# ANNUAL REPORT

## January - December 2025

www.swindondownsgroup.org.uk

# WAYS TO HELP THE GROUP RAISE FUNDS

You may just want to make a donation, if so you can use one of the following platforms to donate to the Group

JustGiving™

PayPal Giving Fund




## Swindon Community Lottery

By buying a £1 ticket you could be in with a chance of winning £25,000 as well as supporting us as a charity. We get 50p from every ticket sold.
https://www.swindonlottery.co.uk/support/swindon-downs-syndrome-group

## Give as you Live Online

Give as you Live Online

Is a free and easy way to raise money for us, just by shopping online.

Once you've signed up, click 'shop & raise' to go to their website, then continue to shop as normal.

## Recycle your print cartridges

Recycle 4 Charity

You can raise money by recycling your printer cartridges using our dedicated envelopes. We receive £1 for every ink cartridge. Why not ask your friends and family to do this too.

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

The Swindon Down's Syndrome Group consists of many families, all volunteering our time and experience as parents and carers to make life that bit more fun and ensure our family with Down's syndrome have all the opportunities and support they need from birth to old age.

We started as a small group of parents who met for coffee and provided each other with support. As time passed, more parents connected with the group and in 2003 we became a charity in our own right.

The Swindon Down's Syndrome Group support people with Down's syndrome in Swindon and the surrounding area including Fairford, Malmesbury, Hungerford, Pewsey, Marlborough, Hullavington, Chippenham, Devizes, Calne, Ashton Keynes, Cirencester, Aldbourne, Bromham, Melksham and Cheltenham.

We are a volunteer led charity, meaning everyone has an active role in the Swindon Down's Syndrome Group and gives up their time because of the love of the group.

We are very fortunate to be supported by our fantastic trustees and volunteers.


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# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Reflecting on the past year, what stands out most is the strength of our community. Time and again, we have seen people come together to support one another, share experiences, and create opportunities for our members with Down's syndrome to thrive.

Throughout the year, our focus has remained clear: to provide meaningful support that makes a real difference in everyday lives. Our Speech and Language Therapy provision continues to play a crucial role in helping individuals develop communication skills, build confidence, and increase independence—skills that underpin so many aspects of life.

At the same time, our WorkFit programme continues to create real and lasting opportunities. We are especially proud that we are about to support our fifth person with Down's syndrome into employment at Amazon—an important milestone for the Group. We also remain the only Group in the UK to have young people with Down's syndrome working within their workplace, something that highlights both the strength of the programme and the commitment of our employer partners.

It has been fantastic to see individuals grow in confidence, develop new skills, and gain greater independence through employment. The impact goes far beyond the workplace, positively influencing wellbeing, self-esteem, and social inclusion.

None of this would be possible without the people behind the scenes. Our volunteers continue to give their time, energy, and enthusiasm so generously—whether at events, fundraising activities, or through the many small but important tasks that keep the Group running. Their contribution has a lasting impact and is hugely appreciated.

I would also like to thank our Trustees for their continued commitment and guidance. I would like to give particular thanks to Cherylin and Mike for their hard work and dedication during their time as Trustees. As they step down from their roles, we wish them every success for the future and thank them for the positive contribution they have made to the Group.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building on what we have achieved—expanding opportunities, strengthening support, and ensuring that every member and family feels valued and included. There is still much to do, but we move forward with confidence and determination.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Group and be part of what we do.

Kim

# Our Achievements

## There was a lot to celebrate in 2025 and here are just a few of our achievements

1. **National Recognition for Member Achievement**

   Luke Newton was shortlisted as a finalist for the prestigious BASE (British Association for Supported Employment) David Grainger Award - an outstanding national achievement

2. **Promoting Inclusive Employment Opportunities**

   The Group continued to support members into meaningful employment through programmes such as WorkFit and partnerships with supported employment providers

3. **Expanding Community Performance Opportunities**

   The Perform 4 Dreams (PD) Dance Group represented the Group at a range of community events, promoting inclusion and showcasing the talents of our members

4. **Supporting Families across the community**

   Ongoing support was provided to families across Swindon and surrounding areas , offering guidance, activities, and a strong network from early years through adulthood

5. **Specialist Speech and Language Therapy Provision**

   The Group continued to deliver dedicated speech and language therapy support, helping members develop communication skills and independence

6. **Youth and Social Inclusion Activities**

   A wide range of youth clubs and social activities enabled members to build friendships, confidence, and independence in a safe and supported environment

7. **Successful Fundraising and Partnerships**

   Continued fundraising efforts and strong community partnerships ensured the sustainability and growth of the Group's services

8. **Celebrating Member Success and Building Confidence**

   Throughout the year, the Group recognised and celebrated members' achievements, helping to build confidence and foster a strong, inclusive community

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

In April, our DS Active team teamed up with our friends from Bristol City and played Everton in the Community DS Team! The combined team then took to the pitch at Ashton Gate, during half time, of Bristol City vs Watford. A huge thanks to Bristol City Robins Foundation and Bristol Down Syndrome Group for having us, we look forward to playing you again in the future!







Congratulations to Barnaby for completing his 100th Parkrun!



## Making a splash

We have loved seeing Holly compete on behalf of Down Syndrome Swimming GB





## Fun in the Forest

In September, we had a fantastic afternoon at the Cotswold Forest School. With fire building, hide and seek, and marshmallows with hot chocolate and a biscuit. Thanks to Johno and his team for a wonderful time.






# Congratulations Luke

We were absolutely thrilled to hear that one of our very own members, Luke Newton was the runner up for the prestigious BASE - British Association for Supported Employment 'David Grainger Award', an honour that recognises truly inspirational people with disabilities.

He attended the BASE Awards Presentation at the iconic Wembley Stadium in November, accompanied by his proud parents. Luke's determination, positivity, and achievements make him a worthy winner in every sense of the word.

# FAB - U - LOUS

We have loved seeing Down's Syndrome being celebrated in high profile TV programmes this year. With Ellie and Vito lighting up the Strictly Come Dancing dancefloor and Aitch sharing his experience with his sister in the jungle. Raising awareness and proving people wrong!





# Festive Fun

We had a great time at our Christmas parties and on our annual trip to the Pantomime (oh yes we did!) Thank you to everyone who attended and all the volunteers who helped out.



















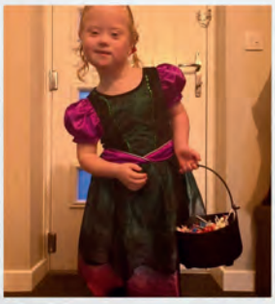





Dear Zoo
DANGER!



GWR





KEEP
CALM
AN EXTRA
CHROMOSOME










MIPERMIT

# SUPPORTING NEW PARENTS

Over the past year, we have continued to create opportunities for families with younger children to share experiences, celebrate milestones, and access information and support.



Our active what's app group allows our members to:

- Share information and helpful resources
- Ask questions and get quick, friendly responses
- Swap recommendations for local services, therapies, and activities
- Celebrate achievements, big and small

We continue to host our monthly coffee-morning play sessions at Toddler Zone in Royal Wotton Bassett. These relaxed meet-ups give parents the chance to talk face-to-face while children enjoy a safe, welcoming space to play. We were delighted to welcome George who volunteered at some of our sessions as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.




The group has plans to expand its activities in 2026, in particular in locations outside of Swindon.

If you would like to find out more, please contact claire@swindondownsgroup.org.uk







# FUNDRAISING

A huge thank you to everyone who raised funds for us in 2025 - here's just some of the highlights of our fundraising heroes!

Thank you to John Boam and Jason John from the Queenstown Social Club Swindon for their wonderful support raising £300 our Workfit programme.





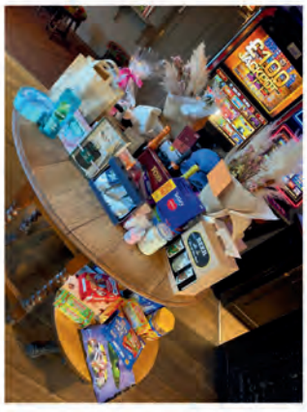

Thanks to Cherylin and the other volunteers who supported our stall at Swindon Pride in August - a great atmosphere and lots of funds raised by the Pride crowd

Thank you to Alex and his Mum Carol for their donation along with the Barrington Arms in Shrivenham and The Prince Of Wales in Shrivenham where Alex works.

Congratulations to our swimmers (Alex, Lane, Jonathan, Julie, Cailey, Jess, Sophie and Tim) who took to the water at Halo LC to raise funds for us and Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool and completed an incredible 338 lengths. And a big thank you to Rotary Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown for organising this event.




Once again, we are very grateful to our friends at the Crown Inn, Stratton who have been so generous throughout the year with quizzes, raffles and Rock & Roll bingo!





We were delighted to receive a cheque from Rotary Club of Swindon from money that was raised at their Ball last May. They also arranged a delicious meal at Fabios in March.




A big thank you to Zurich Community Trust who donated four hampers for our Christmas Raffle and congratulations to our winners Barnaby Briscoe, Sam Russell-Pierce, Margaret Liddle and Tracy Sheehan

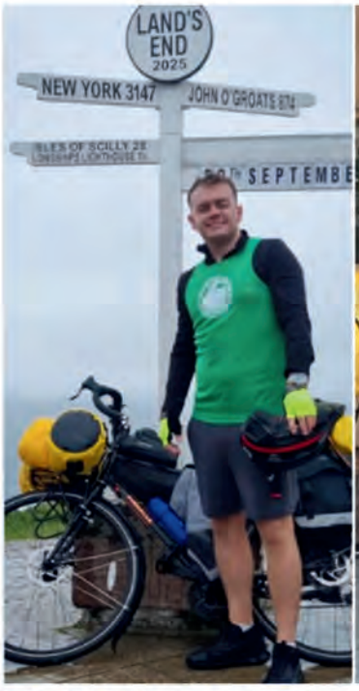
A big thank you to Sarah for raising an amazing £460 running the Swindon Half Marathon. This money is helping us provide school packs.
Each pack is unique to the student, supporting their learning.

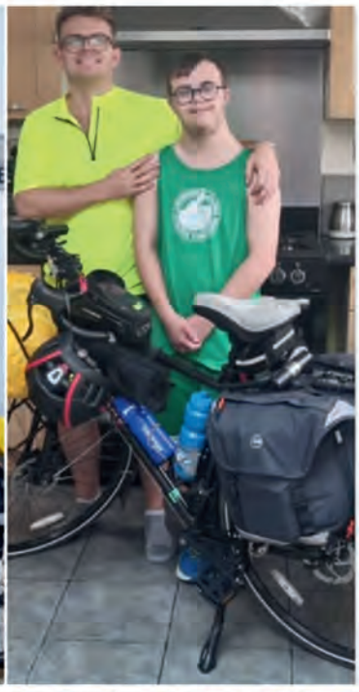






Congratulations to Tim and Rich who completed the 55 mile London to Brighton Cycle Ride, raising over £1500 for Workfit.
Despite concerns over the weather in the days leading up to it, the actual day ended up being a great success. Thank you both!



## From Lands End to John O'Groats.....

Lee embarked on a butt-busting voyage of over 1,000 miles, pedalling a fully loaded bike from one end of the UK to the other - and wild camping along the way!

The group is close to his heart, as his youngest brother, Travis, has Down's Syndrome. Lee raised over £2000 by completing this challenge.

What an amazing achievement!





Thanks to the generous Dunelm customers who donated lovely presents for our Christmas parties

## Happy Birthday Cliff!

Together with friends and some our members, our patron Cliff Puffett celebrated his birthday with a wonderful lunch at the Eagle Tavern, raising an incredible £905.
A big thank you to Cliff for his continued support.



# SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY

We continue to provide Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) as a core service for our members, supporting both children and adults with Down's syndrome to develop essential communication skills.

People with Down's syndrome commonly experience speech, language and communication difficulties, which can affect their ability to express themselves, build relationships, access education, and participate fully in everyday life. Early and ongoing Speech and Language Therapy is therefore vital in helping individuals develop clearer speech, improve understanding, and build confidence and independence.

Our provision supports two age groups: children and young people aged 3–18, and adults aged 18+. The younger group receives weekly sessions during the school year, while the adult group attends regular sessions throughout the year, ensuring continued support at every stage of life.

All sessions are delivered online through the Mable Therapy platform. Each individual is matched with a dedicated therapist who creates a personalised programme tailored to their specific needs and abilities. Sessions are interactive, engaging and designed to maximise participation, using visual supports, structured activities and game-based learning where appropriate.

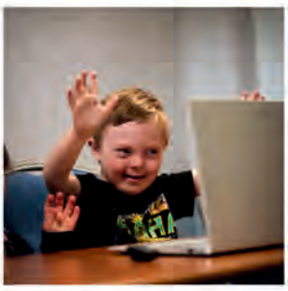
Progress is closely monitored, with therapists providing regular reports and practical follow-up activities that families can access easily. Long-term targets are set and reviewed, enabling parents and carers to see the progress being made over time and to support learning beyond each session.

**Funding**

Delivering high-quality Speech and Language Therapy remains a significant investment for the Group. This essential service is made possible through the continued dedication of our trustees, members and supporters, who work tirelessly to raise the funds needed to sustain it.







# #LotsofSocks

A huge thank you to everyone who celebrated World Down Syndrome Day with on 21 March - we loved seeing all your photos!

A special thank you to everyone who bought our socks and all companies that sold them on our behalf including

- Fairfield College
- Cobbs Farm Shop
- Crowdy's Hill School
- Nationwide

This year we received a generous grant from the Walter Guinness Charitable Trust which helped towards the purchase of the socks meaning even more money went towards our Workfit programme.





















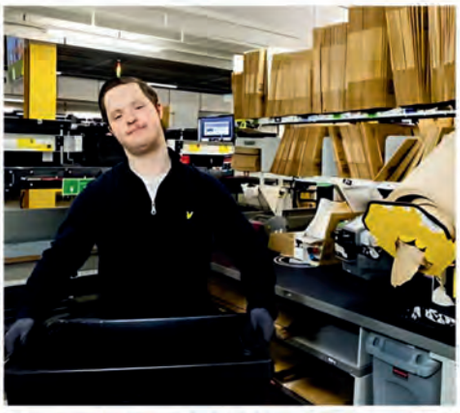
To celebrate the day, our DS Active team invited our friends from Bristol City to the County Ground to play before the match, and on the pitch at half-time! Aside from meeting Aaron Drinan, the highlight for our players was when they had the chance to play with Jack Bycroft, who jumped in goal!















At Swindon Down's Syndrome Group, we are proud to highlight examples of inclusive employment in action—and Amazon continues to set a strong example through its Supported Employment programmes.

Through its "Careers 4 All" initiative, delivered in partnership with the British Association for Supported Employment (BASE), Amazon is creating meaningful opportunities for adults with disabilities. By offering tailored support and carefully matched roles, the programme is helping individuals build sustainable careers and greater independence.

A recent visit to Amazon's Swindon Fulfilment Centre demonstrated the real impact of this work. Louis, who joined through the Down's Syndrome Association's WorkFit programme, is continuing to thrive nearly two years into his role. Jonathan, who came through Phoenix Enterprises, captured the experience clearly, sharing: "The best thing about being at Amazon is how included I feel at work, and that I get the chance to show what people with disabilities can do."

This year alone, Amazon has welcomed 35 new employees across eight sites through Supported Employment, with plans to grow the programme further in collaboration with BASE and other partners across the UK and Europe.

Partnerships like these play a vital role in breaking down barriers, opening up opportunities, and recognising the valuable contribution that people with disabilities bring to the workplace.
Written by John Boumphrey – VP UK & Ireland Country Manager, Amazon








We were delighted to celebrate the achievements of one of our members, Luke Newton, who was shortlisted as a finalist for the prestigious British Association for Supported Employment (BASE) David Grainger Award. This national award recognises individuals with disabilities who inspire others, and being shortlisted is a significant accomplishment in itself.

Luke attended the BASE Awards Presentation at Wembley Stadium on 17 November with his parents, marking a proud and memorable occasion. Although he did not take home the award on the night, reaching the final stage is a remarkable achievement and reflects his dedication, positivity, and determination.

In recognition of his success, Luke has also been presented with a special certificate by the Down's Syndrome Association. In addition, the Group was proud to present Luke with a trophy inscribed "Our Hero," in recognition of his achievements and the inspiration he brings to others. Everyone at Swindon Down's Syndrome Group is incredibly proud of Luke and all that he has achieved. He continues to be an inspiration to others and a wonderful ambassador for inclusive employment.







# KEEPING FIT AND ACTIVE

## Padel Tennis



Our Padel Tennis sessions have been a fantastic addition to our sports activities this year, and we're thrilled with how well our members are doing! We've been really pleased to partner with Padel4All, who offer dedicated sessions specifically for people with Down's Syndrome run by the amazing Alan. Alan at Padel4All has been brilliant in creating a welcoming and supportive environment where the players can learn and develop their skills.



A Growing Success
Padel tennis is a fun and accessible sport that combines elements of tennis and squash, played on a smaller court. It's perfect for building coordination, fitness, and confidence - and our members absolutely love it!

Throughout the year, we've seen amazing progress from our players. The sessions are full of energy, laughter, and genuine achievement as members master new skills and enjoy friendly games together.



Open to All
Our padel tennis sessions are open to members aged 9 years and upwards. Whether you're brand new to the sport or have been playing for a while, everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

For further information and the latest course dates, please contact tennis@swindondownsgroup.org.uk

## Cricket

Members of the Group continued to attend the “Super 1’s” hubs, run by Wiltshire County Cricket, in Swindon, Salisbury and Chippenham. The activities, aimed at improving batting, bowling and throwing, have evolved during the 12 months and all participants have shown improved skills.

The Summer weather was kind to the players for both events organised in addition to the regular sessions. One of them allowed them to showcase what they had learnt. Super 1's players held a skills session ahead of the Minor Counties game against Glamorgan before creating the Guard of Honour as the players took to the pitch.

# Football

Our DSActive Football sessions have had another brilliant year, with members enjoying weekly sessions throughout term time at the Nigel Eady Dome, Swindon Town Foundation Park.
The team meets every Wednesday from 5pm - 6pm, providing a fantastic opportunity for our members to develop their football skills, stay active, and build friendships in a supportive environment.

A Year of Achievement
One of the highlights of the year came in November when our team hosted Northampton at the Dome for a friendly match. It was a fantastic occasion that showcased the talent and enthusiasm of our players and gave everyone a chance to experience "competitive" football in a welcoming atmosphere. The team spirits is fantastic and they always greet each other with smiles and friendship. True sportsmanship.

Throughout the year, our members have shown incredible progress in their skills, confidence, and teamwork. The sessions continue to be a highlight of the week for many of our players and their families.

Join Us!
Our football sessions are open to all members aged 5 years and upwards. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, everyone is welcome. It's a great way to get active, have fun, and be part of our fantastic football community.










For more information about joining DSActive Football, please contact secretary@swindondownsgroup.org.uk

# Tennis



Although they continue to attract low numbers, the weekly tennis sessions at Delta Tennis Centre continue to be enjoyed. Those attending do so regularly and benefit from Livio's tailored coaching.

Once again this year, players represented the Group at LTA Learning Disability competitions this year. Lane, Alex and Robert all attended the events at Pershore and Newport.



A reminder that this activity is subsidised by the Group so it would be great to see a few more members at the sessions. You can find out more information about the sessions by emailing tennis@swindondownsgroup.org.uk.

# Swimming



Our fortnightly swimming sessions at Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool have continued to run this year.

The annual Swimathon organised by the Rotary Club of Swindon North and Thamesdown was well supported by Group members. This helped raise much needed funds to help prolong the sessions. We were also able to arrange a number of extra sessions during the summer holidays. Our coach of many years, Vicky Hunt, continued to coach our swimmers during term time.



There are currently spaces available for any members wishing to give it a try. The pool is a brilliant, and safe, environment for learning to swim.

Contact swimming@ swindondownsgroup.org.uk for more information about the sessions.

# YOUTH CLUB







Youth Club continued to meet on alternate (to swimming) Monday evenings. The 8-10 regular attendees at the Farmhouse joined each session on Zoom by any members unable to make it in person.

Our young people make use of all the available activities including table football, various board games and the ever popular disco room. Everyone comes together for half an hour to join up with anyone unable to get to the Farmhouse in person via Zoom.

It's a chance to share news, have some refreshments and enjoy a short quiz. Mike's quiz usually brings out their competitive side with favourite themes being Disney and seasonal topics such as Halloween.

Summer saw the return of the popular Forest School trip, although this was initially postponed due to very un-summery weather!

Any members aged 13+ are welcome to attend.
For more information contact info@swindondownsgroup.org.uk.

# Perform 4 Dreams (P4D) Dance Group

During the year, our Perform 4 Dreams (P4D) Dance Group proudly represented the Swindon Down's Syndrome Group at a number of community events, showcasing their talent, confidence, and enthusiasm.

The group began the year with a performance at Bobbi's Annual Award Floor Show, held at the Village Hotel on 4 January. In the summer, they brought energy and celebration to the Pride Festival at Faringdon Park on 9 August, highlighting the importance of inclusion and community spirit. The year concluded with another fantastic appearance at Bobbi's Annual Show at the Deanery on 9 November.

These performances reflect the passion and vision of P4D's founder, Bobbi Newman, who has dedicated her work to supporting children with Down syndrome through dance. What began as a heartfelt ambition to help young people build confidence, joy, and a sense of belonging has grown into something truly special. The pride and happiness seen in every performance—whether in the studio or on stage—demonstrate the courage, determination, and individuality of each dancer.

Bobbi continues to be inspired daily by the young people she teaches, and she recognises that the success of the group is built on the trust, encouragement, and support of their families. The Perform 4 Dreams community has become a close and supportive "dance family," creating opportunities for members to shine while forming lasting friendships and memories.

Each event provided valuable opportunities for our dancers to grow in confidence and connect with the wider community, and we are incredibly proud of all they continue to achieve.

# IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, OUR SUPPORTERS

## We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us over the past year

**We owe a huge thank you to every single person, group or business that has helped us support our members with Down's Syndrome. In particular we'd like to thank the following supporters:**

### Our Patrons

Cliff Puffett
Julie Thomas

### Trustees (2025)

Kim West (Chair)
Cherylin Hempleman
Claire North
John Stow
Joanna Messenger
Michael Billinge-Jones
Sam Harding
Victoria McGuire

### Our fundraisers, donors, supporters & volunteers including

Amazon
Bobbi's Academy of Dance
Cailey Whitcher
Charities Trust
Clare Stow
Cobbs Farm Shop
Coles Scaffolding
Crowdys Hill School
DoubleTree by Hilton Bath & Swindon
Dunelm
Fairfield College
Fora Coffee
Gary Parker
Great Western Hospital
Lee Brennan
Martyn Coles
National Lottery
Nationwide Building Society
Oliver Messenger
Padel4All
Richard Horton
Rotary Club of Swindon
Rotary Club of Swindon North & Thamesdown
Rotary Club of Swindon Old Town
Roy Perrett
Sarah Waldron
Swindon Town Football Club
Thamesdown Hydro Pool
The Crown Inn, Stratton
The Walter Guinness Charitable Trust
Tim North
Toddler Zone
Zurich Community Trust

And everyone who has bought socks, played the Swindon Community Lottery, donated to or attended our jumble sales and much more!

# GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

**Charity name:** Swindon Down's Syndrome Group
**Charity number:** 1158449
**Principal office:** 34 Periwinkle Close, Swindon, SN2 2QH

### Governing document

Swindon Down's Syndrome Group is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission. It is governed by a constitution last updated in 2018.

### Charitable objects:

The objects of the CIO are to relieve the charitable needs of people with Down's syndrome, and their families, helpers and carers in particular but not exclusively by the provision of support and information and speech and language therapy so that they are able to attain their full potential and to undertake any other charitable activities in connection with the relief of Down's syndrome in the SN postcode and the surrounding area. (Area of Benefit)

Surrounding area to be defined as – "post code areas associated to Fairford, Malmesbury, Hungerford, Pewsey, Marlborough, Hullavington, Chippenham, Devizes, Calne, Ashton Keynes, Cirencester, Aldbourne, Bromham, Melksham and Cheltenham."

### Activities:

We are a parent-led charity supporting people with Down's syndrome, their families, carers and all those with an interest in Down's syndrome in Swindon and the surrounding area. We are an independent charity, affiliated to the national Down's Syndrome Association.

### Organisation structure

The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. The trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

The trustees meet together as a body monthly and are responsible for all decisions taken in relation to running the charity. The charity can have a maximum of 10 trustees.

| Trustee Name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|---|---|---|
| Kim West | Chair | |
| Mike Billinge-Jones | Vice Chair | Until Dec 2025 |
| Sam Harding | Treasurer | |
| Joanna Messenger | Secretary | |
| John Stow | Vice Treasurer | |
| Cherylin Hempleman | | Until May 2025 |
| Victoria McGuire | | |
| Claire North | | |

### Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The existing trustees are responsible for the recruitment of new trustees. In appointing new trustees we seek people who are part of our local community. Potential trustees are invited to trustees' meetings or to meet with the chairperson to learn more about the charity's aims and objectives. If all trustees agree they are proposed as new trustees. New trustees are required to complete a DBS check and given a three month trial. This process allows due consideration of the person's eligibility, personal competence, specialist knowledge and skills.

### Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

### Conflicts of Interest

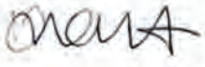
The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Conflicts of Interest and the Trustees only act in the best interests of the Charity. The Swindon Down's Syndrome Group have strong systems in place to identify conflicts of interest and we ask each Trustee to declare any conflicts at the beginning of every meeting.

### Financial review and reserves policy

At 31 December 2025 the charity held total funds of £115,014 of which £106,088 are restricted and £8,923 are unrestricted. Unrestricted funds include designated funds of £5,000 for Speech. Free reserves are £3,923. The charity has minimal overheads as it is run by volunteers and so does not need to build up free reserves. The main commitment and the charity's highest cost is paying for Speech therapy, which will cost approx £40,000 for 2026. Therefore any excess free reserves are designated to the Speech fund. The restricted funds comprise:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Speech**<br>Donations and grants to provide speech therapy | **£44,906** |
| **National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities**<br>Adult Speech and Language Therapy | **£18,050** |
| **Salamander**<br>Donations and grants to fund the fire course | **£3,620** |
| **WorkFit**<br>Donations and grants to support adults into work | **£19,798** |
| **Other smaller funds** | **£19,715** |
| **Total restricted funds** | **£106,088** |

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:



**Kim West, Chairperson**
Swindon Down's Syndrome Group

# THE FUTURE

As we move into 2026, it's important that we continue to build on the foundations that have made our Group so successful. Our focus remains on being here for all of you—providing support, connection, and opportunities that enrich the lives of our members and their families.

We are committed to continuing the activities and support that so many of you value. However, to maintain and grow what we offer, we need your help more than ever.

We are asking more of our members to give a small amount of their time. Whether it's volunteering for an hour at an event, helping to sell merchandise, or simply sharing a fundraising message, every contribution makes a real difference. These small actions help ensure we can keep delivering—and expanding—the support we provide.

Our priorities for 2026 are listed below. Please remember that all of these rely on available funding. If you feel something should be higher on the list, or if you have new ideas, we would love for you to get involved—both in helping organise and in supporting fundraising efforts.

Our 2026 priorities:

1. WorkFit
2. Speech and language therapy for under 18s and adults
3. New parent support
4. Keeping active, including Football, Tennis, Padel Tennis and Swimming
5. Youth Club
6. Dance
7. Primary support
8. School resource packs
9. Support for schools
10. Christmas parties
11. Family events and trips

We remain dedicated to supporting all our members—but we can't do it alone. We want you to be part of what we do. Your ideas, your time, and your voice are vital in shaping the future of the Group.

If you'd like to get involved or find out more, please email us at info@swindondownsgroup.org.uk






www.swindondownsgroup.org.uk/shop



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Labels • Business Cards • Flyers • Booklets
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**The Swindon Down's Syndrome Group is a parent-led charity supporting people with Down's syndrome and their families in Swindon and the surrounding area.**

**We are here to help people with Down's syndrome to have the same opportunities as everyone else and raise awareness of Down's syndrome in the local community.**

**REGISTERED CHARITY**

Swindon Down's Syndrome Group is a UK registered charity.
Registered Office
34 Periwinkle Close
Swindon SN2 2QH.

**Charity number:** 1158449

**Copyright ©2025 Swindon Down's Syndrome Group**



Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

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<br>Swindon Down's Syndrome Group | | |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31st December 2025 | **Charity no (if any)** | 1158449 |
| **Set out on pages** | 3 and 4<br>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets) | | |

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").

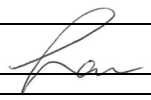
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**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.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Signed:** |  | **Date:** | 22 May 2026 |
| **Name:** | James Gare | | |
| **Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** | FCA | | |
| **Address:** | Monahans, Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2GA | | |

## 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**. | |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

| Charity Name | No (if any) |
|---|---|
| Swindon Downs Syndrome Group | 1158449 |

# Receipts and payments accounts

**CC16a**

| For the period from | | Period start date | To | Period end date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 01.01.25 | | 31.12.25 |

## Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Designated Funds | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A1 Receipts** | | | | | | |
| Donations | 4,084 | - | 24,914 | - | 28,998 | 20,815 |
| Outings/Parties/Sports | - | - | 1,992 | - | 1,992 | 2,893 |
| Fundraising | 1,095 | - | 20,143 | - | 21,238 | 22,913 |
| Speech Therapy | - | - | 1,160 | - | 1,160 | 820 |
| Interest | 632 | - | - | - | 632 | 960 |
| Membership | 863 | - | | - | 863 | 1,407 |
| ***Sub total*** | 6,674 | - | 48,210 | - | 54,883 | 49,808 |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total receipts*** | 6,674 | 0 | 48,210 | - | 54,883 | 49,808 |
| **A3 Payments** | | | | | | |
| Outings/Parties/Sports/Clubs | - | - | 6,735 | | 6,735 | 14,204 |
| Fundraising | 170 | - | 8,147 | | 8,317 | 9,279 |
| Newsletter/Postage | - | - | 270 | | 270 | 155 |
| Speech Therapy | - | - | 14,715 | | 14,715 | 14,720 |
| Training | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Miscellaneous | 6,450 | - | 210 | | 6,660 | 7,386 |
| WorkFit | - | - | 5,629 | | 5,629 | 10,468 |
| Website | - | - | | - | - | - |
| | - | - | | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | 6,620 | - | 35,707 | - | 42,326 | 56,212 |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total payments*** | 6,620 | - | 35,707 | - | 42,326 | 56,212 |
| ***Net of receipts/(payments)*** | 54 | - | 12,503 | - | 12,557 | - 6,405 |
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 3,869 | 5,000 | 93,586 | - | 102,455 | 108,860 |
| ***Cash funds this year end*** | 3,923 | 5,000 | 106,089 | - | 115,012 | 102,455 |

## 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** | Santander | 8,923 | 16,379 | - |
| | CAF | - | 65,219 | - |
| | Teachers Building Society | - | 24,491 | - |
| | Paypal | - | | - |
| | ***Total cash funds*** | 8,923 | 106,089 | - |
| | (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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| |  | Kim West | 06/05/2026 |

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<br>Swindon Down's Syndrome Group | | |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31st December 2025 | **Charity no (if any)** | 1158449 |
| **Set out on pages** | 3 and 4<br>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets) | | |

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").

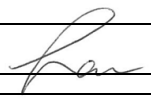
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**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.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Signed:** |  | **Date:** | 22 May 2026 |
| **Name:** | James Gare | | |
| **Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** | FCA | | |
| **Address:** | Monahans, Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2GA | | |

## 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**. | |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

| Charity Name | No (if any) |
|---|---|
| Swindon Downs Syndrome Group | 1158449 |

# Receipts and payments accounts

**CC16a**

| For the period from | | Period start date | To | Period end date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 01.01.25 | | 31.12.25 |

## Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Designated Funds | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
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| Donations | 4,084 | - | 24,914 | - | 28,998 | 20,815 |
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| Speech Therapy | - | - | 1,160 | - | 1,160 | 820 |
| Interest | 632 | - | - | - | 632 | 960 |
| Membership | 863 | - | | - | 863 | 1,407 |
| ***Sub total*** | 6,674 | - | 48,210 | - | 54,883 | 49,808 |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total receipts*** | 6,674 | 0 | 48,210 | - | 54,883 | 49,808 |
| **A3 Payments** | | | | | | |
| Outings/Parties/Sports/Clubs | - | - | 6,735 | | 6,735 | 14,204 |
| Fundraising | 170 | - | 8,147 | | 8,317 | 9,279 |
| Newsletter/Postage | - | - | 270 | | 270 | 155 |
| Speech Therapy | - | - | 14,715 | | 14,715 | 14,720 |
| Training | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Miscellaneous | 6,450 | - | 210 | | 6,660 | 7,386 |
| WorkFit | - | - | 5,629 | | 5,629 | 10,468 |
| Website | - | - | | - | - | - |
| | - | - | | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | 6,620 | - | 35,707 | - | 42,326 | 56,212 |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total payments*** | 6,620 | - | 35,707 | - | 42,326 | 56,212 |
| ***Net of receipts/(payments)*** | 54 | - | 12,503 | - | 12,557 | - 6,405 |
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 3,869 | 5,000 | 93,586 | - | 102,455 | 108,860 |
| ***Cash funds this year end*** | 3,923 | 5,000 | 106,089 | - | 115,012 | 102,455 |

## 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** | Santander | 8,923 | 16,379 | - |
| | CAF | - | 65,219 | - |
| | Teachers Building Society | - | 24,491 | - |
| | Paypal | - | | - |
| | ***Total cash funds*** | 8,923 | 106,089 | - |
| | (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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| |  | Kim West | 06/05/2026 |