East Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group

Trustees Annual Report y/e 31 December 2025

Registered charity number 1149790

Date Registered 16 November 2012

Registered address 3 Ogden Drive, Helmshore. BB4 4NN

Trustees serving at date of Report and date of appointment.

Rachel Shatliff BA Hons	Chair	15 November 2012
Chloe Cunliffe	Trustee	26 April 2026
Jonathan Bolton	Trustee	25 January 2025
Rebecca Bolton	Trustee	25 January 2025
Claire McNulty	Trustee	25 January 2025
Philip Shatliff BA Hons FCCA	Trustee	19 January 2025
Caroline Hargadon	Trustee	24 January 2020
John Hargadon	Trustee	15 January 2019
Lisa Mary Holden	Trustee	15 January 2019
Stephanie Horne BSC	Trustee	15 November 2012

Charity's Purpose

Provide support to new parents, and improve the experience of new local parents at diagnosis. To be a source of local and general information regarding Down's Syndrome and local provision To raise awareness and understanding of Down's Syndrome in the local community. Provide support to schools with children with Down's Syndrome amongst their pupils. Helping them best achieve integration.

Public Benefit Statement

The activities highlighted in this report provided public benefit by reducing isolation, supporting independence and relationships, and helping families and professionals better meet the needs of people with Down's syndrome. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and reviewing the charity's activities and making decisions to which that guidance is relevant.

Annual Activities and Achievements Report

Year ended 31 December 2025

Overview and public benefit

East Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group provides support for people with Down's syndrome and their families through family activities, social opportunities, support following diagnosis and during the early years, specialist education support, advocacy and peer support.

From an initial membership of four in 2011, the group has grown to support more than 120 members and approximately 400 additional family members who access its services in different ways. Its activities provide opportunities for social inclusion, friendships, family support and access to specialist knowledge.

Family support and activities

Monthly family meetings

A full programme of monthly family meetings took place during 2025 at Whitewell Bottom Community Centre and other venues. Themed sessions included exotic animal encounters, circus skills and performances, craft activities, farm visits, a pie and peas fireworks event and a Christmas party. Average attendance was 65, with individual meetings attracting up to 106 attendees.

Family weekend

The annual family weekend at Haven in May was the largest held to date. A total of 39 caravans were booked, with 240 people from East Lancashire and Bolton Smiley Faces participating across the weekend. Activities included a group picnic and a visit to Blackpool Zoo. The weekend provided shared recreational opportunities and helped strengthen connections between families.

Social group for members aged 13 and over

The monthly social group continued to develop, providing members aged 13 and over with opportunities to choose activities, form friendships and develop relationships. The social support team enabled young people to participate with greater independence while providing parents and carers with time away from their caring responsibilities.

Additional activities and service review

School holiday sessions were delivered in partnership with Secret Garden Hoyles Park and Tracing Steps during the first half of the year. A programme of dance sessions was also delivered in Burnley in collaboration with Dance Syndrome. Although participants responded positively, attendance was insufficient to sustain these programmes and they were discontinued. The charity continued to seek feedback to identify effective ways to support members within its available resources.

Support for new parents and carers

Support for families following a diagnosis remained an important part of the charity's work. New baby welcome packs continued to be made available at maternity units across the region, helping families access information and connect with the group.

Parent and carer social events were organised during the year, providing opportunities for peer support and time away from caring responsibilities. These activities continued into 2026.

Volunteers

Trustees, ambassadors and other volunteers made a substantial contribution to organising and delivering activities. Their time and commitment remained essential to the charity's services and fundraising programme.

Education support

Education was a key area of activity in 2025. By the year end, the charity's two specialist teachers were supporting 22 schools across Lancashire, bringing the service to full capacity. Feedback was positive and a waiting list had developed. Plans were being considered to increase capacity in response to demand.

The education team presented at a Lancashire County Council special educational needs and disabilities development day in June. The presentation received positive feedback and generated further requests for training from other departments.

Advocacy and representation

Three members represented the charity and its I Choose Board at the first National Down's Syndrome Summit in March. The charity continued to liaise with the National Down Syndrome Policy Group and support work relating to implementation of Down Syndrome Act guidance, contributing the perspectives of Lancashire members.

Relationships continued to develop with Lancashire County Council, the Integrated Care Board, NHS services, social services, local Members of Parliament, mayors and councillors. The charity also met regularly with local family hubs and the Council for Voluntary Services and was represented on the board of Lancashire Parent Carer Forum.

Professional awareness and training

Representatives of the charity delivered a presentation to trainee midwives at the University of Central Lancashire in Burnley. The session included the perspective of a member with Down's syndrome. Subsequent feedback from new parents indicated a positive effect on their experiences. The charity intends to include members' lived experience in future training.

Following discussions with the Lancashire and Cumbria chief nurse, a meeting with midwifery leaders was planned for 2026 to promote consistent support and signposting for families.

Funding and fundraising

The charity reported two grants totalling £24,800 from the local Council for Voluntary Services and National Lottery Awards for All during 2025. The Awards for All funding covered a two-year period. Fundraising remained essential to sustaining existing services, particularly the education programme.

Corporate support included £16,379 from Booths Supermarkets through its Pennies programme and contributions involving its central and Barrowford teams. Skipton Building Society provided £7,000 during the year.

Members, families, volunteers, businesses and other supporters contributed through sponsored challenges, community events, product sales and donations. Reported fundraising proceeds included the following:

Future plans and developments after the year end

The following developments and intentions relate to the period after 31 December 2025 or to longer-term plans. They are reported separately from the charity's activities and fundraising results for 2025.

Sustainability and wider Lancashire support

The charity's longer-term aim is to extend support for families across Lancashire. In collaboration with the North Lancashire group, public Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages were launched under the Down's Syndrome Lancashire name, with a website update under development.

The charity is seeking substantial grant funding to strengthen the sustainability of its East Lancashire services. Subject to securing resources, it intends to expand specialist education support and, in the longer term, replicate its East Lancashire model elsewhere in Lancashire.

Partnerships and activities

Developing partnerships include a relationship with the Village Hotel chain, initiated through its Bury hotel, with proposals for a gardening project and a regular boxing or gym club. Plans also include regular sports activities at Burnley and Accrington football clubs.

Relationships with Tesco stores in Haslingden, Rawtenstall, Accrington, Burnley and Bury are expected to support fundraising and awareness raising during 2026 and beyond.

Fundraising and volunteer development
A fundraising ball held on World Down's Syndrome Day in 2026 raised more than £10,000. A further ball is planned for 14 October 2028 during Down's Syndrome Awareness Month. These proceeds relate to 2026 and are not included as 2025 fundraising results in this report.

An additional trustee joined the board and took responsibility during 2026 for developing the volunteer programme and supporting grant applications. The charity will continue to rely on the combined contribution of trustees, staff, volunteers, members and supporters to deliver its work.

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the contribution of all members, families, carers, employees, volunteers, partner organisations, funders and donors who supported the charity during 2025.



Chair of Trustees

12th October 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

East Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group			1149790	CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	23,477			23,477	1,892
Fundraising	31,887			31,887	11,172
Lottery Awards for All Grant	-			-	20,000
Haven - Members Payments	7,291.00			7,291	9,095
Interest	410			410	581
NHS	-			-	4,818
Charity Ball	5,688			5,688	-
Education	3,817.69			3,818	427
Social Group	1,321			1,321	955
WDSD Event	285	-	-	285	-
Other				-	96
		-	-	-	-
				-	-
				-	
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	74,177	-	-	74,177	49,034
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	74,177	-	-	74,177	49,034
A3 Payments					
Admin Costs	4,187	-	-	4,187	2,281
Bank Charges	57	-	-	57	66
Education	31,324	-	-	31,324	20,296
Fundraising	2,712	-	-	2,712	2,839
Grant	-	-	-	-	1,050
Haven	14,789	-	-	14,789	15,028
Holiday Club	-	-	-	-	1,420
Ichoose	-	-	-	-	618
Monthly Meeting	-	4,447	-	4,447	5,581
Social Group	-	6,172	-	6,172	8,394
Charity Ball	14,460	-	-	14,460	-
WDSD Event	55			55	-
				-	-
Sub total	67,584	10,619	-	78,202	57,573
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	67,584	10,619	-	78,202	57,573
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,593	- 10,619	-	- 4,025	- 8,538
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,244	18,041	-	39,285	47,823
Cash funds this year end	27,837	7,423	-	35,260	39,285

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC Charity Account	27,837	7,423	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	27,837	7,423	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Rachel Shatliff	12/10/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name East Lancashire Down's Syndrome Support Group		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/25	**Charity no (if any)**	1149790
Set out on pages	1 - 2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

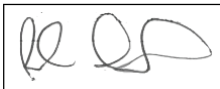
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		**Date:**	12/10/2026
Name:	Paul Greenwood		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Senior financial Manager Manchester City Council		
Address:	1538 Ashton Old Road Manchester M11 1HN		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	