Company registration number: 07514119

Charity registration number: 1148385

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 28 February 2026

Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hanley
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5DD

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

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Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Matthew Dashper-Hughes Julie Mirowski Opeyemi Babatunde Christopher Maydew Rebecca Stubbs
Secretary	Heather Sheldon
Chief Executive Officer	Heather Sheldon
Registered Office	Unit 19 Whieldon Road Industrial Estate Fenton Stoke-on-Trent ST4 4JP The charity is incorporated in England.
Company Registration Number	07514119
Charity Registration Number	1148385
Solicitors:	Knights The Brampton Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 0QW
Bankers	Santander 58 High Street Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 1QE Lloyds 46-48 High Street Newcastle ST5 1QY
Independent Examiner	Daryl Denson ACMA VAST The Dudson Centre Hanley Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5DD

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Chairs Report for the Year Ended 28 February 2026

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report and Financial Statements for Alice (Relief of Poverty & Advancement of Community) for the year ended 28th February 2026.

I am delighted to report that Alice Charity has continued to build on the strong foundations laid in the previous two years and has enjoyed one of the strongest 12-months in its history.

The financial performance of the charity reflects both the confidence placed in us by our funders and supporters and the discipline with which our resources continue to be managed. Total income increased by 45% to £527,705 (2025: £365,046), enabling us to invest further in delivering high-quality services whilst also strengthening the charity's long-term financial resilience. Despite increased investment in our people and frontline services, expenditure remained well controlled at £426,792, resulting in a surplus of £100,913 for the year. Our net assets increased to £282,459 and cash reserves grew to £275,048, placing the charity in a significantly stronger position than it has been for several years.

These figures are important, not only because they represent success in themselves, but also because they provide the stability that allows Alice Charity to fulfil its purpose. Strong finances mean we can plan with greater confidence, invest in our people, respond quickly to emerging needs and continue to support families through increasingly difficult circumstances. They also demonstrate that the recovery achieved during the previous financial year has now developed into sustained financial strength.

However, numbers only tell part of the story.

Throughout the year, Alice Charity continued to stand alongside some of the most vulnerable children and families across Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Nearly 10,000 children benefited from our work, almost 3,500 parents and toddlers attended our Big Cup sessions, and almost 12,000 meals were provided to children experiencing food insecurity. Behind every one of those numbers is a family with its own story, challenges and aspirations, and it is the privilege of Alice Charity to walk alongside them with compassion, practical support and hope.

As Trustees, we are continually inspired by the commitment of our staff and volunteers. Their professionalism, empathy and determination ensure that our values are lived every day, often in the most challenging of circumstances. I would also like to recognise our CEO, Heather Sheldon, and the senior leadership team, whose clear strategic leadership continues to strengthen the organisation while never losing sight of the people we exist to serve.

This year has also demonstrated the value of investing in relationships. Our partnerships with grant funders, local authorities, businesses, community organisations and individual supporters continue to grow, allowing Alice Charity to extend both its reach and its impact.

We remain deeply grateful to everyone who contributes financially, volunteers their time, or champions our work within the wider community.

Your support changes lives.

Although we have much to celebrate, we are conscious that demand for our services continues to rise. Many families remain under considerable pressure as the effects of poverty, poor housing, mental ill health and the rising cost of living continue to be felt across our communities. These challenges are unlikely to diminish in the short term and will require us to remain both financially prudent and operationally agile.

Looking ahead, I believe Alice Charity is exceptionally well placed to meet those challenges. We have strengthened our financial position, invested in our people, enhanced our governance and continued to demonstrate the impact of our work. Most importantly, we remain absolutely committed to our vision that every child, young person and family has a safe and happy childhood and the foundations they need to thrive.

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Chairs Report for the Year Ended 28 February 2026

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank every member of staff, volunteer, funder, donor and partner for their dedication, generosity and belief in Alice Charity. Together, we are making a tangible difference to the lives of children and families across our communities, and I look forward with confidence to the opportunities that lie ahead.

Matthew Dashper-Hughes
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Trustees' Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 28 February 2026.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle -under-Lyme in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet their needs and to participate more fully in society.

To relieve the poverty of those in need; in particular; but not exclusively, by running a network of centres giving advice and assistance

We help families living within the communities of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme emotionally and financially.

Our mission: To nurture and empower children, families and communities through building resilience, independence and strength.

Our values: Ownership, accountability and responsibility in all that we do
To be the best that we can be
Gain and build trust in all that we do
Always work towards the best outcomes
Mutual respect for everyone we work with and support through our services

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year to ensure we remain focussed on our purpose; that are activities are bringing the required benefits to the people we were established to help; and to plan future activities which will contribute to the overall aims of the organisation.

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Trustees' Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Public benefit

To relieve poverty of anyone who does not have the resources to provide themselves, either on a long or short term basis, with the normal things of life which most people take for granted, improving the quality of their lives.

Examples of the ways in which Alice will help to relieve poverty include:

a) the provision of items (either outright or on loan) such as furniture, bedding, clothing, food, fuel, heating appliances, washing machines and fridges
b) the provision of facilities such as the supply of tools and books, payments of fees for instruction, examination or other expenses connected with vocational training, language, literacy, numerical or technical skills, equipment and funds for recreational pursuits or training intended to bring quality of life to the beneficiaries to a reasonable standard.

Advancement of community development directed towards support for social and community infrastructure which is focused on the community as well as the individual.

Examples of the ways in which Alice will advance community development include:

a) help to improve housing standards in those parts of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent where poor housing is a problem
b) provide support to unemployed people, e.g. child care facilities, assistance with travel
c) develop the capacity and skills of the members of our community by empowering them to get involved in community activities which they would not otherwise have
d) realising existing skills and developing potential
e) promoting people's increased self confidence
f) promoting people's ability for taking responsibility for identifying and meeting their own, and other people's needs
g) in consequence encouraging people to become involved in their community and wider society in a fuller way.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

Supporting Children, Families and Communities Across Stoke-on-Trent & Newcastle-under-Lyme

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Trustees' Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Introduction: A Lifeline for Families

Vision statement - Every child, young person and family has a safe and happy childhood, and the foundations they need to thrive.

Mission statement - To nurture and empower children, families and communities through building resilience, independence and strength.

Alice Charity is more than an organisation. It is a lifeline, a family, and a source of hope for children and parents who often feel forgotten. Across Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme, we stand beside children and families facing poverty, isolation, trauma and complex challenges, ensuring they never have to face hardship alone.

At our heart is a simple but powerful belief: every child deserves safety, joy and opportunity. Our mission is not expressed only in words, but lived every day through compassion, dignity and unwavering commitment. Whether in a family's living room, a community setting, or a moment of crisis, we show up - consistently, respectfully and without judgement.

As one volunteer shared:

"You feel the values here the moment you walk through the door. They don't just talk about compassion, they show it."

This is what defines Alice Charity: a deeply human response to the complex realities families face.

Local Context: Understanding the Need

Starting in the home, our approach is as individual as the people we're helping. No judgement, just compassionate, confidential help and expert support.

We help families facing isolation, the effects of post-natal illness, disability or mental health issues, bereavement, multiple births, poverty or financial difficulties, or a whole range of other challenges.

The help we give each family is unique and depends entirely on their circumstances, requirements and what they want help with.

A central component of our service is to provide support early, before family problems or pressures evolve into deeper and more challenging forms of family crisis. This early intervention approach enables families to strengthen their own capabilities and gives them a vital source of sustained support. Given the difficult social and economic forces that are currently affecting families across the country, it is our hope that we will continue to steadfastly support vulnerable families.

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Trustees' Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

A Year of Impact and Transformation

During 2025-2026, Alice Charity has continued to adapt and respond to growing need, reaching thousands of children and families across our services.

Over the past year, we supported 9,874 children, welcomed 3,479 parents and toddlers through our Big Cup parent and toddler sessions, and provided 11,880 meals to children facing food insecurity. These numbers reflect scale, but they only tell part of the story. Behind every figure is a family navigating hardship - and finding support, dignity and reassurance through Alice Charity.

Our approach is rooted in relationships. We work alongside children and families, not around them. This enables us to understand the complexity of their lives - from housing conditions and financial pressures to mental health challenges and social isolation - and provide support that is truly meaningful and sustainable.

Family Support: Stabilising Lives, Strengthening Futures

Our Family Support service provides intensive, tailored support to children and families experiencing complex or escalating challenges. Delivered within homes and communities, this work focuses on strengthening relationships, improving wellbeing, and creating safe, stable environments for children.

We meet families where they are, often at their most vulnerable, and walk alongside them through difficult circumstances. This includes supporting families experiencing bereavement, financial hardship, poor housing conditions, and emotional distress.

The impact of this work is profound:

- 90% of service users report improvement in home conditions; reduced isolation; improvement in physical health
- 95% of service users report improvement in parenting skills, improvement in self-confidence, self esteem and self-worth
- 100% improvement in positive family interactions.

Most importantly, families can create more positive, nurturing environments where children can thrive. This is how we prevent crisis, protect childhood, and build long-term resilience.

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Trustees' Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Big Cup: Early Help at its Most Powerful

Big Cup is often the first point of connection for families, and one of the most powerful forms of early intervention we provide. These parent and toddler sessions offer safe, welcoming spaces where families can come together, build relationships, and access support in an informal and trusting environment.

For children, Big Cup is a place to learn, play and grow. Through structured, play-based activities, they develop communication, confidence and social skills, building the foundations needed for school and for life.

For parents, it is a place of connection and support. Many arrive feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed. Through Big Cup, they find community, reassurance and guidance, along with the confidence to seek further support if needed.

As one volunteer observed:

"You see a child come in withdrawn and anxious, and within weeks they're smiling, talking and playing. It's incredible to witness."

In a city facing rising demand on statutory services, this kind of early help is essential. It strengthens families before challenges escalate, reducing the likelihood of crisis and keeping children safely within their families.

Meeting Basic Needs with Dignity

For many families, the challenges they face are immediate and practical. Hunger, lack of essential items, and unsafe living conditions can quickly create or deepen crisis.

The People's Pantry has remained a vital lifeline throughout the year, supporting 378 households, including 964 children. The service is built around dignity and accessibility, ensuring families can access food without stigma, complexity or delay.

The importance of this cannot be overstated. Hunger affects every aspect of a child's life, their health, concentration, behaviour and emotional wellbeing. A full meal provides not only nourishment, but stability, calm and the ability to engage and learn.

Beyond food, we also ensure families have access to essential items. Over the past year, we distributed more than 1,400 items of clothing and provided 185 essential items, including cots, beds and pushchairs.

These items represent far more than practical support. They create safety, restore dignity, and enable families to function day to day. A baby with a safe place to sleep, a child with warm clothes, or a parent able to attend appointments with a pushchair, these are the building blocks of stability and wellbeing.

As one parent shared:

"Alice didn't just help us - they gave us hope again."

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Trustees' Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

The Beating Heart of Alice: Our People

At the centre of our organisation is its people. With 15 dedicated staff and 21 regular and passionate volunteers, the organisation brings compassion, skill and humanity to every interaction.

There is a distinctive culture within the team, one that feels less like a workplace and more like a close-knit, supportive environment. Staff and volunteers work seamlessly together, creating consistency, trust and strong relationships with the children and families they support. This sense of unity ensures that families experience continuity of care and feel genuinely understood, valued and supported throughout their journey.

Families often describe the team as an anchor during times of crisis. As one Family Coordinator explained:

"We are trusted with people's lives at their most vulnerable moments. We don't take that lightly. We show up, fully and without judgement."

This culture is underpinned by strong and evolving HR processes, including regular supervisions, annual appraisals and ongoing performance development. These structures ensure that staff are supported, reflective and equipped to manage the emotional demands of their roles, while maintaining the highest standards of practice. They also create space for learning, wellbeing and continuous improvement, ensuring our team remains resilient and responsive.

This is further reinforced by a strong commitment to development and growth. In the past year, over half of staff have undertaken formal higher-level qualifications, including apprenticeships. This reflects a deep collective commitment not just to personal development, but to delivering the best possible support to children and families. It also ensures that the organisation continues to build expertise, resilience and confidence across the team, strengthening our ability to respond to increasingly complex needs.

As one team member shared:

"Every new skill means we can do more for families. That's what keeps us going."

Marketing and Communication Update

Over the past year, we have significantly strengthened our marketing and communications approach, ensuring that our voice, impact and the stories of the children and families we support are reaching wider audiences. This has been a year of growth, clarity and increased visibility, positioning us as a leading voice for children and families across Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Our focus has been on telling our story with authenticity and purpose, not simply sharing what we do, but showing the real, human impact of our work. Through stronger messaging, improved digital presence and more consistent storytelling, we have been able to highlight the lived experiences of families, helping stakeholders, partners and supporters better understand both the challenges faced and the difference our work makes.

A key milestone this year has been our membership with the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce, strengthening our connection with the local business community and creating new opportunities for partnership and collaboration. Alongside this, we have strengthened our quarterly business breakfasts, providing a regular space for organisations to connect with Alice Charity, learn about our work, and explore how they can support children and families. These events are already strengthening relationships and widening our network of support.

We have also enhanced communication through our quarterly newsletters, ensuring stakeholders remain informed, engaged and connected to our impact.

A standout achievement this year has been the development of the Hands of Hope Awards. The inaugural event in February 2026 brought together individuals, charities, businesses and families to celebrate the dedication and resilience that exists across our community. Through multiple award categories, the event recognised both those who provide support and those who have overcome adversity, creating a powerful platform for storytelling and recognition.

The awards have strengthened partnerships across sectors, encouraged wider engagement, and reinforced the importance of collaboration in supporting children and families. Hands of Hope is rapidly becoming a defining feature of how we bring communities together around a shared purpose.

Our digital presence has also been enhanced through the launch of an updated website, providing a clearer, more accessible and engaging platform for families, partners and supporters. This has improved how people access information and enabled us to present our impact more effectively.

This progress has been recognised through our success at the University of Staffordshire Business Awards, where Alice Charity was named a winner. This recognition reflects both strong organisational performance and the meaningful impact of our work, strengthening our credibility and opening new opportunities for partnership and support.

Marketing at Alice Charity is not simply about visibility, it is about connection, trust and ensuring that no family feels invisible.

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Trustees' Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Conclusion

2025-2026 has been a year of strength, growth and meaningful impact. In the face of rising need, we have continued to stand alongside children and families with compassion, determination and resilience, delivering not only essential support, but hope, dignity and opportunity. We have strengthened our services, invested in our people, enhanced our partnerships and built solid foundations for the future through strong governance, financial stability and forward planning.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and ambition. The challenges facing our communities remain significant, but so too is our commitment to making a lasting difference. With a dedicated team, strong partnerships and a clear vision, we are well positioned to grow our reach and deepen our impact. Together, we will continue to ensure that every child and family has the support they need, not just to cope, but to thrive.

Annual Summary Statement

This year has been one of strength, growth, and sustained impact. We have built on solid foundations, delivering high-quality support while continuing to adapt to the evolving needs of our communities. Through the dedication of our team, volunteers, and partners, we have expanded our reach, deepened our relationships, and strengthened the resilience of the families we serve. It has been a positive and productive year, marked by collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to making a meaningful difference. We are proud of what has been achieved and look forward with confidence to the year ahead.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Matthew Dashper-Hughes
	Julie Mirowski
	Opeyemi Babatunde
	Christopher Maydew
	Amy Wilde (resigned 24 November 2025)
	Rebecca Stubbs
Secretary:	Heather Sheldon
Chief Executive Officer	Heather Sheldon

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community) is an independent registered charity (No: 1148385) and Company Limited by Guarantee (No: 07514119). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, adopted on 2nd February 2011, and as amended 22nd April 2012. It is a company limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Trustees' Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Anyone within the organisation can recommend someone to be a trustee. The Board of Trustees are always looking to recruit new trustees who can bring new skills and experiences into the charity.

Induction and training of trustees

New Trustees complete an induction under the direction of the Chair and are encouraged to spend time on the 'shop floor' to further develop understanding of what the organization does and to enable a deeper understanding of their impact, role and responsibilities. They are also encouraged to attend training events, where appropriate. Trustees also use their specific knowledge or experience to help the Board reach sound decisions - including scrutinizing papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, and supporting members of the Management team.

Organisational structure

Senior Management Team
As of 28th February 2026, the executive management and the delivery of objectives are provided by the.
• Chief Executive Officer

Pay Policy for Senior Staff
The Trustees consider that the Board and the Management Team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis.
All Trustees give of their time freely

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Trustees' Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Risk management

Since the year end the Trustees have implemented a risk management strategy, which comprises: -

- Seeking professional advice as needed
- Compliance with professional guidance, best practice, and regulations
- Seeking a diversified and balance skillset in the board of Trustees
- Reviewing and updating of procedures to minimise impact on the Charity should those risks materialize

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the Charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds, grant applications and fundraising to ensure sufficient working capital by the Charity to deliver its charitable objectives

Financial review

Policy on reserves

At the period end funds stood at £270,287 (2025: £181,546). This comprised of £83,536 (2025: £87,228) held in restricted funds and £186,751 (2025: £94,318) in unrestricted funds of which £1,925 were fixed assets £184,826 and £90,468 were free reserves.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 30/9/26 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Matthew Dashper-Hughes
Trustee

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community) ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 28 February 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity'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 Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community) 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.

.....

Daryl Denson ACMA

VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hanley
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5DD

Date: 30/09/2026

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 28 February 2026 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	89,769	393,810	483,579
Other trading activities	4	36,791	-	36,791
Investment income	5	1,157	-	1,157
Other income	6	6,178	-	6,178
Total income		133,895	393,810	527,705
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	(9,931)	(1,057)	(10,988)
Charitable activities		(33,979)	(381,825)	(415,804)
Total expenditure		(43,910)	(382,882)	(426,792)
Net income		89,985	10,928	100,913
Net movement in funds		89,985	10,928	100,913
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		94,318	87,228	181,546
Total funds carried forward	16	184,303	98,156	282,459

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 28 February 2026 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	79,543	253,777	333,320
Other trading activities	4	31,435	-	31,435
Other income	6	291	-	291
Total income		111,269	253,777	365,046
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	(14,536)	-	(14,536)
Charitable activities		(109,842)	(230,416)	(340,258)
Total expenditure		(124,378)	(230,416)	(354,794)
Net (expenditure)/income		(13,109)	23,361	10,252
Other recognised gains and losses				
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets		(900)	-	(900)
Net movement in funds		(14,009)	23,361	9,352
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		108,327	63,867	172,194
Total funds carried forward	16	94,318	87,228	181,546

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

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

(Registration number: 07514119)
Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	10,163	3,850
Current assets			
Debtors	13	7,090	28,704
Cash at bank and in hand	14	275,048	158,933
		282,138	187,637
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(9,842)	(9,941)
Net current assets		272,296	177,696
Net assets		282,459	181,546
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		98,156	87,228
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		184,303	94,318
Total funds	16	282,459	181,546

For the financial year ending 28 February 2026 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 15 to 31 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 30/9/26 and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Matthew Dashper-Hughes
Trustee

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 28 February 2026

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, 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.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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.

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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community) 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 notes.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1000 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade 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 receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors
Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined benefit pension scheme.Typically defined benefit plans define an amount of pension benefit that an employee will receive on retirement, usually dependent on one or more factors such as age, years of service and compensation.

The liability recognised in the Balance Sheet in respect of defined benefit pension plans is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date minus the fair value of plan assets. The defined benefit obligation is measured using the projected unit credit method. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is determined by discounting the estimated future payments by reference to market yields at the reporting date on high-quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms to maturity approximating to the terms of the related pension liability.

Actuarial gains and losses are charged or credited to other comprehensive income in the period in which they arise.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	48,214	-	48,214
Donations from individuals	23,129	-	23,129
Gift aid reclaimed	2,410	-	2,410
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	370	277,390	277,760
Grants from other charities	15,646	116,420	132,066
	89,769	393,810	483,579

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	72,142	3,458	75,600
Gift aid reclaimed	3,943	-	3,943
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	-	173,000	173,000
Grants from other charities	3,458	77,319	80,777
	79,543	253,777	333,320

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2026 £
Events income;		
Events and fundraising income	36,791	36,791
	36,791	36,791

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £
Events income;		
Events and fundraising income	31,435	31,435
	31,435	31,435

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2026 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,157	1,157
	1,157	1,157

	Total 2025 £
	-

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2026 £
Miscellaneous Income	6,178	6,178

7 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of trading activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £
Fundraising trading costs;				
Fundraising		9,931	1,057	10,988
		9,931	1,057	10,988

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £
Fundraising trading costs;			
Fundraising		14,536	14,536
		14,536	14,536

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2026 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	1,320	1,320
	1,320	1,320

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	1,320	1,320
	1,320	1,320

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	285,952	232,863
Social security costs	20,543	12,905
Pension costs	6,830	4,999
	313,325	250,767

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2026 No	2025 No
Staff	15	12

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

11 Taxation

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 March 2025	7,700	-	7,700
Additions	-	8,581	8,581
At 28 February 2026	7,700	8,581	16,281
Depreciation			
At 1 March 2025	3,850	-	3,850
Charge for the year	1,925	343	2,268
At 28 February 2026	5,775	343	6,118
Net book value			
At 28 February 2026	1,925	8,238	10,163
At 28 February 2025	3,850	-	3,850

13 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	4,974	26,307
Prepayments	556	837
Other debtors	1,560	1,560
	7,090	28,704

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash on hand	111	11
Cash at bank	274,937	158,920
Short-term deposits	-	2
	275,048	158,933

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	2,150	3,265
Other taxation and social security	6,432	4,253
Other creditors	-	1,163
Accruals	1,260	1,260
	9,842	9,941

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 March 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 28 February 2026 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Fund	94,318	133,895	(43,910)	116	184,419
Restricted funds					
Coalfields Regeneration	6,712	-	(6,712)	-	-
Children in Need	-	10,000	(9,224)	-	776
Smallwood Trust	27,656	13,750	(42,959)	-	(1,553)
The 1485 Charitable Trust	116	-	(116)	-	-
Neighbourly	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
Edward Cadbury	-	5,000	(1,289)	-	3,711
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	3,726	5,000	(6,833)	-	1,893
Big Cup Meir	1,952	-	(1,952)	-	-
Stoke-on-Trent Council	1,922	12,400	(9,312)	-	5,010
HSF Stoke on Trent Council 2025 P21	10,000	9,750	(13,951)	-	5,799
Thrive at Five	5,045	-	(5,045)	-	-
VAST	350	-	(350)	-	-
Groundworks	-	750	(152)	-	598
Stoke Council Micro Grant	4,502	10,000	(6,050)	-	8,452
Stoke on Trent (LA) Coordinator	6,241	-	(6,241)	-	-
Stoke on Trent LTO 2025/2026	(3,663)	43,000	(48,029)	-	(8,692)
Garfield Weston	22,669	25,000	(26,175)	-	21,494
Community Foundation For Staffordshire & Shropshire	-	6,820	(6,820)	-	-
National Lottery Stronger Starts 2025-2028	-	106,240	(63,263)	-	42,977
Stoke-on-Trent Family Coordinator	-	100,000	(111,146)	-	(11,146)
Fyrish Foundation	-	15,000	(7,945)	-	7,055
Henry Smith Foundation	-	21,500	(3,258)	-	18,242
Just Families CIC Micro Grant	-	450	(259)	-	191

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 28 February 2026

	Balance at 1 March 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 28 February 2026 £
Masonic Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(2,651)	-	2,349
Willowbank Big Cup	-	200	(200)	-	-
Wooden Spoon	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
YMCA North Staffordshire Micro Grant	-	450	(450)	-	-
Total restricted funds	87,228	393,810	(382,882)	-	98,156
Total funds	181,546	527,705	(426,792)	116	282,575

Alice (Relief of Poverty and Advancement of Community)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 28 February 2026

	Balance at 1 March 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 28 February 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Fund	108,327	111,269	(124,378)	(900)	94,318
Restricted					
Baron Davenport	61	250	(311)	-	-
Realise Foundation	1	-	(1)	-	-
Coalfields Regeneration	-	10,000	(3,288)	-	6,712
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	25	-	(25)	-	-
Smallwood Trust	36,428	27,500	(36,272)	-	27,656
The 1485 Charitable Trust	116	-	-	-	116
The Fore	(42)	-	42	-	-
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	416	5,000	(1,690)	-	3,726
Lidl	500	-	(500)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund 3	18,932	-	(18,932)	-	-
Trusthouse	7,430	-	(7,430)	-	-
Big Cup Meir	-	2,000	(48)	-	1,952
Stoke-on-Trent Council	-	2,000	(78)	-	1,922
HSF Stoke on Trent Council 2025 P21	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Thrive at Five	-	10,000	(4,955)	-	5,045
One Stop	-	500	(500)	-	-
VAST	-	350	-	-	350
Groundworks	-	977	(977)	-	-
Save the Children	-	1,200	(1,200)	-	-
Stoke Council Micro Grant	-	10,000	(5,498)	-	4,502
Stoke on Trent (LA) Coordinator	-	100,000	(93,759)	-	6,241
Stoke on Trent- LTO (P4) 2024/2025	-	49,000	(49,000)	-	-
Stoke on Trent LTO 2025/2026	-	-	(3,663)	-	(3,663)
Garfield Weston	-	25,000	(2,331)	-	22,669
Total restricted funds	63,867	253,777	(230,416)	-	87,228
Total funds	172,194	365,046	(354,794)	(900)	181,546

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

Coalfield Regeneration - Early Years
Smallwood - Family Services
Neighbourly - Pantry and Early Years
Edward Cabury - Family services
The 29th May - Family Support
Stoke on Trent Council -Early Years
HSF - Stoke Council - Household Support Fund
Thrive at Five - Early Years
Vast - Food Partnership
Groundworks - Pantry and Early Years
Stoke on Trent Council Microgrants - Supporting VCSE Organisations in delivery services
Stoke on Trent LA Co - Family Services
Stoke on Tent LTO - Developing VCSE Community
Garfield Weston - Family Services
National Lottery Family Starts - Family Services and Early Years (P28)
Stoke on Trent Family Co - Family Services
Fryish Foundation - Family Services
Henry Smith - Family Services
Just Families - Support for community projects
Masonic Charitable trust - Core Costs
Willowbank - Early Years
YMCA - Microgrant - Support community Projects

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 28 February 2026 £
Tangible fixed assets	10,163	-	10,163
Current assets	183,982	98,156	282,138
Current liabilities	(9,842)	-	(9,842)
Total net assets	184,303	98,156	282,459

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 28 February 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,850	-	3,850
Current assets	100,409	87,228	187,637
Current liabilities	(9,941)	-	(9,941)
Total net assets	94,318	87,228	181,546

18 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.