evolve

tackling the impact of substance misuse



EDUCATION - SUPPORT - CHANGE

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS FYE 2026

Mission Statement

We provide education, support, and counselling to individuals, families, and professionals affected by:

- **Substance Misuse**
- **Volatile Substance Misuse**
- **Vaping**
- **County Lines**

Our aim: to provide education and support that prevent harm, reduce stigma, and build safer, healthier communities for young people and families.

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Founders

Barbara Skinner MBE



Her legacy continues to inspire everything we do.
Forever loved, never forgotten... YNWA

Ally Hodgson CEO



Certified counsellor, educator, and passionate advocate. Her lived experience drives our mission forward.

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CEO Report – 2026

2026 has been a year of momentum, maturity and meaningful impact for Evolve. Demand for our work has continued to rise across Merseyside and Cheshire, particularly around vaping, volatile substances, ketamine, nitrous oxide, and the growing pressures linked to County Lines, Gangs, Gun & Knife Crime. Young people, carers and professionals are facing increasingly complex challenges — and I'm proud that Evolve has stepped up with clarity, compassion and evidence-based support.

This year we strengthened our Empower Programme, expanded our targeted 1:1 counselling, and delivered more school-based and community workshops than ever before. We've deepened partnerships with housing providers, alternative education settings and youth services, ensuring that the young people most at risk are not left behind.

Our resources, toolkits and training have been used by hundreds of staff across the region, helping them feel more confident supporting young people in crisis.

Personally, returning to full-time delivery has been a privilege. Being back in rooms with young people — listening, learning, laughing, and sometimes crying with them — reminds me exactly why Evolve exists. Their honesty, resilience and humour continue to inspire everything we do.

To our Trustees, our Evolver's YPAG, our funders, partners and volunteers: thank you for believing in this mission and for helping us grow sustainably and ethically.

And to every young person we've supported this year: we see you, we hear you, and we are walking beside you — always.

With warmth (and hugs, of course),
Ally xxx

Ally Hodgson CEO Evolve – Tackling the Impact of Substance Misuse

2025-2026 AT A GLANCE

WORKSHOPS DELIVERED:
370
ACROSS SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY SETTINGS, HOUSING PROVIDERS AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION.

SCHOOLS REACHED:
76
USING OUR VAPING & VOLATILE SUBSTANCES TOOLKIT — NOW EMBEDDED ACROSS MERSEYSIDE & CHESHIRE.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID SESSIONS:
EXPANDED TO TEACHERS, CARERS, YOUTH WORKERS, HOUSING STAFF AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS, STRENGTHENING FRONTLINE CONFIDENCE AROUND SUBSTANCE MISUSE, TRAUMA AND SAFEGUARDING.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES ACROSS MERSEYSIDE & CHESHIRE
INCREASED OUTREACH TO CARE LEAVERS AND YOUNG ADULTS AT RISK

COUNSELLING HOURS:
243
TRAUMA-INFORMED 1:1 SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, ADULTS, FAMILIES, INCLUDING CRISIS INTERVENTION, RELAPSE PREVENTION AND EMOTIONAL REGULATION WORK.

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Evolves Journey: A Timeline of Impact

2012 – The Spark

Barbara Skinner MBE & Ally Hodgson co-found Evolve with a vision to tackle volatile substance misuse through education and compassion.

2012 – 2017 – Building Foundations

Evolve becomes a registered charity #1153938 in 2013 & we have our official launch at Liverpool Football Club.

- Early workshops delivered in schools across Merseyside
- First partnerships with youth services and local councils
- Community trust begins to grow

2017 – 2021 – Expanding Reach

- Launch of Volatile Substance Misuse programme
- Counselling services introduced
- First awards received for community impact
- Deepening Support
- County Lines awareness added to core curriculum
- Mental Health First Aid training begins
- Evolve becomes a trusted name in safeguarding education

2021 – 2025 – Resilience & Recovery

- Navigating pandemic challenges with virtual workshops
- Increased demand for youth support
- Return to in-person delivery with renewed energy
- 2024 – Growth & Gratitude
- Full-time hours reinstated
- New Development Officer joins the team
- Launch of Vaping Awareness Toolkit
- Launch of Evolve Empowermemt Programme
- Financial recovery and surplus achieved

2026– Legacy & Leadership

- Farewell to Trustees Alan Skinner, Barbara Yates & Esther Maple
- Toolkit adopted by 50+ schools
- Evolves reach and reputation stronger than ever
- Support of Cheshire & Merseyside communities continues



LATEST KETAMINE DATA APRIL 2026

- **Ketamine is a very powerful anaesthetic that can cause serious harm if misused**

- **Taking ketamine can be fatal, it can make you confused, and disconnected from reality**

- **K Bladder - Around 235,000 young people (ages 16–24) in the UK now have serious bladder problems caused by ketamine**

- **Ketamine can badly damage your bladder — sometimes permanently — and it's happening to more and more people**

- **Lots of young people using ketamine are getting symptoms like needing to pee all the time, not being able to hold it in, and sudden urges that are hard to control**

- **K-Hole/Ket Hole**

- **Kenny Legs**

- **Ketamine Deaths Are Rising Fast**

- **Deaths linked to ketamine have gone up more than 10× since 2014**

- **2014: 15 deaths**
- **2023: 123 deaths**
- **2024: 197 deaths**

- **Ketamine isn't a "safe party drug." The risks are getting bigger, and more people are being harmed**

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YOUTH VAPING IN THE UK 2025–2026

Vaping is still common among young people.

- **20% of 11–17-year-olds have tried vaping (around 1.1 million young people).**
- **7% currently vape (around 400,000), and 40% of them vape daily.**

Attitudes are shifting

- **63% of young people now think vaping is as harmful or more harmful than smoking.**

Smoking is rising again

- **“Ever tried smoking” increased from 14% (2023) to 21% (2025) — a worrying trend linked to vaping access and nicotine dependence.**

Why this matters

Young people are being targeted with sweet flavours, bright packaging and social media marketing, making vaping feel normal — even though dependence and harm perceptions are rising.

To Our Amazing Supporters... Thank You!

Because of you, 2025–2026 has been a year of real change. Your support helped us reach more young people, grow our counselling hours, strengthen our Empower Programme, and respond quickly to rising issues like vaping, ketamine misuse, exploitation and mental health struggles.

Your generosity sits behind every workshop, every conversation, every moment a young person feels seen, safe and supported.

“Evolve gave me the tools to understand what I was going through — and the courage to ask for help.” — Young Person, 2026

We couldn’t do this without you. With heartfelt thanks,

Ally Hodgson & the Evolve Team

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THANKYOU

To our funders, partners, and supporters:
You make this possible.
Your belief in our mission fuels every workshop, every counselling session, every life changed.

Garfield Weston FOUNDATION

P.H. HOLT FOUNDATION

LCVS

Merseyside Police & High Sheriff's Fund

Onward

Riverside

Merseyside Police

Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

Community Foundation For Merseyside

The National Lottery Community Fund

Cheshire Community Foundation

Family Toolbox
Because life doesn't come with a manual

EVOLVE
The clear hold build strategy

Hemby Charitable Trust
Working with the people of Merseyside

The KFC Foundation

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EVOLVE ACCOUNTS 2025-2026

LJS ACCOUNTING SERVICES (UK) LTD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
EVOLVE TACKLING THE IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE & STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

LJS ACCOUNTING SERVICES

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Evolve
Tackling The ImpactOf Substance Misuse

Evolve
Tackling The Impact Of Substance Misuse (Registered number: 1153938)

Income Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	31.3.26 £	31.3.25 £
TURNOVER	59,028	3,486
Administrative expenses	52,847	40,235
	6,181	(36,749)
Other operating income	14,000	39,842
OPERATING SURPLUS and SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION	20,181	3,093
Tax on surplus	-	-
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	20,181	3,093

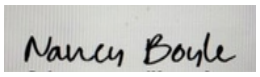
Evolve
Tackling The Impact Of Substance Misuse (Registered number: 1153938)

Balance Sheet
31 March 2026

	Notes	31.3.26 £	31.3.25 £
CURRENTASSETS			
Cash at bank		60,079	37,396
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year			
NET CURRENT ASSETS	5	3,102	600
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		56,977	36,796
		56,977	36,796
RES ERV ES			
Income and expenditure account	6	56,977	36,796
		56,977	36,796

Approval

This balance sheet was approved by the Board of Trustees on 6th October 2026 and signed on its behalf



.....
Nancy Boyle Chair

LJS Accounting Services (UK) Ltd

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Evolve Tackling The Impact Of Substance Misuse

Ireport on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.
Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

(a) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act

(b) Following procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, as amended)

(c) State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with generation directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the account presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustee's concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit,
and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

LJS Accounting Services (UK) Ltd

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Evolve Tackling The Impact Of Substance Misuse is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. **Basisof preparation of accounts**
The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the statement of recommended practice, accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005.

2. **Incoming resources**
Voluntary income and donations are included in incoming resources when they are received, except when the donors specify that they must be used for future accounting periods or donor's conditions have been fulfilled, then the income is deferred. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross, with the associated costs in fundraising costs.

3. **Resourcesexpended**
Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual basis, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure which is directly attributable to specific activities has been included in these cost categories. Where costs are attributable to more than one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of these resources.

4. **Tangible fixed assets**
Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost after deducting any specific grants received. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives.

5. **Governance Costs**
Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2025 - 1).

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £
COST	
At 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026	630
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026	630
NETBOOKVALUE	
At 31 March 2026	-
At 31 March 2025	-

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.26 £	31.3.25 £
Social security and other taxes	2,502	-
Accruals and deferred income	600	600
	3,102	600

6. RESERVES

	Income and expenditure account £
At 1 April 2025	36,796
Surplus for the year	20,181
At 31 March 2026	56,977

Evolve
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Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	31.3.26		31.3.25	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Grants/donations/memberships		59,028		3,486
Other income				
Government grants		14,000		39,842
		73,028		43,328
Expenditure				
Insurance	270		270	
Wages	32,240		25,417	
Social security	4,085		-	
Pensions	-		1,160	
Post and stationery	3,384		2,005	
Advertising	234		410	
Travel and subsistence	1,857		1,837	
Shared Office Expenses	6,000		4,400	
Bid Writer Subscriptions	3,087		1,624	
Accountancy	392		445	
Legal fees	798		708	
Donations	-		1,959	
	500		-	
		52,847		40,235
NET SURPLUS		20,181		3,093

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