues from Essex County Council. Grant applications are applied for on a regular basis. Other funding comes through fees, donations and fund raising.

The Trustees continuing long term aim is to secure further regular funding through service level agreements.

The trustees are well aware of significant factors beyond the control of the charity which have an impact on our finances. Forward planning and budgeting continues to be difficult as we are almost completely dependent on grants in order to continue our existing level of service.

We do continue to have ongoing support from Essex Community Foundation who are able to advise of other appropriate potential grants

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has not been maintained throughout the whole year due to funding difficulties explained above, however significant improvements have been made in arriving closer to the recommended level of reserves.

The liability for our pension scheme will only be incurred should all staff paying in leave the scheme: an event which we do not currently foresee happening. In accordance with accounting standards, this needs to be included in our balance sheet. As at the year end, total unrestricted funds are £120,077 (2024: £40,953). The pension liability stands at £4,126, (2024: £1,602).

The Trustees believe that the Ark Family Resource Centre is now in a stable, safe and sustainable condition.

This is due in no small part to the relentless and extreme hard work by the Managers firstly by radically reorganising and updating management and financial systems. This ensures that cash flow in general and separate funding streams can be rapidly identified and frequently monitored.

Hiring of space to other agencies and to private individuals has been successful both financially and to the community. Renegotiating contracts, particularly to utility companies, has resulted in considerable savings. All financial outgoings have been carefully scrutinised.

It is also acknowledged that much thanks is also due to the temporary financial help, and ongoing practical advice and support from other organisations which has been invaluable.

Lastly, but not least the Ark Centre has benefited greatly by the very heartening and generous support from the local community which has been incredible.

The Ark Centre is fit for both today and for the future. Indeed it has now extended its current services, offering day care to babies of working parents with the launch of the new baby room in September 2024, with thanks to catalyst Colchester funding it for us to generate additional income and to tackle early intervention in SEN identification and support to help reduce the number of children without specialist schools aged 4 due to the delays in Ehcp approvals and diagnosis.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs D E Brearley

Mr J R Goff

Mr C Haseman

Mrs J Ainger

Mr Leslie Nicoll

Mrs S Nicholson

Mrs C Towler

Mr D Chable

(Appointed 16 October 2025)

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The recruitment of trustees is carried out with support from our local Councils for Voluntary Services. Interested parties are invited to attend our monthly meetings of Trustees. Elections of new Trustees take place annually at our AGM. New Trustees complete an induction programme and all Trustees are offered appropriate training opportunities when these arise.

The Ark Centre is managed by its board of Trustees who employ the centre manager, business manager and nursery manager.

The Ark works locally in partnership with other appropriate statutory and voluntary organisations. Risk assessments are in place for the building and other specific areas such as taking groups of children on outings and individual risk assessments for some children.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

L Nicoll

Mr Leslie Nicoll

Trustee

Dated: 3 December 2025

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Ark Family Resource Centre (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 the Charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Michael Greene BSc FCCA
Streets Whittle & Partners LLP
c/o The Old Exchange
64 West Stockwell Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1HE
3 December 2025

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	13,493	332	13,825	29,942	1,208	31,150
Charitable activities	4	320,124	56,168	376,292	259,609	64,599	324,208
Investments	5	1,014	-	1,014	307	-	307
Total income		<u>334,631</u>	<u>56,500</u>	<u>391,131</u>	<u>289,858</u>	<u>65,807</u>	<u>355,665</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	<u>255,507</u>	<u>66,633</u>	<u>322,140</u>	<u>250,693</u>	<u>73,455</u>	<u>324,148</u>
Total expenditure		<u>255,507</u>	<u>66,633</u>	<u>322,140</u>	<u>250,693</u>	<u>73,455</u>	<u>324,148</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		79,124	(10,133)	68,991	39,165	(7,648)	31,517
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>40,953</u>	<u>31,938</u>	<u>72,891</u>	<u>1,788</u>	<u>39,586</u>	<u>41,374</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>120,077</u>	<u>21,805</u>	<u>141,882</u>	<u>40,953</u>	<u>31,938</u>	<u>72,891</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		25,369		13,741
Current assets					
Debtors	13	1,060		1,024	
Cash at bank and in hand		123,684		63,924	
		<u>124,744</u>		<u>64,948</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(4,105)</u>		<u>(4,196)</u>	
Net current assets			120,639		60,752
Total assets less current liabilities			146,008		74,493
Provisions for liabilities			<u>(4,126)</u>		<u>(1,602)</u>
Net assets			<u>141,882</u>		<u>72,891</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	17		21,805		31,938
Unrestricted funds			120,077		40,953
			<u>141,882</u>		<u>72,891</u>

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 3 December 2025

L Nicoll

Mr Leslie Nicoll
Trustee

Company Registration No. 2162724

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Ark Family Resource Centre is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Ark Family Resource Centre, 36 Main Road, Harwich, Essex, CO12 3LU.

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going concern

As with most voluntary sector organisations the going concern basis used for preparing these financial statements is dependant upon obtaining further funding to provide the necessary working capital for the general running of the charity.

The trustees are working hard to obtain the funding required to continue the wide range of services offered. On this basis, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the accounts on the going concern basis.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Funds restricted by the donor are treated as restricted funds. All other funds are unrestricted. A description of each fund is given in note 17 to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected.

Grants from government and other agencies have been included as incoming resources from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use. These grants are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from fundraising activities is recognised on receipt.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay. Expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Costs classified as governance relate to the general running of the charity and include the operations of the Board of Trustees and addressing constitutional audit and other statutory matters.

Resources expended include attributable VAT, which cannot be recovered.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% reducing balance
Computers	25% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. Financial assets comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with other debtors. A specific provision is made for debts for which recoverability is in doubt. Cash at bank and in hand is defined as all cash held in instant access bank accounts and used as working capital. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise all creditors except social security and other taxes, deferred income and provisions.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

The Charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. The annual contributions are charged to the profit and loss account.

The Charity also participates in a multi-employer defined benefit scheme.

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

1.12 Taxation

The company is a charity within the meaning of section 506(1) of the Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The judgements the trustees have made that have the most effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are the amounts in relation to the pension provision for the liability to carry forwards. This is mitigated by the pension provider producing a yearly report on the total estimated liability the charity needs to provide for under FRS102 and is recognised as such by the Trustees.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	13,493	332	13,825	29,942	1,208	31,150

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Grants receivable £	Nursery fees £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Nursery fees	-	276,024	276,024	203,149
Grants receivable	100,268	-	100,268	121,059
	<u>100,268</u>	<u>276,024</u>	<u>376,292</u>	<u>324,208</u>
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	44,100	276,024	320,124	
Restricted funds	56,168	-	56,168	
	<u>100,268</u>	<u>276,024</u>	<u>376,292</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2024				
Unrestricted funds	56,460	203,149		259,609
Restricted funds	64,599	-		64,599
	<u>121,059</u>	<u>203,149</u>		<u>324,208</u>

The bulk of the nursery fees are from Essex Council Council's Free Early Education Entitlement.

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	<u>1,014</u>	<u>307</u>

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Charitable activities

	Resources expended on charitable activities	Other resources expended	Total 2025	Total 2024
	2025	2025		
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	232,988	-	232,988	247,529
Depreciation and impairment	8,458	-	8,458	4,580
Nursery running costs	47,899	-	47,899	45,598
Counselling	10,454	-	10,454	17,525
Canteen	-	2,844	2,844	1,990
Training	521	-	521	1,674
Bad debt	13,696	-	13,696	-
	<u>314,016</u>	<u>2,844</u>	<u>316,860</u>	<u>318,896</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	5,280	-	5,280	5,252
	<u>319,296</u>	<u>2,844</u>	<u>322,140</u>	<u>324,148</u>
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	252,663	2,844	255,507	250,693
Restricted funds	66,633	-	66,633	73,455
	<u>319,296</u>	<u>2,844</u>	<u>322,140</u>	<u>324,148</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2024				
Unrestricted funds	248,703	1,990		250,693
Restricted funds	73,455	-		73,455
	<u>322,158</u>	<u>1,990</u>		<u>324,148</u>

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	2024	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Accountancy	-	3,300	3,300	3,650	Governance
Legal and professional	-	1,878	1,878	1,410	Governance
Bank charges	-	60	60	59	Governance
Unwinding of pension scheme discount	-	42	42	132	Governance
	—	—	—	—	
	-	5,280	5,280	5,251	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	-	5,280	5,280	5,252	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	

8 Net movement in funds

2025
£

2024
£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner:		
- for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	3,300	3,150
- for other financial services	1,878	1,410
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	8,458	4,580
	=====	=====

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or expenses during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2025 Number	2024 Number
20	24
=====	=====

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

10 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	222,091	239,479
Social security costs	6,646	4,833
Other pension costs	4,251	3,217
	<u>232,988</u>	<u>247,529</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>44,511</u>	<u>37,737</u>

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Computers £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	34,963	3,574	38,537
Additions	<u>20,086</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,086</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>55,049</u>	<u>3,574</u>	<u>58,623</u>
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2024	21,222	3,574	24,796
Depreciation charged in the year	<u>8,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,458</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>29,680</u>	<u>3,574</u>	<u>33,254</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	<u>25,369</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,369</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>13,741</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,741</u>

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	-	(160)
Prepayments and accrued income	1,060	1,024
	<u>1,060</u>	<u>864</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	805	554
Accruals and deferred income	3,300	3,642
	<u>4,105</u>	<u>4,196</u>

15 Provisions for liabilities

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Retirement benefit obligations	16	4,126	1,602
		<u>4,126</u>	<u>1,602</u>

16 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	4,251	3,217
	<u>4,251</u>	<u>3,217</u>

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

Defined benefit schemes

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 521 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

Valuation

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2023. This valuation showed assets of £514.9m, liabilities of £531.0m and a deficit of £16.1m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2025 to 31 January 2028:	£2,100,000 per annum	(payable monthly)
---------------------------------------	----------------------	-------------------

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2028 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2025:	£3,312,000 per annum	(payable monthly)
---	----------------------	-------------------

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Assumptions

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	% per annum	% per annum
Rate of discount	4.84	5.31

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Retirement benefit schemes	(Continued)	
Amounts recognised in the profit and loss account	2025	2024
Net interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	42	102
Other costs and income	26	(92)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total costs	4,157	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>
The amounts included in the balance sheet arising from the Charity's obligations in respect of defined benefit plans are as follows:		
	2025	2024
Liabilities/(assets):	£	£
Present value of defined benefit obligations	4,126	1,602
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit in scheme	4,126	1,602
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations		2025 £
Liabilities at 1 April 2024		1,602
Contributions from scheme members		(1,633)
Interest cost		42
Other		4,115
		<hr/>
At 31 March 2025		4,126
		<hr/>

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Colchester Catalyst Charity	-	7,500	(5,000)	2,500	18,000	(20,500)	-
CVS Tendring - The Ark Club Project	-	6,409	-	6,409	-	(6,409)	-
CVS Tendring - Warm for Winter 2023	-	500	(500)	-	-	-	-
CVS Tendring - Startwell	-	30,000	(24,000)	6,000	-	(6,000)	-
CVS Tendring - Cancer Support	-	-	-	-	6,700	(6,700)	-
Dishwasher Donation Fund	-	300	(75)	225	-	(56)	169
Eastern Association of Local Councils	2,388	-	(597)	1,791	-	(448)	1,343
Eastern Counties Educational Trust	960	-	(960)	-	-	-	-
ECC - Sufficiency Grant	-	12,890	(12,890)	-	-	-	-
ECC - Community Fund	471	-	(118)	353	-	(88)	265
ECF - Essex Fund	2,577	-	(644)	1,933	-	(483)	1,450
Essex County Council	5,625	-	(1,406)	4,219	-	(1,055)	3,164
Essex Community Foundation	3,706	-	(1,884)	1,822	-	(456)	1,366
Essex Community Foundation - DV Support Group	-	2,470	(2,470)	-	5,498	(5,498)	-
Grassroutes	500	-	(500)	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Harwich Connexions	781	-	(570)	211	-	(53)	158
Harwich Town Council	633	-	(158)	475	-	(119)	356
Harwich Town Council - Room Swap Project	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	17,641	62,569	(54,272)	25,938	31,198	(48,865)	8,271

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17	Restricted funds	(Continued)						
	Brought forward	17,641	62,569	(54,272)	25,938	31,198	(48,865)	8,271
	Homestart - The Project	-	764	(764)	-	-	-	-
	Leeds Building Society	250	-	(250)	-	-	-	-
	NHS	1,695		(1,695)	-	-	-	-
	TASK Fees	-	18	(18)	-	-	-	-
	Tendring District Council	20,000		(14,000)	6,000	18,473	(10,940)	13,533
	Carers Community Fund					3,375	(3,375)	-
	Food Bank					2,900	(2,900)	-
	Various Donations	-	2,456	(2,456)	-	553	(553)	-
		<u>39,586</u>	<u>65,807</u>	<u>(73,455)</u>	<u>31,938</u>	<u>56,499</u>	<u>(66,633)</u>	<u>21,804</u>

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Carers Community Fund

This has been provided to give support to unpaid carers with SEND children within the community

Colchester Catalyst Charity

This funding has been provided to be used in relation to the cost of respite care funding and a sensory garden.

CVS Tendring

This funding has been provided to assist with counselling services.

CVS Tendring - Startwell

This funding has been provided to assist with outreach services and domestic violence support

CVS Tendring - The Ark Club Project

This funding has been provided to assist with the launch of our Ark Club Project

CVS Tendring - Cancer community partnership fund

This funding has been provided to assist with outreach services and cancer support

ECC - Sufficiency Grant

This funding has been provided to help pay staff wages in December 2023

ECC Community Fund

This funding has been provided to assist with the cost of renovations and repairs.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Essex Association of Local Councils

This funding has been provided food support to households in need.

Essex County Council

This funding has been provided to assist with installation of wheelchair accessible playground.

Essex Community Foundation

This funding has been provided to assist with counselling services specifically in relation to domestic abuse and for DBS checks for all staff. Additional funding has also been provided for a sensory garden, to improve external facilities and strength security

Grassroutes

This funding has been provided to assist with the purchase of staff uniforms.

Harwich Connexions

This funding was provided for outreach support.

Harwich Town Council

This funding has been provided to assist with training costs and radiator replacement.

Harwich Town Council - Room Swap Project

This funding has been provided to help develop the sensory and baby room at the premises.

Tendring District Council

This funding has been provided for the "Live Well Theme" project to support outreach and counselling services.

THE ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	3,564	21,805	25,369	13,741
Current assets/(liabilities)	120,639	-	120,639	60,752
Provisions and pensions	(4,126)	-	(4,126)	(1,602)
	<u>120,077</u>	<u>21,805</u>	<u>141,882</u>	<u>72,891</u>

19 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	8,974	8,974
Between two and five years	1,182	9,098
	<u>10,156</u>	<u>18,072</u>

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).