

Company registration number: 2441231
Charity registration number: 802597

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS) LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status

Step Forward (Tower Hamlets) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Patron	Sir Ian McKellen
Trustees	Dennis Twomey Hussein Ali
Chief Executive Officer	Mrs Lee-Xuan Robinson
Secretary	Dennis Twomey
Registered Office	234 Bethnal Green Road London E2 0AA
Company Registration Number	2441231
Charity Registration Number	802597
Independent Auditor	Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited Salatin House 19 Cedar Road Sutton Surrey SM2 5DA

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Status

Step Forward (Tower Hamlets) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee; incorporated on November 8th, 1989.

The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association which outlines the objects and powers of the charitable company. The charity is also a Limited Company by Guarantee. It is governed by its Articles of Association which detail the aims and objectives of the organisation as well as the mechanisms through which its Board of Trustees is elected. In the event of the company going into liquidation, members of the organisation are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Step Forward's trustees are appointed in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association. The Board of Trustees is responsible for identifying and recruiting new trustees, with appointments made by resolution of the existing Board. Trustees serve in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration.

The Board actively seeks to recruit trustees who bring a diverse range of skills, experience and perspectives, and who reflect the communities the charity serves. In recruiting new trustees, the Board considers the skills and experience needed to complement those already represented on the Board, with particular attention to areas such as finance, legal, health, education, human resources and lived experience of the issues affecting young people in Tower Hamlets.

During the year ended 31 March 2025, Step Forward participated in the Minoritised Ethnic Trustees programme run by Tower Hamlets Volunteer Service. This programme is specifically designed to support people from minoritised ethnic communities to take on trustee roles in local voluntary organisations, and the charity welcomed the opportunity to recruit through this route as part of its ongoing commitment to ensuring its governance reflects the diversity of the borough it serves.

In addition to formal recruitment programmes, the charity has also welcomed approaches from individuals who have become aware of Step Forward's work through the charity's website or through its presence in the local community. The Board considers all such expressions of interest carefully, assessing whether candidates have the relevant skills, experience and commitment to contribute effectively to the charity's governance.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

About step forward

Step Forward supports the wellbeing, mental health and social development of young people aged 11-25 in Tower Hamlets. Established in 1988, our vision is of a world where all young people can realise their self-worth, raise their aspirations and reach their full potential in life.

Our mission is to improve the well-being and life chances of local young people affected by poverty and disadvantage by providing accessible, flexible non-judgemental support services. We provide free, high quality confidential, LGBTQI+ inclusive and culturally sensitive support, helping people often underserved or hesitant to engage with conventional mental health services. We have a range of rooms for private counselling and group activities at our welcoming, accessible building on Bethnal Green Road and also work offsite at schools and youth centres. Support can be provided on a one-off, short-term, or ongoing basis.

Our current main activities are:

- Free and confidential counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and personal development support.
- School based counselling, CBT, wellbeing psychoeducation work and group workshops in 4 schools/colleges
- Online staff wellbeing support to staff from 48 schools across the borough.
- LGBTQ+ support including 1:1 personal development and counselling and groups for under and over 18s
- school holiday activities for young people who may have difficulties accessing mainstream youth provision and need smaller, supportive group spaces.
- Outreach work to schools and community settings, speaking at assemblies, classes and participating in events and mental health fairs, reaching over a thousand people a year.

Our services are free, high quality, confidential, LGBTQI+ inclusive and culturally sensitive, helping people who are underserved or hesitant to engage with conventional mental health services.

Objectives

Step Forward is committed to improving the health, well-being and life chances of local young people affected by poverty and disadvantage. Through providing a holistic range of free, confidential, high quality therapeutic and psychosocial support services we help young people deal with any difficulties or past trauma or abuse. We offer a place of sanctuary which inspires and encourages them to realise their self-worth, raise their aspirations and reach their full potential in life.

Public benefit

Our board of trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and consider that the charitable activities of Step Forward provide a benefit to the public.

Our board and management team ensures that all of Step Forward's charitable activities are for public benefit and directly relate to the charity's purpose and aims. Step Forward attracts, welcomes and serves a diverse population of young people.

We reach young people through activities at our own centre, through our regular satellite sessions in local schools and through outreach, education, training and events across the borough. Our monitoring and statistics show that our service benefits members of the public including both young men and young women from a range of communities reflected locally. We provide all our services free of charge.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Activities and achievements

This year Step Forward has made a significant difference to the wellbeing of young people. 271 young people were referred to our organisation for potential 1:1 support. Support was provided to 263 of these, with 162 referred to our counselling service following an assessment, 10 referred to Personal Development support, and a further two accessing early intervention/psychoeducation.

Under 18s accounted for 175 (65%) of referrals, and 18-25-year-olds account for 96 (35%). The average age at first referral was 16. The average age at first referral was 16.

210 (77%) were from a global majority background, with 114 (42%) reported Bangladeshi heritage. 21% of all clients stated they had a disability. Of these, 57% had a learning disability. Overall we are seeing an increase in clients who are autistic, have ADHD, or other SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

64% of the young people we worked with last year identified as female, 30% as male. 3% identified as trans and a further 3% identified as 'other'

Our aim is to improve the health, wellbeing and life chances of local young people, which the organisations has been able to achieve through its core activities:

Therapeutic support

Step Forward provided 1:1 therapeutic support to young people which included counselling and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). 162 young people were referred to counselling/ CBT support. Young people reported improved emotional health and wellbeing, self-awareness and an increased ability to talk about their worries and make changes in their lives. Our enhanced CBT team added capacity to offer this evidence based intervention for young people experiencing low mood, anxiety, OCD and PTSD and continued to grow with two new trainees in post as part of the Children & Young People, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Psychological Training (CYP CBT-PT) programme. Our most senior CBT Practitioner also embarked on supervisor training which increased the organisation's capacity to provide support and supervision in-house.

Personal development support

Our Personal Development Team continued to develop and support young people both 1:1 and through group support. Young people reported increased confidence and self-awareness as a result of 1:1 support. Young people have also gained Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQAs) as a result of learning outcomes they have achieved, for example in leadership. The team have provided wellbeing group activities based on the 5 ways to wellbeing during the school holidays which has enabled many young people to access support in the holidays that may otherwise find difficult to access larger more mainstream groups. The team have made links with local voluntary and statutory partners which has increased the range of opportunities our young people have been able to access.

LGBTQ+ support

Young LGBTQ+ people have been able to received support both 1:1 through counselling/CBT and personal development and through groups at Step Forward. Our weekly group service has continued to grow in numbers and provides a safe space for young people to openly discuss their feelings and concerns and access opportunities to help them reach their potential. Due to the increased numbers attending, this year the organisation split the group to enable delivery of an over 18s group and an under 18s group, which young people have responded to really well. This past year over 30 young LGBTQ+ people attending the sessions reported an improved sense of wellbeing, feeling more optimistic about their futures and were better able to access holistic and supportive opportunities across LBTH.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

School based support

This year, Step Forward continued to provide counselling to two Secondary schools in LBTH through our longstanding partnerships/contracts. We have also continued to be a delivery partner of the Tower Hamlets Emotional Wellbeing Service (THEWS) which is the borough's Mental Health Support teams in Schools (MHSTs) programme delivered by the central THEWS team within CAMHS, part of the Government's initiative to provide support and extra capacity for early intervention to young people. As part of THEWS whole school approach, one of our counsellors has been providing wellbeing support to staff who are part of the THEWS network. Increased numbers of staff have access this support this year which has demonstrated the need and value of this support to school staff.

Outreach and community work

Step Forward has also conducted outreach and delivered wellbeing sessions to young people in the community. This has helped raise awareness of the importance of emotional and mental health and provided young people with tools they can use and information about where they can get support, including our services at Step Forward. The organisation reached over 1250 young people in the community through this work.

Partnerships

This year, Step Forward has maintained numerous statutory, voluntary and corporate partnerships as well as developed new relationships. These have helped to provide opportunities for young people, raised awareness of the importance of emotional and wellbeing support for young people and/or helped raise funds to enable us to continue to make a difference to the lives of young people.

Performance

The year ended 31 March 2025 was one of the most challenging in Step Forward's recent history. The charity continued to deliver its core services to young people across Tower Hamlets, but did so against a backdrop of significant organisational disruption, a sharply deteriorating funding environment, and an ever-growing demand for mental health and wellbeing support from some of the most disadvantaged young people in the country.

The most significant internal factor affecting the charity's performance during the year was the long-term sickness absence of the Chief Executive Officer. The CEO's absence placed considerable pressure on the wider staff team and the Board of Trustees, who worked to ensure operational continuity. The existing Operations Manager stepped up to help provide leadership and stability during this period with additional support from the Chair and Treasurer. The trustees are grateful to all members of staff for their dedication and resilience in maintaining services through what was an exceptionally difficult time. Managing an organisation through unexpected senior leadership absence is a significant governance and operational challenge, and the Board acknowledges that this has had an impact on the pace of certain strategic developments during the year.

Despite these pressures, Step Forward continued to reach approximately 1,750 young people from across East London with free, confidential therapeutic and psychosocial support services. Client feedback remains strongly positive, with 98% of respondents rating services 4 or 5 out of 5 for satisfaction, and 97% reporting they felt safe and experienced compassion from our team. This reflects the ongoing commitment and professionalism of our staff and volunteers.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Demand for services

Demand for Step Forward's services has continued to rise, consistent with national trends. More than one in four young adults aged 16 to 24 are now living with common mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, a significant deterioration from figures recorded less than two decades ago. In Tower Hamlets specifically, nearly half of all children live in poverty after housing costs - the highest rate of any London borough - and children in the poorest 20% of households are four times more likely to experience mental health problems compared to those in the highest-earning 20%. The borough's acute deprivation means the need for accessible, free mental health support for young people remains as acute as it has ever been.

Through our assessments with young people, we have recognised that a greater proportion of those seeking our support are presenting with increasingly complex issues compared to the period before the pandemic. This has led us to concentrate more resources into our specialist counselling, personal development, and LGBTQi+ support services, and to further develop our CBT and wellbeing workshops designed to meet a broader range of need.

The wider funding environment

The trustees wish to draw attention to the extremely challenging funding environment that the entire voluntary sector is navigating. According to NCVO's The Road Ahead 2025, the unpredictable and challenging times the charity and voluntary sector has experienced in recent years look set to continue, with many organisations facing a perfect storm created by funding falling, costs increasing, and demand climbing simultaneously.

The October 2024 Autumn Budget introduced further significant pressures for the sector. NCVO has highlighted that the 6.7% rise in the National Living Wage and the increase in employer National Insurance contributions to 15%, both effective from April 2025, will bring substantial financial pressures for charities. NCVO estimates that the National Insurance increase alone represents an additional financial strain on the voluntary sector of £1.4 billion. Unlike the private sector, charities cannot pass these costs on to service users, and unlike public sector organisations, they do not benefit from equivalent exemptions. Step Forward is not immune to these pressures, and the trustees will monitor the impact of these cost increases carefully in the year ahead.

NCVO has also noted that government contracts to charities have not been rising in line with inflation, meaning that even where funding has been maintained in cash terms, its real value has eroded. This compounds the difficulties faced by smaller, community-based organisations like Step Forward, which depend on a combination of statutory grants, contracts and trust funding to sustain their services. The trustees are determined to respond proactively to this environment by continuing to diversify Step Forward's income base and reduce reliance on any single funding stream.

Looking ahead

The trustees are proud that Step Forward has continued to provide vital, free services throughout a year of significant internal and external difficulty. The challenges described above - the CEO's absence, the reduction in certain income streams, and the broader sector-wide funding pressures - have tested the organisation's resilience, but also demonstrated the strength of its foundations: a skilled and committed staff team, an owned centre in Bethnal Green, robust reserves, and a strong local reputation built over more than three decades. The trustees are focused on stabilising and securing the charity's leadership for the long term. We remain committed to meeting the growing need for mental health and wellbeing support among the young people of Tower Hamlets, and to ensuring Step Forward has the resources and leadership to continue doing so for many years to come.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In 2024-25 our aims were:

- To maintain a community resource which is safe, accessible and available for local young people

Have continued to provide support through our premises in Bethnal Green , online support as well as delivery alongside our partners to provide support to local YP

- To complete an IT systems upgrade and office refit in order to respond to service demand and development

IT systems continued to be developed. Changed IT providers to assist with this as previous supplier not able to support adequately. Plans in place for 2025-26

- To respond to the demand for mental and emotional health services by increasing services and improving care pathways

CBT capacity grew in 2024-25. Continued to respond to demand through our core Personal development and therapeutic offers.

- To support the development of children and young people centred emotional and mental health services locally and to work alongside local partners to support young people's emotional and mental health in schools

Achieved through our partnerships with 2 secondary schools to provide counselling as well as through co-delivery on the THEWS programme which supported both young people as well as staff in schools.

- To further develop the range of services available to local young people under one room

Developed our CBT offer. Co-production with young people accessing our support, particularly our LGBTQ+ and wellbeing groups to help inform activities. Partnered with organisation called Get Out which offers the opportunity for young people to connect with nature and try stand up paddleboarding (SUP) and surfing to improve their emotional wellbeing.

- To support the professional development of staff and volunteers, including recruit to train CBT IAPT trainees

Recruited two new trainees in 2024 for the 2025 academic year. Our two Youth Development & Wellbeing Workers undertook young work qualifications and all staff continued to receive supervision and training relevant to their needs, including for example; Safeguarding, Safety Intervention training, Prevent training.

- To maintain and recruit volunteers to help with both office support and direct service provision

Two volunteers in this timeframe have helped support our LGBTQ+ group and also office support. Continued to maintain and support a team of honorary volunteer counsellors to help with our direct service provision.

- To utilise the broad range of skills and experiences of trustees through the board meetings and recruit new members

Board have met regularly and looking to recruit new members through the METS programme. Aiming to further grow the Board in 2025-26.

- To diversify funding sources and attract a wider supporter base

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Continued work to diversify funding sources. Support from a consultant to develop our organisational and fundraising strategy. More work in 2025-26 needs to be done to develop this further. The Operations Manager continues to grow existing and develop new local corporate partnerships.

- To raise the profile of Step Forward in the sector and to further publicise and promote Step Forward including using different media and resources.

The team continued to raise Step Forward's profile in the sector through its outreach work. The Operations Manager also joined the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition (CYPMHC) to connect with other organisations across the country. Further work on social media/communications strategy needs to happen in 2025-26.

Step Forward continued to review and develop our services to ensure we can respond to emerging needs of our client group. In November 2024 we began a strategic review process with a board away day, bringing trustees and senior staff together to plan out a strategy development process that would run until the following summer.

Our Board and management team took steps in response to the external financial climate by reviewing our funding and looking for new funding sources, increasing our fundraising and promotional activities to attract new supporters.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees has conducted a review of major risks to which the charity is exposed and maintains the Risk Register which is reviewed at least annually and updated as necessary.

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements for staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. We regularly review our operational policies and procedures to ensure they remain up to date and fit for purpose. All staff attend safeguarding training and at least 3 members of staff attend Advanced Safeguarding Children Training to ensure that clients and personnel are supported to remain safe.

To ensure a consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charity we are organisational members of BACP (British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy) and Youth Access, and also hold the Department of Health 'You're Welcome' quality mark.

Internal financial control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. All transactions over £2,000 require the authorisation of a Trustee and the CEO.

The Trustees are aware of the volatile nature of funding and Step Forward avoids becoming dependent on any particular income source, as the loss of a major funding source could have a negative impact.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial position

Income for the year decreased by £102,563 to £325,513 (2024: £428,076), and expenditure increased by £6,095 to £539,694 (2024: £533,599). This resulted in a net decrease in funds for the year of £214,181 (2024: £105,523).

Cash decreased by £48,957 to £729,339 (2024: £778,296). Unrestricted reserves stood at £1,138,793 (2024: £1,293,898) and restricted reserves stood at £30,000 (2024: £89,077) at the year end.

The trustees are aware that the scale of the reduction in income this year, combined with reserves that remain relatively healthy, may prompt questions from funders and other stakeholders about the charity's financial position. The Board wishes to address this directly. The reduction in income reflects specific, identifiable changes to our contract portfolio rather than a systemic decline in the charity's standing or relevance. Most significantly, income from the ELFT Mental Health programme reduced by £107,391 following changes to the delivery model for mental health in schools, and Schools income fell by £18,408 following the conclusion of certain commissioned programmes. These reductions were partially offset by growth in restricted income, including £40,000 from the Being Heard project and increased HEE funding of £71,696.

The charity's reserves, while reducing as planned, remain above the minimum level required by the Board's reserves policy. A significant proportion of unrestricted funds are designated for specific purposes, including the building upgrade programme (£200,000), HR and other contingencies (£126,500), and property and equipment (£357,376). General free reserves, after accounting for designated funds, stood at £454,917 at the year end. The trustees are satisfied that the charity remains financially stable and that reserves are being deployed appropriately to sustain and develop services during a period of transition.

The trustees are confident that the charity's strong local reputation, its owned premises, its diversified funding strategy and its committed staff team place it in a sound position to rebuild income in the coming year. The Board continues to monitor the financial position closely and receives regular financial reports at each of its quarterly meetings.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees to maintain a minimum surplus of unrestricted funds sufficient to meet six months' expenditure. In practice, a reserve sufficient to meet approximately eight months' expenditure and any potential redundancy costs is held wherever possible.

In addition to maintaining these operational reserves, the Board has designated funds to support the continued development of the charity's infrastructure. Up to £150,000 has been allocated for IT upgrades and construction work to reconfigure the ground floor of the charity's Bethnal Green centre to allow more space for service delivery. The Board will keep the level of designated reserves under review as this programme progresses.

The trustees expect reserves to reduce further in the short term as the charity manages its cash flow through a period of income transition, and will keep the reserves position under close review to ensure it remains consistent with the policy.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Funding

The charity's income during the year was drawn from a range of statutory, trust and donated sources. The principal sources of income from charitable activities were the ELFT Mental Health programme (£101,201), Health Education England via the HEE programme (£71,696), Schools counselling and support services (£58,948), the Being Heard project funded by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (£40,000), LGBTQi+ support services funded by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (£25,000), and the Reach Me project (£11,250). Donations and legacies totalled £17,418, including grants from the Eleanor Hamilton Educational Trust (£7,000) and the Frank Haines Memorial Trust (£5,400).

The trustees are grateful to all funders and supporters who have continued to invest in Step Forward's work during what has been a challenging year for the charity and for the sector as a whole.

Auditors

The auditors Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of Step Forward (Tower Hamlets) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing trustees' report and a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company 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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence 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 in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving the report of the report of the trustees:

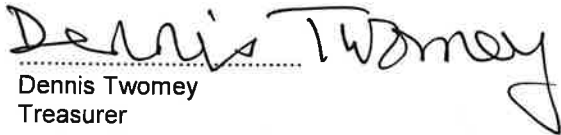
- there is no relevant audit information (as defined by section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Small companies provision statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the small companies' exemptions provided by sections 414B and 415A of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirement to prepare a strategic report and in preparing the trustees' report on the grounds that the charitable company is entitled to prepare its accounts for the year in accordance with the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 6 May 2026 and signed on its behalf by:


Dennis Twomey
Treasurer

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STEP FORWARD
(TOWER HAMLETS)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Step Forward (Tower Hamlets) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of financial activities, Balance sheet, Statement of cash flows, and Notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosure of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 10), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STEP FORWARD
(TOWER HAMLETS)

- we identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We considered the nature of the charity's sector and its control environment, and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with the Trustees and other management, and from our cumulative audit, knowledge and experience of the charity.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Charity operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included the Charity's regulatory requirements, employment and taxation legislations.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of the trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of trustee meetings, reviewing internal audit reports and reviewing correspondence with the Charities Commission.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statements to disclosures underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiring of trustees as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- analysing legal costs to ascertain if there have been instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STEP FORWARD
(TOWER HAMLETS)**

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of this report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Shaw Gibbs

.....
Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited, Statutory Auditor
Salatin House
19 Cedar Road
Sutton
Surrey
SM2 5DA

6 May 2026

Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	17,418	-	17,418
Charitable activities	4	160,149	147,946	308,095
Total income		177,567	147,946	325,513
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	5	(3,102)	-	(3,102)
Charitable activities	6	(320,547)	(207,023)	(527,570)
Other expenditure	7	(9,022)	-	(9,022)
Total expenditure		(332,671)	(207,023)	(539,694)
Net movement in funds		(155,104)	(59,077)	(214,181)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	16	1,293,898	89,077	1,382,975
Total funds carried forward	16	1,138,794	30,000	1,168,794
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	35,718	-	35,718
Charitable activities	4	286,698	105,660	392,358
Total income		322,416	105,660	428,076
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	5	(775)	-	(775)
Charitable activities	6	(380,217)	(145,034)	(525,251)
Other expenditure	7	(7,573)	-	(7,573)
Total expenditure		(388,565)	(145,034)	(533,599)
Net expenditure		(66,149)	(39,374)	(105,523)
Net movement in funds		(66,149)	(39,374)	(105,523)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		1,360,047	128,451	1,488,498
Total funds carried forward	16	1,293,898	89,077	1,382,975

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
(REGISTRATION NUMBER: 2441231)
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

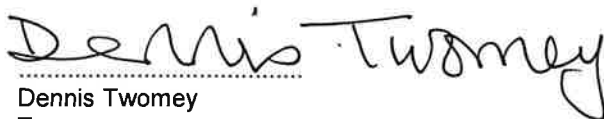
	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	319,889	327,268
Current assets			
Debtors	13	145,144	302,143
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>729,339</u>	<u>778,296</u>
		874,483	1,080,439
Creditors	14	<u>(25,578)</u>	<u>(24,732)</u>
Net current assets		<u>848,905</u>	<u>1,055,707</u>
Net assets		<u><u>1,168,794</u></u>	<u><u>1,382,975</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted	16	30,000	89,077
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted	16	<u>1,138,793</u>	<u>1,293,898</u>
Total funds		<u><u>1,168,793</u></u>	<u><u>1,382,975</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the charitable company.

The trustees are satisfied that the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that members have not required an audit in accordance with section 476 of the same act. However, the trustees have elected for the accounts of the charity to be audited in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees, who are regarded as directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 6 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:


Dennis Twomey
Treasurer

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash expenditure		(214,181)	(105,523)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation	12	<u>7,379</u>	<u>8,436</u>
		(206,802)	(97,087)
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease in debtors	13	156,999	257,179
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	14	<u>846</u>	<u>(87,076)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>(48,957)</u>	<u>73,016</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(48,957)	73,016
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		<u>778,296</u>	<u>705,280</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		<u><u>729,339</u></u>	<u><u>778,296</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1 Charity status

Step Forward (Tower Hamlets) (the 'charity') is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of the registered office is given on page 1. The nature of the charity's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Report of the trustees on page 2.

2 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Going concern

The charity's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent on its success in raising funds from government, other public authorities and donations, none of which can be guaranteed. The volume of services that can be provided is directly dependent on funding levels. The trustees remain in regular contact with sponsoring local authorities to secure their ongoing financial support.

In the current economic environment funding is under pressure and will continue to be under pressure for the foreseeable future. However, the trustees feel that adequate funding is in place for at least the next 12 months and in consequence have prepared the charity's financial statements on a going concern basis.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Step Forward (Tower Hamlets) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The functional currency of the charity is considered to be pounds sterling (£) because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling (£).

Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Incoming resources from donations and legacies are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions, such as service agreements, attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the publicity and other fund raising costs incurred by the charity.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes salaries and other resources applied by the charity to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading. These are the costs of arrangements which relate to the general running of the charity, as opposed to the direct management functions inherent in service delivery and project work, and include such items as external audit, the cost of trustee meetings and other costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

Defined contribution pension obligation

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. Contributions to defined contribution scheme are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Lease

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets is stated in the balance sheet at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. The cost of tangible fixed assets includes directly attributable incremental costs incurred in their acquisition and installation.

Depreciation has been charged, so as to write off each asset's cost, less any residual value over its anticipated useful economic life. The following rates of depreciation have been used:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Leasehold property	over the lease term of 99 years
Furniture and equipment	25% reducing balance

Debtors

Debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of 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 debt.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Fund structure

The funds held by the charity fall into the following categories:-

General unrestricted funds

Funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated unrestricted funds

Funds earmarked by the trustees out of the unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted Funds

Funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Eleanor Hamilton Educational Trust	7,000	-	7,000	7,000
Other donations/ gifts	5,018	-	5,018	21,518
Frank Haines Memorial Trust	5,400	-	5,400	7,200
	<u>17,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,418</u>	<u>35,718</u>

Income from donations and legacies in the prior year were unrestricted.

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
LGBTQ Support	-	25,000	25,000	25,000
NHS Tower Hamlet CCG	-	-	-	750
HEE	-	71,696	71,696	52,327
ELFT- Mental Health	101,201	-	101,201	208,592
Schools	58,948	-	58,948	77,356
Reach Me Project	-	11,250	11,250	11,666
Being heard project	-	40,000	40,000	16,667
	<u>160,149</u>	<u>147,946</u>	<u>308,095</u>	<u>392,358</u>

Income from charitable activities in 2024 was made up of £286,698 in unrestricted funds and £105,660 in restricted funds.

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising costs	<u>3,102</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,102</u>	<u>775</u>

Fundraising costs in the prior year were from unrestricted funds.

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	239,454	192,944	432,398	432,584
Premises costs	14,495	-	14,495	14,643
Client services	11,595	-	11,595	10,717
Volunteers	297	-	297	423
Training and recruitment	10,275	-	10,275	153
General office	32,852	14,079	46,931	50,860
Professional fees	4,200	-	4,200	7,435
Depreciation	<u>7,379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,379</u>	<u>8,436</u>
	<u>320,547</u>	<u>207,023</u>	<u>527,570</u>	<u>525,251</u>

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Activity undertaken directly	Grant funding of activity	Activity support costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	302,679	129,719	-	432,398	432,584
Premises costs	14,495	-	-	14,495	14,643
Client services	11,595	-	-	11,595	10,717
Volunteers	297	-	-	297	423
Training and recruitment	10,275	-	-	10,275	153
General office	-	14,079	32,852	46,931	50,860
Professional fees	-	-	4,200	4,200	7,435
Depreciation	-	-	7,379	7,379	8,436
	<u>339,341</u>	<u>143,798</u>	<u>44,431</u>	<u>527,570</u>	<u>525,251</u>

Expenditure on charitable activities in 2024 was made up of £380,217 of unrestricted funds and £145,034 from restricted funds.

7 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank charges	622	-	622	673
Audit and accountancy	<u>8,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,400</u>	<u>6,900</u>
	<u>9,022</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,022</u>	<u>7,573</u>

Other expenditure in the prior year was from unrestricted funds.

8 Government grants

Income from government grants comprises performance related grants made by local authorities and the NHS Trusts to fund the charity's programme. See Note 4 for more information.

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries and social security	391,795	413,856
Pension costs	<u>40,603</u>	<u>18,728</u>
	<u>432,398</u>	<u>432,584</u>

The average monthly head count was 15 staff (2024: 15 staff) and the average monthly number of fulltime equivalent employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	No	No
Client services	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2024:nil).

10 Auditors' remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Audit of the financial statements	<u>8,400</u>	<u>6,900</u>

11 Taxation

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

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	412,527	72,656	485,183
At 31 March 2025	412,527	72,656	485,183
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	97,940	59,975	157,915
Charge for the year	4,209	3,170	7,379
At 31 March 2025	102,149	63,145	165,294
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	310,378	9,511	319,889
At 31 March 2024	314,587	12,681	327,268

Included within the net book value of land and buildings above is £310,378 (2024 - 314,587) in respect of leasehold property.

13 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Other receivables	6,143	8,385
Prepayments	7,567	9,118
Accrued income	131,434	284,640
	<u>145,144</u>	<u>302,143</u>

14 Creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	9,903	11,231
Other creditors	7,275	6,601
Accrued expenses	8,400	6,900
	<u>25,578</u>	<u>24,732</u>

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

15 Pension scheme

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £3,583 (2024 - £18,728).

Contributions totalling Nil (2024 - Nil) were payable to the scheme at the end of the year and are included in creditors.

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General funds	605,480	177,567	(328,130)	454,917
<i>Designated</i>				
Property	315,918	-	(4,542)	311,376
Redecoration	15,000	-	-	15,000
Building upgrade	200,000	-	-	200,000
Furniture & Equipment	31,000	-	-	31,000
HR Contingency	75,000	-	-	75,000
Other Contingency	51,500	-	-	51,500
	<u>688,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,542)</u>	<u>683,876</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>1,293,898</u>	<u>177,567</u>	<u>(332,672)</u>	<u>1,138,793</u>
Restricted funds				
HEE	23,860	71,696	(65,556)	30,000
LBTH: Reach Me	-	11,250	(11,250)	-
LBTH: LGBTQ Support	23,550	25,000	(48,550)	-
Young people counselling	25,000	-	(25,000)	-
LBTH: Being heard	16,667	40,000	(56,667)	-
	<u>89,077</u>	<u>147,946</u>	<u>(207,023)</u>	<u>30,000</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>89,077</u>	<u>147,946</u>	<u>(207,023)</u>	<u>30,000</u>
Total funds	<u>1,382,975</u>	<u>325,513</u>	<u>(539,695)</u>	<u>1,168,793</u>

The Department of Health balance at 31 March 2025 solely comprises the net book value of capital assets at that date. This balance will reduce yearly as the assets depreciate in value.

STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General funds	666,976	322,416	(383,912)	605,480
<i>Designated</i>				
Property	320,571	-	(4,653)	315,918
Redecoration	15,000	-	-	15,000
Building upgrade	200,000	-	-	200,000
Furniture & Equipment	31,000	-	-	31,000
HR Contingency	75,000	-	-	75,000
Other Contingency	51,500	-	-	51,500
	<u>693,071</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,653)</u>	<u>688,418</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>1,360,047</u>	<u>322,416</u>	<u>(388,565)</u>	<u>1,293,898</u>
Restricted				
HEE	20,480	52,327	(48,947)	23,860
LBTH: Reach Me	43,333	11,666	(54,999)	-
LBTH: LGBTQ Support	24,505	25,000	(25,955)	23,550
Department of Health	15,133	-	(15,133)	-
Young people counselling	25,000	-	-	25,000
LBTH: Being heard	-	16,667	-	16,667
	<u>128,451</u>	<u>105,660</u>	<u>(145,034)</u>	<u>89,077</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>128,451</u>	<u>105,660</u>	<u>(145,034)</u>	<u>89,077</u>
Total funds	<u>1,488,498</u>	<u>428,076</u>	<u>(533,599)</u>	<u>1,382,975</u>

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Name of unrestricted funds

Description, nature and purpose of the fund

General funds

The 'free reserves' after allowing for designated funds

Designated funds:

Property

The designated property fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets as these funds are tied up and are unavailable for general use by the charity

Redecoration

Funds for the cost of redecorating leasehold property

Building upgrade

Funds for IT upgrades and for construction work to reconfigure our ground floor

Furniture & Equipment

Funds for the cost of repair and replacement of these items

Major repairs

Funds set aside in case of major repairs

HR Contingency

Contingency for unexpected HR costs

Other Contingency

Funds sufficient to cover 3 months expenditure

Name of restricted funds

Description, nature and purpose of the fund

LBTH:

Reach Me

Grant to cover expenditure on counselling

LGBTQ support

Grant to cover expenditure for support services for LGBTQ young people.

Young Peoples Counselling

Grant to cover expenditure on youth counselling

Department of Health and Social Care

Grant to cover expenditure on the increased access to emotional places of safety for young people.

HEE

**STEP FORWARD (TOWER HAMLETS)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	8,512	311,376	-	319,888
Current assets	471,982	372,500	30,001	874,483
Current liabilities	(25,577)	-	-	(25,577)
Total net assets	<u>454,917</u>	<u>683,876</u>	<u>30,001</u>	<u>1,168,794</u>

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	11,350	315,918	-	327,268
Current assets	618,862	372,500	89,077	1,080,439
Current liabilities	(24,732)	-	-	(24,732)
Total net assets	<u>605,480</u>	<u>688,418</u>	<u>89,077</u>	<u>1,382,975</u>

18 Related party transactions

No trustees received remuneration or were reimbursed for expenses during the year (2024: nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transactions entered into by the charity during the year (2024: nil).

19 Non-adjusting events after the financial period

There has been no significant events between the year end and the date of approval of these financial statements entered into by the charity during the year (2024: nil)