Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2026

Charity number: 1146073
Company limited by guarantee: 7945421

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Report and Financial Statements
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Solihull Action through Advocacy
Legal and administrative information

Trustees and Directors

Gary Anthoney	Finance Committee
Jessica James	Chair and HR Committee
Dr Susan Lanz	Advisory Committee
Philip Marshall	Finance Committee and Governance Committee
Joshua Moreton	Governance Committee
Catherine Nolan	Advisory Committee
John Roundell	Finance Committee
Jane Williams	HR Committee
Christopher Rinaldi	Resigned 9 January 2026

Chief Executive Officer

Rebecca Fellows	Appointed 5 May 2026
Christine Forde	Resigned 17 April 2026

Principal Office and Registered Address

11 - 13 Land Lane
Marston Green
Solihull
B37 7DE

Independent examiner

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 6NE

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd.
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

It is an honour to introduce this Annual Report and Accounts as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Solihull Action through Advocacy (SAtA) continues to play a vital role in standing alongside autistic people, people with learning disabilities and many vulnerable people who are facing significant barriers to having their rights upheld, their voices heard and their choices respected.

This year has been significant for SAtA. We were delighted to secure the contract to continue delivering statutory and parent advocacy services for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for at least a further five years from October 2025. This reflects the quality, professionalism and impact of our advocacy work, and the trust placed in SAtA by our partners and commissioners.

Demand for advocacy across SAtA has continued to grow, both in volume and complexity. Across our services, our advocates have worked with people whose circumstances are often challenging and whose needs require skilled, compassionate and independent support. Much of this work is preventative, helping people to live healthier, safer and more connected lives while reducing the likelihood of more intensive health and social care interventions.

Our advocates continue to work with professionals and services where appropriate, while remaining firmly centred on the person. We are committed to ensuring that people understand their rights, are supported to make informed decisions, and are able to express their views, wishes and feelings in matters that affect their lives.

Our community advocacy work has also continued to develop strongly. Building relationships, reducing isolation and creating opportunities for belonging remain central to this work. Our Circles of Support initiative continues to help people build friendships and networks of mutual support, while our Coffee and Catch-Up sessions provide safe and welcoming spaces for people to connect with others.

Our Prevention Advocacy work provides person-centred advocacy for people at risk of hospital admission. By working alongside people early, this support helps them to understand their options, express their wishes and access the right support at the right time. The focus is on promoting healthier, happier and better-supported lives, while helping to reduce the likelihood of crisis and avoidable escalation into more intensive services.

We have also continued to contribute to wider system change through our collective advocacy and partnership work. SAtA remains actively involved in the Learning Disability Partnership Board, Autism Partnership Board and safeguarding arrangements in Solihull, with members of our Learning Disability Council helping to ensure that lived experience informs local priorities and decision-making.

The Board of Trustees has spent time during the year reflecting on SAtA's strategic direction and organisational resilience. Preparing for the mobilisation of the statutory and parent advocacy services has required careful planning, strong governance and close collaboration across the organisation. This strategic work is essential to ensuring that SAtA remains responsive to the needs of the people we work alongside, resilient as a team, and clearly connected to our mission, vision and values. As we look ahead, the Board is committed to supporting SAtA to remain responsive, sustainable and rooted in the voices and experiences of the people we serve.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Christine Forde, our Chief Executive for this period, for her dedication and leadership. I also want to thank every member of the SAtA team for their hard work, skill and compassion. Their commitment ensures that we continue to deliver high-quality advocacy and support.

As Chair, I am inspired by the dedication, expertise and care I see across SAtA, and by the strength of the relationships the organisation has built with people, families, partners and communities.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank every individual, organisation, commissioner, funder and partner who continues to support SAtA's work. We are grateful for your continued trust and commitment, which enables us to stand alongside people in Solihull and help ensure their voices are heard.



Jessica James, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trustees and Directors present their report and financial statements of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The Trustees' report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 15 to 17 and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Solihull Action through Advocacy (SAtA) is a Charitable Company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 February 2012 and registered as a Charity on 23 February 2012 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The company is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company. In the event of the company being wound up, each member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility of managing the business of the Charitable Company and for the purposes of Charity law the Trustees of the Charity are also Directors of the company. The Trustees / Directors who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1.

All Trustees gave their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in the accounts. Trustee vacancies are advertised locally and regionally. Trustees are appointed for their skills and expertise. All new Trustees undergo an induction process and receive a Trustee pack with relevant information about the organisation.

Day to day responsibility for management of the organisation is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive.

All major risks have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are:

- to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded;
- to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society;
- to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

'Socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: age, disability, impairment, poor educational or skills attainment, relationship and family breakdown and asylum seekers.

Solihull Action through Advocacy achieves its objectives through the provision of free independent advocacy. Having regard to these achievements, and the public benefit that they provide, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has met the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

In assessing the success of the Charity in the period, the Trustees have had regard principally to the number of people to whom the Charity has provided a service and the proportion of those individuals who achieved an outcome mostly or completely in line with their wishes. In addition the Trustees hold as a key criteria the need to deliver the Charity's services within its budget and to make a contribution to its unrestricted

The Charity utilises volunteers in a variety of roles from service delivery to Governance. Across the period, 27 people have volunteered including within our Peer Visitor service, Learning Disability Council, as Citizen Advocates, members of our Advisory Committee and the Trustees themselves.

Achievements and performance

This year, SAtA continued to deliver independent advocacy across statutory, community and collective advocacy work. The year included a successful statutory advocacy tender, continued growth in community-based support, and increased opportunities for people with lived experience to influence local services. Across our work, the common themes were complexity of need, the importance of trusted relationships, and the value of advocacy in helping people to be heard, connected and involved in decisions that affect their lives.

1. Advocacy Case Work

Our casework service continued to provide vital support for some of the most marginalised and vulnerable people in Solihull. During the year, we received 731 new referrals and provided one-to-one independent advocacy to 752 people across 1,309 advocacy referrals. Of the people supported, 323 were new to SAtA, representing 43% of those we worked with. Advocacy relationships have also become increasingly complex, reflecting the diverse needs, circumstances and challenges faced by the people who require our support.

Statutory advocacy - During the year, SAtA was successful in the tender process for the statutory advocacy contract with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. The new contract began in October 2025 and covers the following areas:

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Relevant Person's Representative (RPR) – Advocacy for people who have been assessed as lacking capacity and are entitled to the support of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate. This includes people who are subject to a Deprivation of Liberty and those entitled to the support of a Relevant Person's Representative. These entitlements were created by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to help ensure that people who lack capacity in relation to certain decisions can still have their views, wishes and rights considered in best interest decisions about their lives.

Care Act Advocacy - We provide support under the Care Act 2014 for people going through assessment, support planning, review or safeguarding processes. This service is available to people who have substantial difficulty engaging with the process and do not have another suitable person to support them.

Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) – We provide advocacy support to people who have been detained under a section of the Mental Health Act 1983 in Solihull. Most IMHA advocacy relationships involve supporting people detained in hospital under section 2 or section 3 for assessment and treatment. IMHAs help people understand their situation and rights, ensure their voice is heard in care and treatment decisions, and support planning for their return to the community.

NHS Complaints Advocacy - We provide advocacy support to people who wish to make a complaint about treatment they have received from the NHS. This can include making complaints to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman if required.

Non-statutory Advocacy - The non-statutory advocacy element of the provision ended in October 2025, as it was no longer part of the re-tendered contract with SMBC. Before October 2025, SAtA worked with people whose situations did not meet the criteria for the statutory advocacy roles above, but who still needed advocacy support with important issues. We assisted people with housing, employment, healthcare, finances, social care, access to services and hate crime. People came to us because they had no one else to turn to for support and might otherwise have presented to health and social care services.

Parents Advocacy - Our service for autistic parents and parents with a learning disability provides advocacy support during child protection proceedings and pre-proceedings. Support from an advocate helps ensure that parents are fully involved in decision-making processes and that all options to support parents to continue caring for their child or children are considered and explored. During the year, we received 21 referrals and worked with 41 parents. Of these, 16 were new to SAtA, representing 39% of the parents supported.

Achievements and performance (continued)

1. Advocacy Case Work (continued)

Young Persons Advocacy - We continued to support autistic young people and young people with learning disabilities, particularly those transitioning into adulthood. Key issues for this group included education transitions, being out of education, and mental health, which remained an increasing challenge among young people. During the year, we supported 40 young people. We also delivered self-advocacy workshops, in collaboration with people with lived experience, to three local schools.

St Andrew's Hospital Advocacy - During the year, we provided enhanced, non-statutory advocacy to eight people at St Andrew's Hospital. We raised important issues faced by the people we worked alongside and contributed to discharge planning. Themes highlighted included safeguarding concerns, the need for person centred discharge planning, and circumstances surrounding leave. This important advocacy work will continue into the next year.

2. Community Advocacy

Circles of Support

Circles of Support is an important project that helps address a gap in our community. It supports vulnerable people to establish new friendships and strengthen their support networks in ways that reflect their own needs, goals and aspirations.

During the year, we worked one-to-one with 64 people. The length and intensity of support varied depending on several factors, including the time needed to build a trusted relationship, the level of social anxiety experienced by the person, the complexity of their circumstances, and the availability of suitable activities in their local area.

Poor mental health and isolation have continued to be common themes during the year. This has included anxiety about leaving home and increasing conversations about suicidal feelings. Through this project, we are able to build trusting relationships gradually, provide regular activities, and support people to develop community connections. A core principle of this work is that people set their own agenda and move forward at their own pace. Where appropriate, we work alongside other professionals to help ensure each person has a wider network of support around them.

We continued to make good use of our Coffee and Catch-Up sessions, with attendance growing across all venues. SAtA ran sessions across five venues over three days each week. These social groups enabled people to make connections in a relaxed environment, practise social skills and create their own social opportunities. Highlights included people going to the pub, cinema and bowling together, as well as visiting a local Christmas market and fayre. People also developed friendships and met independently outside the Coffee and Catch-Up sessions. Two people we worked with also volunteered with us to co-run some of the sessions, building their confidence, independence and skills.

We continue to see the benefits of this work as people report feeling more positive about life, with a greater sense of belonging, stronger social connections and improved wellbeing. The work also has a preventative focus by helping to reduce dependency on health and social care services. These forms of advocacy support people to develop self-advocacy skills and increase their confidence.

Achievements and performance (continued)

2. Community Advocacy (continued)

Peer Visitors

Until October 2025, we continued to deliver our Peer Visitor project, in which peers with disabilities visited residential homes for people with learning disabilities. During the year, Peer Visitors visited nine residential homes. They observed the environment, spoke with people living at each home and with staff, and reflected on how they would feel if they lived there. Their findings were then fed back to the management of each home.

Following their observations, Peer Visitors highlighted positive practice, including sensitive and compassionate support provided by staff during bereavement and end-of-life care, and person-centred care for people living at the homes. Our four-legged Peer Visitor, Tilly, continued to accompany Peer Visitors on visits to homes where people were comfortable with dogs. For one person, Tilly brought joy and comfort at the end of their life, which was heart-warming for everyone involved.

Peer Visitors also identified that transport remained a challenge across all homes, particularly in supporting people to access community activities. This focus led to a number of people being supported to access our various groups across the borough.

Unfortunately, our Peer Visitors work ended in October 2025. However, we have continued to maintain relationships with residential homes through volunteers and by supporting people to join our Coffee and Catch-Up sessions.

Prevention Advocacy

Our prevention advocacy is a critical form of advocacy that aims to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions for autistic people and people with learning disabilities. During the year, we worked with 13 people under this project, and none of them were admitted to hospital. Ten of those people had experienced at least one hospital admission previously. We worked alongside various agencies and organisations, including Social Care, Community Mental Health Teams and Autism West Midlands. Each person referred to the team required a different approach to ensure they had the support they needed to stay well and out of hospital. Support was provided through difficult CHC assessments, legal issues, school exclusion and liaison with the police, all of which can cause extreme stress for people and families. We also contributed to developments around multi-disciplinary meetings for autistic people, the need for long-term professional relationships, and offers of support under the Dynamic Support Register.

Boobs on the go/in the know

We were fortunate to receive funding from the Pink Ribbon Foundation, which enabled us to raise awareness of breast cancer and cancer screening among people with learning disabilities in Solihull. We worked with a small team of women with learning disabilities to create and deliver a presentation that supported honest conversations about breast cancer and cancer screening. This was delivered at supported living homes, day centres and colleges to a total of 42 women. The presentation was also shared with health professionals, and the women led a discussion about how services could be improved. As part of this work, we established a monthly women's wellbeing group at a local hospice, which we are delighted has continued beyond the end of the project with the support of volunteers. Each month, we discuss self-care, including breast awareness, and take time to do something positive for wellbeing, such as nail painting or meditation. We have also welcomed guest speakers, including a woman with personal experience of surgery to treat breast cancer and a representative from Menopause Knowledge who helped the group recognise other changes that may be happening to their bodies. On average, eight women attend the group each month, with others joining when they wish to.

Capturing change

We continued our active support of LeDeR through the ICB-funded Capturing Change project. Working jointly with Midland Mencap and Experts by Experience, we captured the healthcare experiences of autistic people and people with learning disabilities. The work focused on the experiences of people from ethnic minority communities, people living with dementia, including those without a diagnosis, pain management, and the virtual offer following COVID-19. We shared our findings with the ICB's LeDeR Governance Board to improve awareness and understanding of the issues people face in relation to these themes.

3. Influencing Work (Collective Advocacy)

Solihull Learning Disability Council (LDC)

The Council continued to meet monthly. During the year, the work of the LDC included:

- promotion of LDC to reach a wider audience and ensure more voices are heard;
- supporting with the recruitment for SAtA's new Chief Executive;
- supporting with our Advocacy Conference by sharing their personal stories; and
- discussing the importance of health awareness among people with learning disabilities.

The Chair of the Learning Disability Council (LDC) continued as Chair of Solihull Council's Learning Disability Partnership Board, now in its third year. The LDC continued to influence the Partnership Board agenda by raising the specific support needs of carers with learning disabilities. Furthermore, the LDC raised concerns around the inaccessibility of community mental health support for people with learning disabilities. This work will continue into the following year.

LeDeR

This NHS programme identifies learning from the lives and deaths of people with learning disabilities and autistic people. Following our inclusion in the local LeDeR steering group, we continued to be part of the regular Oversight Panel, which reviews completed LeDeR reviews and considers actions to improve systems and processes. As an extension of this work, we are supporting people with lived experience to share their views and experiences of using healthcare services and to identify whether the NHS is meeting the priorities set out in the ICB's LeDeR strategic plan. This work continues to help determine the actions needed to improve people's experiences of accessing health services and highlight areas of good practice

SMBC Safeguarding Board

We are a member of Solihull Council's Safeguarding Board, enabling us to share our knowledge and experience of the local community alongside other key stakeholders across Solihull. SAtA also Chairs the Engagement and Prevention Sub-Committee of the Safeguarding Board which we take pride and an active voice in.

Advocacy Network

SAtA is a member of the national Advocacy Network, which aims to bring together advocacy organisations in a collaborative way with meaningful agendas for creating change. SAtA has been part of two sub-committees focused on the development of a membership body for advocacy and the creation of high-quality commissioning for advocacy organisations.

Advocacy Conference

During the year, SAtA delivered its first Advocacy Conference. This was a highly impactful and well-received event, bringing together professionals from SMBC, the NHS and the third sector. A central feature of the conference was the contribution of six people with lived experience, who shared their personal stories to encourage reflection and learning. The keynote speaker, Kirsty Lawrence, a member of the SAtA team with extensive lived experience, delivered a powerful and thought-provoking speech. She highlighted key themes including inclusivity, the principle of "nothing about us without us", and the importance of language and identity in practice. Feedback indicated that her contribution was moving and helped challenge perceptions and highlight areas for improvement. A short extract from Kirsty's speech is included below:

"I don't want to be known as a 'customer' or a 'client', I don't want to be known for having a learning disability. I want to be known for who I am. A woman who was able to get a job two weeks before she even finished college. A woman who has been working at this job for 13 and a half years now. For me, I feel like it's incredibly important that we don't label people based on their disabilities. See the person for who they are. When working with someone, get to know them, learn their communication preferences, their likes and dislikes, hobbies, skills, most importantly, their strengths and achievements. Don't start the conversation off with 'so because of your disability, what can't you do or what do you struggle with?'"

The conference generated several clear pledges from attendees, including: *"I commit to keeping the person I am supporting at the centre" and "I commit to going back to the basics of being person-centred and not letting systems and processes lose that."*

Plans for future periods

In consultation with our staff and the people we work with, our strategic plan for 2026–27 will focus on the following priorities:

1. Continuing to deliver high-quality, person-centred one-to-one advocacy that protects people's rights and ensures their views, wishes and feelings are heard.
2. Developing new community advocacy projects that promote inclusion for the people we work with, while supporting sustainable funding for this work.
3. Developing and growing peer advocacy work to influence positive change.
4. Improving impact measurement and reporting by making better use of data and information.
5. Developing fundraising activity that supports the Charity's sustainability and creates meaningful opportunities for people with lived experience to be involved.
6. Being involved in creating positive change in Solihull through influencing work that supports the people we work with.
7. Improving marketing and raising the profile of the Charity to increase awareness of the importance of advocacy.

As we move into 2026–27 and beyond, our focus will be on continuing to develop advocacy activity across SAtA. Some of this work is already underway, including identifying income streams to address gaps in support highlighted by the people we work with, developing fundraising activity that strengthens the Charity's sustainability, and creating opportunities for people with lived experience to be involved in influencing work. A key priority is to develop further peer advocacy, fundraising and influencing opportunities so that people with lived experience can share their skills, experiences and ideas, create positive change in Solihull, and influence change at a strategic and meaningful level.

Our Advisory Committee will continue to review its membership to ensure it is diverse, representative of the Solihull community, and able to have the most effective impact possible.

We will also focus on strengthening how we capture, measure and communicate the impact of our work. This will inform future service development, support our profile-raising activity, and strengthen our ability to influence local, regional and national policy and practice.

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an income of £814,225 (2025: £727,168) and expenditure of £805,955 (2025: £711,758) resulting in net income for the year of £8,270 (2025: £15,410). The fund balance at 31 March 2026 is £215,682 (2025: £207,412), of which £23,511 (2025: £14,022) is restricted and £192,171 (2025: £193,390) is unrestricted.

The increase in other charitable income shown in note 4 (2026: £281,731 versus 2025: £215,609) is primarily due to new projects which commenced during this period.

The Trustees would like to thank the members of the Board's Finance Committee, the CEO and the Finance Manager for their continued support in helping the Board maintain strong oversight and careful stewardship of the Charity's finances.

The Charity's principal financial risks are reviewed regularly by the Board of Trustees and its Finance Committee, with ongoing oversight provided by the CEO and Finance Manager. The main areas noted by the Trustees are:

- The statutory advocacy funding model: Since October 2025, our statutory advocacy contract has been paid on an hourly basis. While this can result in some month-to-month variation in income, the Trustees have set clear monthly targets and performance is monitored closely to support effective planning and financial management.
- Small number of large funding streams: The majority of our income for 2025–26 was derived from contracts with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the ICB, although this is split across multiple contracts. The Trustees recognise the importance of continuing to strengthen long-term sustainability. Our main contracts with SMBC have been extended for at least a further five years from October 2025, providing a strong foundation for future planning. The Trustees have also set income generation targets and fundraising plans.
- Income generation targets: The Trustees have set challenging but realistic targets, with progress reviewed regularly by the Board's Finance Committee. Where appropriate, unrestricted reserves may also be used in line with the Trustees' assessment of what is prudent and in the Charity's best interests.
- Fundraising development: SAtA's current activity to generate income from individual donations, community fundraising, giving and sponsorship remains at an early stage. The Trustees recognise this as an opportunity to broaden the Charity's income base, increase flexibility and support the development of new advocacy projects and innovation. To support this, the Trustees and Leadership Team will continue to develop fundraising activity, strengthen relationships with existing and potential supporters, and explore opportunities for people with lived experience to be involved in fundraising and awareness-raising activity.

Financial review (continued)

Reserves

SAtA's Reserves Policy takes due regard of the Charity Commission's guidance (CC19) and sets out the level of reserves that the Trustees consider it prudent for the Charity to maintain.

Reserves are held to support the Charity's stability and continuity, for example:

- Ensuring continuity of activity in the event of a significant variation or total loss of funding for that activity, which remains a high priority for SAtA;
- Providing capacity to meet unforeseen and unavoidable running costs or capital expenditure where required; and
- Supporting short-term running costs for instances where cash-flow timing issues may arise.

When determining the level of reserves that SAtA should maintain, the Trustees consider a number of factors, including contracted future income streams, committed expenditure, cash flow requirements and identified risks on the risk register.

For accounting purposes, free reserves at 31 March 2026 have been calculated by deducting the net book value of fixed assets (note 10) of £10,294 (2025: £14,413) from the closing general fund balance (note 15) of £134,807 (2025: £110,635), giving free reserves of £124,513 (2025: £96,222).

In March 2025 the Trustees determined that the Charity should maintain reserves of £125,000. The Trustees will review this level annually, ordinarily as part of the budget-setting process.

The Trustees monitor the Charity's liquidity position and seek to maintain resources which could be made available in cash without undue delay, to provide an appropriate level of financial resilience in the event of a significant delay or interruption in expected income.

In assessing the Charity's liquidity position, the Trustees may include designated unrestricted funds where the associated expenditure could be deferred or reprioritised if necessary. At 31 March 2026, excluding such designated funds, the level of readily available resources was below the £125,000 target. Some designated funds are expected to be utilised during 2026/27.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006. This report was approved by the Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:





15.09.2026

Philip Marshall Finance Committee	John Roundell Finance Committee	Date

Independent examiner's report
To the Trustees of Solihull Action through Advocacy

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 12 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees of the company (and also its Directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or

4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
(Fellow of the ICAEW)

8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
CV32 6NE

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,676	-	1,676	6,164
Charitable activities	4	557,791	251,150	808,941	717,880
Investments		2,171	-	2,171	3,124
Other		1,437	-	1,437	-
		563,075	251,150	814,225	727,168
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	557,817	242,665	800,482	704,619
Other		4,556	917	5,473	7,139
		562,373	243,582	805,955	711,758
Net income		702	7,568	8,270	15,410
Transfers between funds	15	(1,921)	1,921	-	-
Net movement in funds		(1,219)	9,489	8,270	15,410
Balance at start of year	15	193,390	14,022	207,412	192,002
Balance at end of year	15	192,171	23,511	215,682	207,412

There were no recognised gains and losses for the charitable company for the current or prior years other than those included in the statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure arises from continuing activities.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Company limited by guarantee: 7945421
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

		31 March 2026	31 March 2025
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	10,294	14,413
Current assets			
Debtors	11	1,880,043	2,243,217
Cash at bank and in hand		175,868	211,240
		2,055,911	2,454,457
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(720,010)	(758,744)
Net current assets		1,335,901	1,695,713
Total assets less current liabilities		1,346,195	1,710,126
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(1,130,513)	(1,502,714)
Total net assets		215,682	207,412
Funds			
Restricted	15	23,511	14,022
Unrestricted	15	192,171	193,390
		215,682	207,412

For the year ending 31 March 2026 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of financial statements.

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

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:

15.09.2026

Philip Marshall
Finance Committee

John Roundell
Finance Committee

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Year ended 31 March 2026 £	Year ended 31 March 2025 £
Net cash from operating activities		
Net income	8,270	15,410
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	5,145	1,523
Loss on sale of fixed assets	-	181
Interest income shown in investing activities	(2,171)	(3,124)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	363,174	(1,419,937)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	(410,935)	1,366,774
Net cash used by operating activities	(36,517)	(39,173)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest and dividends	2,171	3,124
Purchase of fixed assets	(1,026)	(13,333)
Net cash provided by / (used by) investing activities	1,145	(10,209)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(35,372)	(49,382)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	211,240	260,622
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	175,868	211,240
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank and in hand	175,868	211,240

Analysis of changes in net debt	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	211,240	(35,372)	175,868

1 Accounting policies

{a} General information and basis of preparation

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a private Charitable Company incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee, is limited to £10 per member of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the Charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations and principal activities are: to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded; to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society; to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity, rounded to the nearest £.

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

{b} Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

{c} Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the Charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

The Charity receives government grants in respect of its advocacy projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the Charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

All income arises in the United Kingdom.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{d} Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes the costs of fundraising
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises the direct costs of the provision of advocacy services and associated overhead expenses

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

{e} Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity, but do not directly represent charitable activities and include administrative payroll costs, premises costs, office costs and governance costs. Support costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities, and raising funds. Any support costs which cannot be directly attributed to individual funds are apportioned according to the gross payroll cost incurred by each fund. The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

{f} Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computers and office equipment	33.3% reducing balance

Assets costing less than £1,000 are written off to the SoFA in the year of purchase.

{g} Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

{h} Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

{i} Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when the Charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{j} Leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

{k} Tax

The Charity is an exempt Charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a Charity for UK corporation tax purposes.

2 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the Charity, to be able to continue as a going concern.

3 Donations and legacies

	Year ended 31 March 2026 £	Year ended 31 March 2025 £
Other donations and gift aid	1,676	6,164

All donations are unrestricted.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31 March 2026 Total £	Year ended 31 March 2025 Total £
Core funding	460,085	-	460,085	469,131
Grants	1,667	65,458	67,125	33,140
Other charitable income	96,039	185,692	281,731	215,609
	557,791	251,150	808,941	717,880

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31 March 2026 Total £	Year ended 31 March 2025 Total £
Direct staff costs	368,500	107,795	476,295	360,650
Direct premises costs	-	-	-	66
Direct office costs	-	-	-	14,743
Direct professional fees	5,135	-	5,135	-
Other direct costs	55,432	102,964	158,396	217,744
Total direct costs	429,067	210,759	639,826	593,203
Support costs (note 6)	128,750	31,906	160,656	111,416
	557,817	242,665	800,482	704,619

6 Allocation of support costs

Support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities and other expenditure, being apportioned between individual funds on the basis of the direct payroll cost incurred by each fund. Total support costs comprise the following:

	Year ended 31 March 2026 £
Support costs included in expenditure on charitable activities	
Staff costs	66,489
Premises costs	26,236
Office costs	33,164
Bad debt expense	10,856
Depreciation	5,145
Loss on disposal	-
Professional fees	10,795
Governance	3,450
Other direct costs	4,521
	160,656
Support costs included in other expenditure	4,188
	164,844

7 Net movement in funds for the year

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:

	Year ended 31 March 2026 £	Year ended 31 March 2025 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	5,145	1,523
Fees payable to the independent examiner:	3,450	2,645

No other fees were paid to the independent examiner (2025: £nil).

8 Staff costs

The staff costs were:	Year ended 31 March 2026 £	Year ended 31 March 2025 £
Wages and salaries	467,779	366,196
Social security costs	39,565	23,314
Pension contributions	21,607	18,017
	528,951	407,527
Other staff costs	13,833	8,608
	542,784	416,135

The other staff costs comprise mainly staff cover, travel, recruitment and training costs. No employee received annual emoluments in excess of £50,000 (2025: none). The average monthly number of staff employed during the year was:

	Year ended 31 March 2026 No.	Year ended 31 March 2025 No.
Charitable Activities	19	16
Other	3	3
	22	19

9 Trustees' expenses and remuneration

The Trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2025: £nil). Expenses paid to the Trustees in the year totalled £nil (2025: £nil) and there were no donations made by Trustees (2025: £nil). There were no other related party transactions (2025: none).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers and office equipment £
Cost	
At 31 March 2025	28,939
Additions	1,026
At 31 March 2026	29,965
Depreciation	
At 31 March 2025	14,526
Charge for year	5,145
At 31 March 2026	19,671
Net book value	
At 31 March 2026	10,294
At 31 March 2025	14,413

11 Debtors

	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
	£	£
Trade debtors	142,610	128,265
Other debtors	3,917	5,801
Prepayments and accrued income	1,733,516	2,109,151
	1,880,043	2,243,217

Prepayments and accrued income include £1,694,739 (2025: £2,104,526) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts are recognised as due to the Charity under the terms of the contracts but the associated income is deferred to the relevant future periods, see notes 12 and 13. Included within prepayments and accrued income is £1,130,513 (2025: £1,502,714) due after more than one year.
£170,617 (2025: £288,671) of accrued income is restricted. £1,408,684 (2025: £1,760,855) of accrued income is due to the renewal of the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council contract until October 2030.

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,904	49,199
Accruals and deferred income	707,803	709,545
Taxation and social security	9,303	-
	720,010	758,744

Accruals and deferred income falling due within one year includes £693,468 (2025: £687,799) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the year ending 31 March 2027. (2025: recognised in the year ended 31 March 2026). £232,526 (2025: £280,628) of deferred income due within one year is restricted.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	1,130,513	1,502,714

Accruals and deferred income falling due after more than one year are in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the years ending 31 March 2028, 31 March 2029 and 31 March 2030 (2025: recognised in the year ending 31 March 2027, 31 March 2028, 31 March 2029, and 31 March 2030). All accruals and deferred income are due within five years. No interest is chargeable. £44,000 (2025: £94,030) of deferred income due after more than one year is restricted.

14 Deferred income

	£
At 1 April 2025	2,190,513
Additions during the year	321,267
Amounts released to income	(687,799)
At 31 March 2026	1,823,981

Deferred income comprises amounts, received or receivable, which are in respect of work to be undertaken in future periods, see notes 12 and 13.

15 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balance b/f £	Income £	Expend-iture £	Fund transfers £	Fund balance c/f £
General fund	110,635	10,349	(20,192)	34,015	134,807
Designated funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Solihull First	-	415,352	(380,934)	(15,000)	19,418
Parents Advocacy	-	38,963	(32,593)	(6,370)	-
B'ham & Solihull ICB Transition	6,633	92,641	(87,348)	(11,926)	-
Designated funds - Community Advocacy					
Peer Visitors	-	5,770	(5,867)	97	-
Circles of Support	33,976	-	(31,239)	(2,737)	-
Designated funds - Other					
Marketing & fundraising	-	-	-	12,000	12,000
IT development & security	26,479	-	-	(12,000)	14,479
Website development	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Project accounting	-	-	-	-	-
Finance and HR	8,000	-	(3,000)	-	5,000
Staff development	2,667	-	(1,200)	-	1,467
	82,755	552,726	(542,181)	(35,936)	57,364
Total unrestricted funds	193,390	563,075	(562,373)	(1,921)	192,171
Restricted funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Baron Davenport	939	976	(652)	-	1,263
Restricted funds - Community Advocacy					
Awards for All	2,710	-	-	-	2,710
HS2	-	508	(1,243)	735	-
Restricted funds - Collective Advocacy					
LeDeR	8,749	136,039	(145,953)	1,165	-
Restricted funds - Other					
CB & HH Taylor	85	-	(85)	-	-
Sheldon Trust	666	8,334	(3,911)	-	5,089
Pink Ribbon	873	2,430	(3,324)	21	-
Henry Smith	-	55,640	(45,072)	-	10,568
Prevention Advocate	-	45,223	(43,342)	-	1,881
Green Offer	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
	14,022	251,150	(243,582)	1,921	23,511
Total funds	207,412	814,225	(805,955)	-	215,682

Transfers made from the general fund to the restricted funds are to ensure they are not in deficit at the year end.

15 Summary of fund movements (continued)

Designated funds are held for the following purposes:

Solihull First	Provision of statutory and non-statutory advocacy for adults residing and/or receiving services in Solihull. This includes advocacy provided under the Care Act, Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Mental Health Act as well as NHS Complaints. It also includes issue-based, non-statutory advocacy for adults living in Solihull.
Parents Advocacy	One to one support for parents with a learning disability who are going through child protection proceedings.
B'ham & Solihull ICB Transition	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adults' services.
Peer Visitors	Peer-led quality monitoring visits to Local Authority residential care homes.
Circles of Support	A program to help reduce social isolation and build long-term supportive networks for people with learning disabilities.
Marketing & fundraising	For generation of funds .
IT development & security	For replacing IT equipment and for IT security costs.
Website development	For ongoing development of the website.
Project accounting	To expand the accounting system to incorporate quarterly project reporting and monthly cash flows.
Finance and HR	To develop systems, processes and knowledge.
Staff development	For investment in staff training courses and career development.

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Baron Davenport	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adult services.
Awards for All	Building Connections project providing sessions for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism to meet and get support, socialise and build relationships.
HS2	Project funding to reduce the isolation of people in north Solihull that were affected by the HS2 construction.
LeDeR	The project involves talking to people with lived experience to understand their views and experience of accessing health services.
CB & HH Taylor	To support young people with learning disabilities or autism into adulthood.
Sheldon Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Pink Ribbon	To educate women and facilitate peer support on the importance of obtaining regular breast cancer screening checks.
Henry Smith	To provide activities for people with learning difficulties in Solihull.
Prevention Advocate	Community based support for admission avoidance.
Green Offer	To provide prevention advocacy to children and young people who are at risk of ending up in Hospital.

16 Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	10,294	-	10,294
Debtors	1,709,426	170,617	1,880,043
Cash	46,448	129,420	175,868
Current liabilities	(487,484)	(232,526)	(720,010)
Long term liabilities	(1,086,513)	(44,000)	(1,130,513)
	192,171	23,511	215,682

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the Charitable Company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Premises	
	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
	£	£
Not later than one year	18,870	18,500
Later than one year and not later than five years	9,435	27,750
	28,305	46,250

	Office equipment	
	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
	£	£
Not later than one year	1,196	1,196
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,794	2,990
	2,990	4,186

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year were £18,778 (2025: £18,500) for premises and £1,196 (2025: £1,196) for office equipment.

18 Controlling party and ultimate controlling party

The controlling party and ultimate controlling party of the Charitable Company is the Board of Trustees / Directors of Solihull Action through Advocacy.