Charity registration number 1161395

GATESHEAD FOODBANK

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

GATESHEAD FOODBANK

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Robert Brotherston Carol Thompson Don Sinclair Jackie Beeley William John Macdonald James Wilders	 (Appointed 18 March 2026)
Charity number	1161395	
Principal address	Gateshead Foodbank Davidson Building Swan Street Gateshead Tyne & Wear NE8 1BG	
Independent examiner	TC Group St Matthews House Haugh Lane Hexham Northumberland NE46 3PU	

GATESHEAD FOODBANK

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GATESHEAD FOODBANK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and "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).

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the charity is to prevent or relieve poverty in Gateshead by providing food and support to individuals in need and or charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

The strategies employed to achieve the charity's aims and objective is to operate weekly food banks for people in need. Donations of food are collected and distributed to people referred into Gateshead Foodbank by professional and voluntary organisations working in Gateshead.
In shaping the objectives for the period and planning activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The trustees are confident the activities meet the guidance.

Achievements and performance

Achievements and Impact During the Year

A huge thank you to all of our incredible volunteers and staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that we can continue to provide food and support to people across Gateshead.
Their commitment, compassion and dedication are central to everything we do.
During the year, Gateshead Foodbank supported 4,221 households and distributed 7,755 food parcels. This represents a reduction of 226 people compared with the previous year.

Financial Inclusion Support

Access to Financial Inclusion advice remains a vital part of the support offered through each of our distribution centres. Commissioned through Gateshead Citizens Advice, the Financial Inclusion service provides specialist advice and support on benefits, debt, budgeting and wider financial issues.

Our volunteers play an important role in identifying people who may benefit from this support, using conversations with foodbank users to make appropriate warm referrals to the service.

During Year 4 of the programme:

- 207 people engaged with the service.
- £128,381 was secured in financial gains for clients.
- £355,116 of debt was successfully managed.
- £90,912 of debt was written off.

This represents a combined financial impact of £574,409, demonstrating the significant additional benefit that Financial Inclusion support provides alongside our foodbank services.

Strategy for 2026

During the year, we reviewed and updated our strategy for 2026/29. Our strategy focuses on four key areas: Living Experience, Sustainability, Campaigning and Volunteers.

Objective 1 – Living Experience
People who have used foodbanks help shape everything we do.

Our aim is to ensure that the voices and experiences of people who have used our services directly influence the way Gateshead Foodbank operates. This includes gathering regular feedback from foodbank users, increasing opportunities for people with living or lived experience to volunteer, and establishing a consultation group of previous foodbank users.

Objective 2 – Sustainability
Gateshead Foodbank can continue for as long as people need us.

Financial sustainability remains a key priority. We aim to maintain sufficient reserves to support 6 months of running costs at our current service level, including the value of food stock.
We are also developing a dedicated fundraising team to increase donations and grants from a diverse range of sources. Alongside this, we are strengthening our governance arrangements by identifying recruitment, training and skills gaps among volunteers. Another key priority is to pilot a coordinated pathway with referral agencies, helping people to access appropriate support and, where possible, move on from foodbank support.

Objective 3 – Campaigning
People in Gateshead have the power to tackle the causes of poverty.

We will continue to work with Gateshead residents and partners, including Citizens Advice Gateshead, to identify opportunities to campaign on local issues affecting people experiencing poverty. We will also provide local MPs and community decision-makers with regular data and case studies, helping to highlight the causes and impact of poverty across Gateshead and ensure that the experiences of foodbank users inform local decision-making.

Objective 4 – Volunteers
To build a strong, skilled and sustainable volunteer workforce by expanding our recruitment efforts.

Volunteers are fundamental to the success of Gateshead Foodbank. Our strategy therefore focuses on developing regular recruitment campaigns to attract a diverse range of volunteers. We will also introduce a structured and inclusive volunteer training programme, ensuring that all volunteers have opportunities to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence.

Key Risks and Looking Ahead

The main risk to the ongoing operation of Gateshead Foodbank is the reduction in financial and food donations. Although demand for our services has decreased slightly during the year, we have experienced a significant increase in our operating costs, particularly the cost of purchasing food.

As a result, and following careful consideration of our financial position and future sustainability, we have had to take the difficult decision that, from 2026/27, we will reduce the overall quantity of food and toiletries provided in each parcel. We recognise that this is a difficult decision, but it is necessary to ensure that Gateshead Foodbank remains financially sustainable and able to continue supporting people who need us in the future.

To address these challenges, we have established a dedicated fundraising team and are strengthening our partnerships with local organisations, businesses and community groups. Our aim is to increase both financial and food donations, diversify our income and build a stronger and more sustainable base of support for the future.

The Trustees remain committed to ensuring that Gateshead Foodbank continues to provide essential support to people experiencing food insecurity, while also addressing the underlying causes of poverty and working towards a sustainable future for the organisation.

Financial review

Monetary donations amounted to £132,607 (2025 - £124,230) from regular gifts to one-off donations. The value of food donated for distribution to beneficiaries amounted to £112,174 (2025 - £123,267).

Grant funding was received from Gateshead MBC, National Lottery and the Post Code Lottery. The total aggregate value of that grant funding amounted to £178,898. Additional details can be found in the notes to the accounts.

Operating costs in the year were £417,586 (2025 - £395,419). Additional expenditure of donated goods distributed amounted to £108,986 (2025 - £118,665).

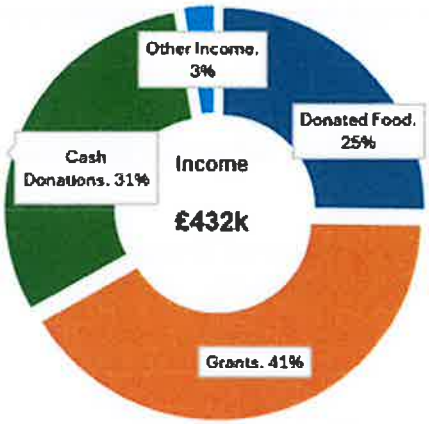
The bank balances at the year-end totalled £358,017 (2025 - £456,144).

Gateshead Foodbank operated at a deficit of £91k (£40k in 2025) for the 12 months ended 31 March 2026. Further details supporting these figures are provided in the financial statements accompanying this report.

Both income and expenditure include 'donations-in-kind', representing the monetary value of donated food and other goods distributed by the Foodbank. The value of these donations has declined year on year, with 2025/26 levels 38% lower in weight than in 2023/24.This reduction has largely resulted from decreased donations from supermarkets.

To maintain our service levels, we have consequently had to purchase food in bulk. We now buy almost 70% of the food we distribute, which has adversely affected our financial position.

The financial statements do not include the value of hours of volunteer time generously donated by our committed and caring volunteer team. The trustees estimate this to be more than 10,000 hrs which if valued at the National Living Wage is £127,000.

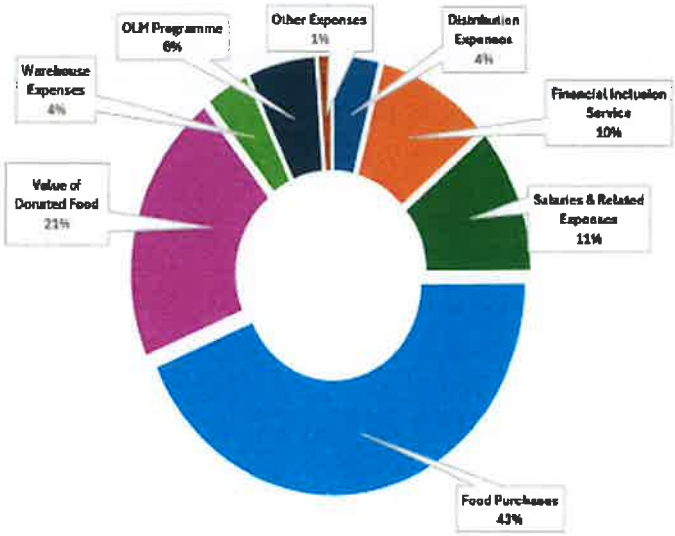


WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM:

Other Income: Interest on deposit accounts and Supermarket Top-Up grants.

Donated Food: We received 35,271kg of donations valued at £3.09kg

Grants:
Gateshead Council £94,500
Post Code Lottery £30,000
Trussell £54,398



WHERE OUR MONEY GOES:

Financial Inclusion Service: Bought in service from Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau

OLM Programme: This is the cost of running the "Organising Local Mobilisation" programme and is essentially Salary & Related expenses.

Major risks
The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management
Gateshead Foodbank Is A Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was formed via a constitution on the 23 April 2015.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Steven Caithness	(Resigned 1 October 2025)
Robert Brotherston	
Carol Thompson	
Don Sinclair	
Jackie Beeley	
John Smith	(Resigned 31 March 2026)
William John Macdonald	
James Wilders	(Appointed 18 March 2026)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
The trustees meet on a regular basis to review finances how the charity is performing and to strategise for the future. New trustees are recruited by way of recommendation and are provided with training in the charity's operations when joining the board of trustees. Trustees are not remunerated for the work they carry out for the charity.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

R. Brotherston

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Robert Brotherston
Trustee

Date: 22-Sep-2026

GATESHEAD FOODBANK

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF GATESHEAD FOODBANK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Gateshead Foodbank (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity'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 Instute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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 financial statements to be reached.

J Hart

TC Group

St Matthews House
Haugh Lane
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 3PU

Dated: 29/9/2026

GATESHEAD FOODBANK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	**2**	244,781	178,898	423,679	247,497	213,472	460,969
Investments	**3**	7,885	-	7,885	9,324	-	9,324
Other income	**4**	7,775	-	7,775	5,000	-	5,000
Total income		260,441	178,898	439,339	261,821	213,472	475,293
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	**5**	382,068	145,395	527,463	301,572	213,472	515,044
Total expenditure		382,068	145,395	527,463	301,572	213,472	515,044
Net income/(expenditure)		(121,627)	33,503	(88,124)	(39,751)	-	(39,751)
Transfers between funds		33,503	(33,503)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**7**	(88,124)	-	(88,124)	(39,751)	-	(39,751)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2025		481,272	-	481,272	521,023	-	521,023
Fund balances at 31 March 2026		393,148	-	393,148	481,272	-	481,272

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

GATESHEAD FOODBANK

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**11**		7,891		10,521
Current assets					
Stocks	**12**	20,601		19,640	
Debtors	**13**	9,140		942	
Cash at bank and in hand		358,779		456,315	
		388,520		476,897	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**14**	(3,263)		(6,146)	
Net current assets			385,257		470,751
Total assets less current liabilities			393,148		481,272
Net assets excluding pension liability			393,148		481,272
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			393,148		481,272
			393,148		481,272

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 22-Sep-2026

R. Brotherston

.....

Robert Brotherston

Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information
Gateshead Foodbank is a CIO.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial services.
Where goods or services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements as an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the food bank.
Food and other items donated to the food bank and held as stock for distribution by the food bank, are recognised as income within voluntary income when received and as stock;p an equivalent amount is included as expenditure when stock is distributed.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Motor vehicles	25% - reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at a valuation by weight based on Trussell Trust guidelines.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are measured at transaction price including transaction costs.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are recognised at transaction price.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised at transaction price.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Donations and gifts	244,781	-	244,781	247,497	-	247,497
Grant income	-	178,898	178,898	-	213,472	213,472
	244,781	178,898	423,679	247,497	213,472	460,969
Donations and gifts						
Donated goods for distribution to beneficiaries	112,174	-	112,174	123,267	-	123,267
Public and corporate donations	132,607	-	132,607	124,230	-	124,230
	244,781	-	244,781	247,497	-	247,497
Grants receivable for core activities						
Gateshead MBC	-	94,500	94,500	-	113,000	113,000
Postcode Trust	-	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
Trussell	-	-	-	-	70,472	70,472
National Lottery	-	54,398	54,398	-	-	-
	-	178,898	178,898	-	213,472	213,472

3 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Interest receivable	7,885	9,324

4 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Employment allowance	7,525	5,000
Billable service income	250	-
	7,775	5,000

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Food Bank Activities 2026 £	Food Bank Activities 2025 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	93,712	91,772
Depreciation and impairment	2,630	3,507
Value of donated food distributed	108,987	118,665
Top up food purchases and carriage	226,634	226,434
Rent and venue hire	9,890	9,990
Warehousing	10,012	10,130
Equipment	1,690	1,176
Sundries	2,566	1,115
Insurance	1,572	1,027
Office and administration	17,720	9,092
Bank charges	60	60
Citizens Advice services	50,934	41,116
	526,407	514,084
Share of support and governance costs (see note 6)		
Support	1,056	960
	527,463	515,044
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	382,068	301,572
Restricted funds	145,395	213,472
	527,463	515,044

6 Support costs allocated to activities

	2026 £	2025 £
Governance costs	1,056	960
Analysed between:		
Food Bank Activities	1,056	960

7 Net movement in funds

	2026	2025
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	1,056	960
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	2,630	3,507

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2026	2025
	Number	Number
Managers	3	3

Employment costs	2026	2025
	£	£
Wages and salaries	84,756	82,403
Social security costs	7,525	7,606
Other pension costs	1,431	1,763
	93,712	91,772

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2025	32,486
At 31 March 2026	32,486
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2025	21,965
Depreciation charged in the year	2,630
At 31 March 2026	24,595
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2026	7,891
At 31 March 2025	10,521

12 Stocks

	2026	2025
	£	£
Raw materials and consumables	20,601	19,640

13 Debtors

	2026	2025
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	9,140	942

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	1,422	5,186
Trade creditors	560	-
Accruals and deferred income	1,281	960
	3,263	6,146

15 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2026 £	2025 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	1,431	1,763

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2026 £
	-	-	-	-	-
Post code lottery	-	30,000	-	(30,000)	-
GMBC	-	90,000	(90,000)	-	-
Trussell OLM	-	30,877	(30,228)	-	649
Trussell FI	-	16,631	(50,934)	34,303	-
	-	167,508	(171,162)	4,303	649

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
General Restricted	-	35,843	(31,398)	(4,445)	-
Post code lottery	-	30,000	(27,958)	(2,042)	-
GMBC	-	113,000	(113,000)	-	-
Trussell FI	-	34,629	(41,116)	6,487	-
	-	213,472	(213,472)	-	-

17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	481,272	271,831	(356,300)	(4,303)	392,500

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	521,023	261,821	(301,572)	-	481,272

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2025 - none).