

SOFT UK

Accounts – 30th April 2025

SOFT UK

Charity number: 1002918

Accounts – 30 April 2025

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 30th April 2025**

The Trustees of SOFT UK are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th April 2025 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the SOFT UK trust deed and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and complies with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Reference and Administration Details

The charity's name is Soft UK.

Charity Registration Number: 1002918

OSCR: SC043341

Registered Address: 11 Newlands Road
Uddington
Glasgow
G71 5QP

Solicitors: Anthony Collins Solicitors, Birmingham

Bankers: HSBC, Ross-on-Wye

Trustees

The Trustees and officers who served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mrs J Fowler (Chair)

Dr D Rees

Mrs L Petrie

Mrs E Egan (Treasurer)

Dr A Pearson

Mr G Glendinning (Resigned October 2024)

Mrs D Kadum

Mr C O'Toole (Appointed May 2024)

Mrs S Wilson (Resigned February 2025)

Mrs B Wirth

Mr L Crofton (Appointed May 2025)

Objects and Activities

SOFT UK operates under a Trust Deed dated 26th April 1991, updated by means of a Deed of Variation in 2011 and 2018 which includes the regulations for appointment of trustees.

The principle aims and objectives of SOFT UK are to provide support, assistance and information to families having a child with a chromosome abnormality, specifically Edwards' Syndrome (Trisomy 18) or Patau's Syndrome (Trisomy 13) and their related disorders of partial Trisomy, Mosaicism and Deletions.

SOFT UK provides information and support at all stages of the trisomy experience - following a prenatal higher chance screening result or prenatal diagnosis (irrespective of the families' decision making regarding their pregnancy), post-natal diagnosis, care of a living child, bereavement following the loss of a child or ending a pregnancy. With the objective that families feel supported and connected at whatever point they are in their Trisomy experience.

Families can share their experiences through the SOFT UK website, newsletter, social media groups, podcasts, SOFT UK YouTube channel regular family days, and other events. Support is offered to all members of the family, including siblings of the affected child, for as long as is required. This may be delivered via our trained support volunteers who offer peer support, accessed via our Support Service or via our virtual meetings and social media groups. All support services are provided free of charge.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 30th April 2025**

Objects and Activities (continued)

For more than 30 years, SOFT UK has built networks with many professionals, including healthcare professionals, geneticists, social care workers and hospice staff. Our information is evidence based and experiential. Developed in collaboration with our professional advisors and our community of families, it is always given to enhance the advice of clinical teams who care for individual families. In line with our charitable mission, we do not offer medical advice. Through our association with, and membership of complimentary organisations, including Genetic Alliance UK, Together for Short Lives, Rare Disease networks, Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC), Children's Hospices, the Fetal Anomaly Screening Programmes of Public Health England, Wales and NHS Scotland, we seek to advocate on behalf of our families, improve services for all affected families and raise awareness of Patau's and Edwards' Syndromes and their associated conditions.

The SOFT UK website social media accounts and our YouTube channel provides families and healthcare professionals access to our information and sources of support, including downloadable information resources, films, podcasts, research and links to other relevant websites.

Key elements of support for families is provided via our Support Service, accessed via email, a dedicated helpline or our social media channels. The Support Service is provided by a team of dedicated, trained volunteers. Families can be referred to the service by healthcare professionals or can self-refer. Our volunteers, all of whom are parents with experience of Trisomy themselves, offer support, empathy, evidence-based information resources and signposting to sources of support appropriate to individual families.

Support can also be accessed via a range of closed Families Facebook groups where families can obtain peer support and shared experience from others who have the lived experience of trisomy. A regular programme of themed virtual calls is run via an online platform.

Written information is provided via booklets available in print or electronic copy, developed with medical professional advisors, who use their expertise to support SOFT UK in its objectives.

E-Newsletters are produced at least twice per year. These newsletters provide an opportunity for our families to share their experiences and personal stories as well as being an additional source of information.

Achievements and PerformanceCommunity Engagement:

SOFT UK Podcast Series Continued with our own podcast releases of family stories.

Family Events Increased our presence across the UK, hosting a number of regional events:

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- England

Events filmed and shared online, in order to expand participation to those unable to attend in person.

Facebook Support Groups Continuing to grow and monitor our Facebook support groups.

Campaigns 'Symbols of Love' campaign to support Baby Loss Awareness Week. The symbols of love were created with the help of our community, asking for the symbols that represented their children, with further options to support engagement of children.

SOFT UK 'Change The Narrative' Campaign launched. A series of videos filmed with 'Forget Me Not Children's Hospice' capturing the day to day running of the hospice, their teams, and the families who have used the hospice. The series aimed to change the narrative of hospice care from something that is perceived to be a sad and negative experience of end of live care, to something more hopeful and powerful.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 30th April 2025 (Continued)

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Health Professional and External Engagement:

Rarebinars: Face to face Rarebinar event with guest speaker Lucy McKay from Medics For Rare Diseases hosted in conjunction with the England Family Event

NHS Pregnancy Screening Programmes Continue to work with Public Health England, NHS Scotland and NHS Wales in support of their evaluation of the NIPT addition to the prenatal screening programmes.

Collaborating in specific research project run by NHS Wales to evaluate parent screening information.

Medics for Rare Diseases Participation in 'Recommendation Writing Workshop' delivering a guide on healthcare professional awareness of rare diseases to Department of Health and Social Care.

SANDS TOPFA Network (Scotland) Presentation to medical professionals about the support provided by SOFT UK.

Beacons Rare Event networking event.

Beacons Rare Diseases Staff member attended a filming event with Beacon to share her own personal experience of Trisomy 13 and her work with SOFT UK.

NHS Inform (Scotland) Editor for web page on conditions of trisomy 13 and 18.

ARC Northern Ireland Collaborate in support of their research into antenatal screening in Northern Ireland, seeking feedback from SOFT community to shape the future pathways for families.

Staffing:

Trisomy Advocate role (2nd year) Role concluded.

Regional Engagement Officer Northern Ireland Funding achieved and recruitment underway, with expected appointment at the end of 2025. This is a new role aiming to help build better support networks and support health care teams across Northern Ireland.

Database:

Database management tool [Monday.com](https://www.monday.com) has been embedded across the organisation, in particular enhancing the monitoring of our support service.

Website:

The website continues to evolve, with new resources being added on a regular basis. The website allows for us to identify search terms that people are searching for, and map where they then land on our website. This has aided us in writing new resources to better match their search query, driving the value of the information we have.

This year we have engaged with 38950 people and reached 844868 people through our social media and website.

Fundraising:

Annual fundraising target has been achieved during the year

Finance Group continues to meet regularly to review detail of finances. Clear budgeting in place and fundraising plan developed annually.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 30th April 2025 (Continued)

Achievements and Performance (continued)**Future Developments**

The charity continues the current strategy of maintaining and developing SOFT UK as the organisation of first contact for families and healthcare professionals working with families affected by Patau's or Edwards' syndromes. The primary focus of which will continue to be directing families to the best information and support for them and their circumstance. And increasing awareness of Patau's and Edwards' syndromes within health professionals and the public.

Our future plans will be influenced by, and in line with the needs of families affected by Patau's and Edwards' syndromes, as expressed by family user feedback and research findings. Developments will be financed from grant income achieved for specific projects, fundraising and donation income and our reserves. The Trustees will maintain an equitable balance ensuring our current families benefit whilst, at the same time, ensuring a sound infrastructure and financial base are preserved for future families needs.

Future Planned Development Projects include:

Delivering the objectives set out in our current Forward Strategy and creating opportunity to review and refresh medium to long-term goals:

Campaign 'Blue Sky Thinking Project' The aim of this campaign is to seek community feedback about initiatives, resources, or offerings SOFT UK could provide, making use of funding reserves or seeking grant funding. Identifying specific projects which will demonstrate measurable benefit for families and our wider community.

Fundraising Continued focus to be placed on fundraising. Developing a clear annual fundraising plan which includes grant applications for specific projects and support for individual fundraisers.

Website rollout will continue to ensure our support is easily accessible to families and healthcare professionals. Focus on improving and updating the About SOFT section of the website to ensure it reflects our evolving and expanding role.

Support Service build on the expanding committed support volunteer team to ensure an engaged and effective peer support offering for all new families making contact with SOFT UK

Financial Review

The total income for the year was £69,838 (2024: £80,300) and total expenditure for the year was £66,507 (2024: £54,936) leaving a surplus of £3,331 for the year.

Reserves Policy

SOFT UK has a reserves policy which requires it to hold a minimum of 12 months running costs. This is to ensure that the charity has sufficient funds to meet employment responsibilities, pay outstanding creditors and ensure stakeholder commitments are dealt with in a managed way, should the charity cease to be viable going concern.

For the year 2024-25 the reserves required are at a level of £70k

The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is constituted by way of a Trust Deed dated 26th April 1991, updated by means of a Deed of Variation in 2011 and 2018, is registered with the Charity Commission under Number 1002918. The Trust Deed regularises the informal arrangements which had been in force since 22nd June 1990.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 30th April 2025 (Continued)**

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

SOFT UK is a cross border charity and registered with OSCR the Scottish Charity Regulator under the Number SC043341. As a cross border charity SOFT UK operates under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

SOFT UK is governed by its Trustee board, which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and the policy of the charity. The Trustees carry the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of SOFT UK and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations. Trustees meet quarterly as a minimum.

The Trustee Board requires breadth and depth of experience to carry out its duties effectively. New Trustees are appointed by the existing Board of Trustees, interview and selection being undertaken by a minimum of 3 Trustees, including the Chair. When recruiting new trustees, the essential attribute is an empathy and understanding for families affected by Edwards’ and Patau’s syndromes. We advertise via our own networks and invite appropriate professionals to consider joining our Board. Where possible we consider that the skills of the Board should comprise the following:

- Parent trustees
- Business or financial accounting experience
- Health or social care experience
- Education experience

SOFT UK employs three permanent members of staff, all of whom work on a part time basis. A Charity Director, who is responsible for the leadership and operational activities of the charity. A Communications Officer, to support the communications of the charity. An Engagement Officer, who is responsible for ensuring effective engagement with our community. A fixed term (2yr) Trisomy Advocate post was appointed to in 2022, with a contract end in early 2025.

The Trustee Board delegates operational responsibilities for the charity to the Charity Director, who works under the supervision of the Trustees. The Director, Engagement Officer and Communications Officer are supported by a small group of volunteers.

SOFT UK receives the majority of its funds via fundraising activities, donations and grant funding. The charity’s activities expose it to a number of financial risks. The management of these risks is governed by the charity’s policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles and practices of financial management of the charities finances. The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for finances and financial risk management. A Finance subcommittee of the Board provide detailed, regular review of finances, reporting into the Board.

Approved by the trustees on 16th November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

J Fowler

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Trustee

Uddington, Glasgow

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Soft UK for the year ended 30th April 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

A P Williams FCCA CTA
A J Carter & Co Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants

22b High Street
Witney
Oxon
OX28 6RB

19th December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(including an income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 30th April 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	52,519	14,700	67,219	78,033
Investments	4	2,619	-	2,619	2,267
Total incoming resources		55,138	14,700	69,838	80,300
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	59,217	7,290	66,507	54,936
Total expenditure		59,217	7,290	66,507	54,936
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(4,079)	7,410	3,331	25,364
Transfer between funds		(1,124)	1,124	-	-
Net movement in funds		(5,203)	8,534	3,331	25,364
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		122,131	22,402	144,533	119,169
Total funds carried forward		£116,928	£30,936	£147,864	£144,533

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
as at 30th April 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets		-	-
Total fixed assets		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	10	561	2,880
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>148,368</u>	<u>142,603</u>
Total current assets		148,929	145,483
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	11	<u>1,065</u>	<u>950</u>
Net current assets		<u>147,864</u>	<u>144,533</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		147,864	144,533
Creditors: falling due after more than 1 year		-	-
Provisions for liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total net assets	13	<u><u>£147,864</u></u>	<u><u>£144,533</u></u>
The funds of the Charity			
Restricted income funds	13	<u>30,936</u>	<u>22,402</u>
Unrestricted income funds	13	116,928	122,131
Revaluation reserve		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total unrestricted funds		<u>116,928</u>	<u>122,131</u>
Total charity funds		<u><u>£147,864</u></u>	<u><u>£144,533</u></u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on: 16th November 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

J Fowler

.....
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 30th April 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

b) Public Benefit Entity

Soft UK meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

c) Going Concern

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

d) Income Recognition Policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Income received in advance of a specific performance or provision of other specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

e) Donated Services and Facilities

Donated services or facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with a donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

f) Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 30th April 2025 (continued)

g) **Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the Charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for the particular areas of the Charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Charity.

h) **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.

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

i) **Cash at Bank and in Hand**

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.

j) **Creditors and Provisions**

Creditors and provisions 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.

2. **Legal Status of the Charity**

The Charity is constituted by way of a Trust Deed dated 26 April 1991, updated by means of a Deed of Variation in 2011 and 2018, is registered with the Charity Commission under number 1002918. Soft UK is a cross border charity and registered with OSCR the Scottish Charity Regulator under number SC043341.

3. **Income from donations**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gifts and donations	67,219	78,033
	<u>£67,219</u>	<u>£78,033</u>

Of the £67,219 received in 2025 (2024: £78,033) £14,700 was restricted funds (2024: £23,321 and £52,519 (2024: £54,712) unrestricted funds.

4. **Investment income**

All of the Charity investment income arises from money held in a HSBC bank account.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 30th April 2025 (continued)

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Events	5,829	-	5,829	-
Insurance	230	-	230	230
Salaries	43,061	7,290	50,351	38,402
Travel and conference meetings	7,518	-	7,518	12,764
Computer and internet	303	-	303	215
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	868
Subscriptions	851	-	851	1,103
Bank fees	63	-	63	84
Professional fees	432	-	432	340
Governance costs	930	-	930	930
Total	£59,217	£7,290	£66,507	£54,936

6. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2025	2024
	£	£
<i>This is stated after charging:</i>		
Independent examiner's fee	930	930

7. Analysis of staff costs and trustee remuneration and expenses

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	49,776	37,965
Pension costs	575	437
	£50,351	£38,402

No employees had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2024: Nil).

No charity trustees were paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2024 £Nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: £Nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £Nil).

8. Staff numbers

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 30th April 2025 (continued)

9. Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

10. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
PAYE	561	2,880
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>£561</u>	<u>£2,880</u>

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accounts payable	-	-
PAYE	-	-
Accruals	1,065	950
	<u>£1,065</u>	<u>£950</u>

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Cash at bank and in hand	117,432	-	30,936	148,368
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(504)	-	-	(504)
Creditors of more than one year	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>£116,928</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£30,936</u>	<u>£147,864</u>

13. Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance 01.05.2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Funds 30.04.2025 £
Family Events	16,236	14,700	-	-	30,936
Trisomy Advocate Fund	6,166	-	(7,290)	1,124	-
Total	<u>£22,402</u>	<u>£14,700</u>	<u>£(7,290)</u>	<u>£1,124</u>	<u>£30,936</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 30th April 2025 (continued)

13. **Analysis of charitable funds (continued)**

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	Balance 01.05.2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Funds 30.04.2025 £
General fund	122,131	55,138	(59,217)	(1,124)	116,928
Total	<u>£122,131</u>	<u>£55,138</u>	<u>£(59,217)</u>	<u>£(1,124)</u>	<u>£116,928</u>

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The 'free reserves' after allowing for all designated funds.