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Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia & Coloboma Support Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

For a text only Word document of the Annual Report and Accounts, please click here.

Charity Registration No. 1161897 (England and Wales)
Charity Registration No. SC052711 (Scotland)

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Charity Information

Trustees	**T Gordon**
	R Hallas
	G Murphy
	S Hiley
	H Padda (appointed 26/06/2025)
	J Gates (appointed 26/06/2025)
	R Allen (appointed 26/06/2025)
	L Jefferies (resigned 27/10/2025)
Charity address	**MACS Charity**
	71-75 Shelton Street
	LONDON
	WC2H 9JQ
Charity number (England and Wales)	**1161897**
Charity number (Scotland)	**SC052711**
Auditor	**TC Group**
	Waverley House
	115-119 Holdenhurst Road
	Bournemouth Dorset
	BH8 8DY

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 governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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).



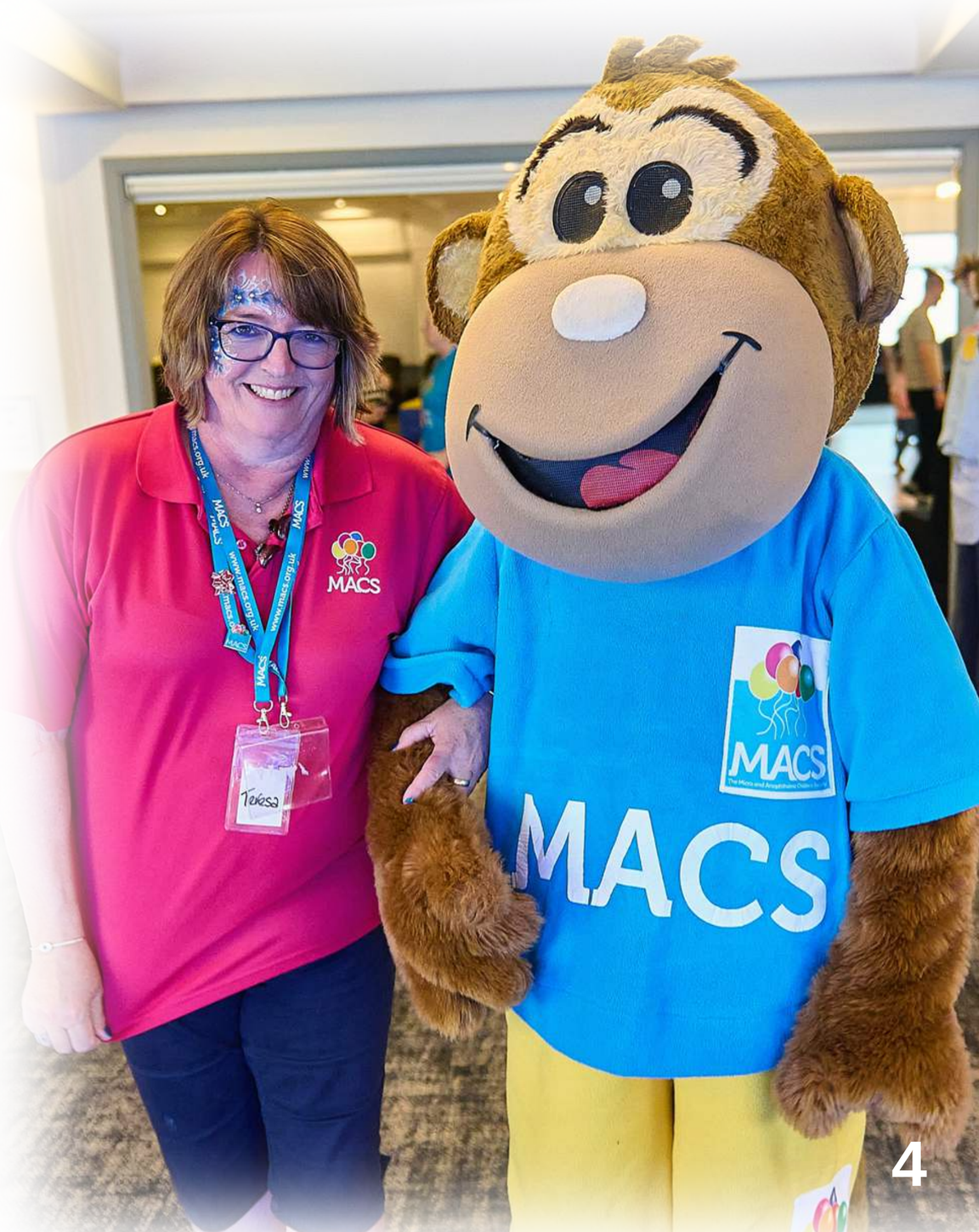
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Chair's Foreword

It is my great pleasure to present the Trustees' Annual Report for 2025—a year that stands as one of MACS' most transformative, ambitious, and community-centred to date. Throughout the year, we have continued to deliver on our Plan to Thrive strategy, deepened our support for families, expanded our reach, and strengthened the foundations needed for long-term sustainability. Above all, 2025 has been shaped by the resilience, generosity, and unwavering spirit of the MACS community.

This year, we celebrated significant growth in our membership, reaching 3,601 members—representing a remarkable 47% growth since the start of the Plan to Thrive, and 32% growth since 2020. Behind each new registration is a family seeking connection, reassurance, or solidarity, and it is a privilege to see MACS continue to be a trusted place of belonging for so many. Our refreshed brand and ongoing work to build awareness are helping us reach individuals who may have otherwise remained unsupported.

Our programme of events continues to be one of the most valued parts of MACS' work. From adventure trips at Mersea Island and Calvert Lakes to sailing voyages aboard the Prolific, and from regional pantomime meet-ups to our flagship Big MACS Meet Up, 2025 has once again demonstrated the life-changing power of connection. We have seen members build confidence, overcome personal challenges, form new friendships, and feel—perhaps for the first time—part of a community that truly understands their experiences. The heartfelt testimonials shared throughout the year remind us why these events are so essential, particularly for children and young people who may feel isolated in their everyday lives.



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Our support offer has strengthened further with new initiatives such as the MACS Employability programme, providing person-centred support to help members access training, mentoring, and employment opportunities. Our Helping Hands grants continue to remove financial barriers to participation in society, and we are proud to have offered specialist advice, age-appropriate information, and peer support in ways that meet the diverse needs of our community.

Financially, 2025 has been an exceptional year. We closed with a total income of £813,469, exceeding both our target and reforecast figures. We made significant progress towards our goal of diversifying income streams, with a more balanced distribution across challenges, trusts and foundations, and other income. The London Marathon once again delivered outstanding results, while strong stewardship and improved communication have deepened relationships with funders. We are grateful to every supporter—donors, fundraisers, grant-makers, partners, and volunteers—whose commitment continues to fuel our mission.

Through the Plan to Thrive, and with the introduction of the Plan to Reach test-and-trial outreach strategy, we have laid important groundwork for the future. This includes improving our internal systems, enhancing our digital presence, building stronger partnerships, and developing new ways to engage members. The 2025 Annual Survey results show encouraging improvements across understanding, emotional wellbeing, connection, and confidence for both parents and children—validating the impact of our work while also highlighting areas where we must continue to evolve, particularly for older members and those with complex needs.

As we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, MACS is poised not only to grow but to deepen its offer, ensuring that every individual affected by MACS conditions—regardless of age, location, or circumstance—can access support, feel understood, and thrive. None of this progress would be possible without the remarkable dedication of our staff team, volunteers, Trustees, partners, and of course, our members. On behalf of the Board, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to another extraordinary year.

Together, we continue to build a stronger, more inclusive future for the MACS community.



Teresa Gordon, Chair of Trustees



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About MACS

MACS is a small national charity supporting children and adults born without eyes or with underdeveloped eyes.

Every year in the UK, an estimated 114 babies will be born with no eyes (Anophthalmia), small eyes (Microphthalmia), or a cleft in the eye (Coloboma). Many children will have additional needs or other health challenges. Receiving the diagnosis may be an isolating experience for parents; they may feel hopeless and alone.

MACS now helps over 3,600 people from more than 1,200 families across the UK, supporting them at every stage of their journey by providing peer support, practical help and opportunities to take part in life-changing activity trips and events.

Charitable Objectives

The provision of support to people with Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia and/or Coloboma conditions and their families.

The advancement of education of the public concerning Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia and/or Coloboma conditions.

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Our History

We were founded in 1993 as a support network for parents of children born with Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia, and Coloboma (MAC). These rare congenital conditions affect approximately 10 in 100,000 births in the UK and are significant contributors to childhood blindness. At the time of our establishment, families affected by these conditions often faced isolation and had limited access to information or support. We sought to address this by creating a community where families could connect and share experiences.

On 10 August 1994, we were officially registered as a charity (Charity Number 1040074). Over the years, we have grown into a vibrant organisation with a membership of over 3,000 individuals across the UK.

In 2014, our members approved the transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to enhance legal protections for trustees and members. We became a registered CIO (Charity Number 1161897) on 29 May 2015, with all assets transferred from the original charity on 30 June 2015. This change did not alter our mission, which remains focused on supporting individuals and families affected by MACS conditions.

Today, we are the UK's only charity dedicated specifically to supporting people with Microphthalmia (small or underdeveloped eyes), Anophthalmia (absence of eyes), or Coloboma (a cleft or gap in the eye).



1999: Our first Family Weekend.



2010: Macs the Monkey is born!



2024: MACS celebrates turning 30!



1993: A series of articles published in the Observer investigating the little-known eye conditions, bringing our founding families together.



2009: Our first MACS Sailing Trip

2013: MACS recruits its first member of staff.



2025: MACS now has over 3,000 members from more than 1,200 families!

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Our Vision, Mission and Values

Our vision is that people in the UK with MACS conditions and their families are empowered to thrive and confidently lead fulfilling lives.

That's why we work hard to ensure that all of our services are accessible to anyone affected by a MACS condition, regardless of their impairments, ethnicity, beliefs, sexuality, gender reassignment status, marital/civil partnership status and maternity status.

We are aware that amongst our members, there are a wide range of other conditions. These can include learning difficulties, physical impairments, sensory impairments, mental health difficulties and long term health conditions, and we work to ensure our services for accessible for anyone with additional needs. We also make sure that people can access our services even if they can't afford to pay for it. If there's any reason that you're struggling to access our services, please contact enquiries@macs.org.uk. If you need us and you're affected by a MACS condition, we're here for you.

Our mission is to foster a vibrant, connected, and supportive community that is dedicated to empowering individuals and families with MACS conditions, helping them reach their full potential.

Our values are collaborative, friendly over formal, and aspirational.

Collaborative means we recognise the staffing team, Board of Trustees, and membership as a community; working with our members, not for them. We will ask for and listen to members' input, design our services with this in mind, and nurture a synergistic community with a shared vision.

Friendly over formal reflects a preference for an informal and approachable atmosphere. We create a culture where interactions are warm, authentic, personable, and friendly, while remaining professional.

Aspirational embodies our desire to achieve excellence, push boundaries, and continuously strive for improvement. We foster a mindset of growth, innovation, and welcoming challenging objectives that go beyond the status quo.

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MACS Theory of Change

Input

MACS Member Services team:

Member Services Development Manager

Member Engagement Coordinator

Member Services Coordinator

Wider staff team

Trustees

MACS Volunteers:

Regional volunteers co-ordinating events

Member input and participation groups

Activity

Outreach and awareness campaigns

Advice & information

MACS-led national, regional events, and experiential trips

Volunteer-led events

Helping Hands grants

Facilitation of peer support

Strategic partnerships with professionals in schools, healthcare and voluntary sector

Advocacy and support to access rights and entitlements and employment

Outcomes (short term)

MACS members and professionals who support them are better informed about MACS conditions.

People with MACS conditions and parents/carers will be better connected to others and sources of support.

Families who attend MACS family events and activities are able to alleviate the pressures of daily life with a MACS condition.

Outcomes (medium term)

People with MACS conditions and parents/carers feel less alone and isolated.

People with MACS conditions feel more confident, accepted and have improved self-esteem.

People with MACS conditions and parents have improved personal wellbeing.

Sustained impact goal

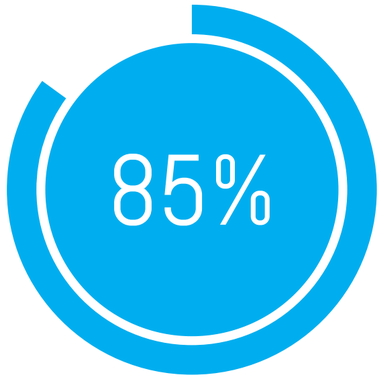
People with MACS conditions in the UK and their families are less isolated, better connected and have access to the advice, information and support they need to thrive and confidently lead a fulfilling life.



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MACS' Impact

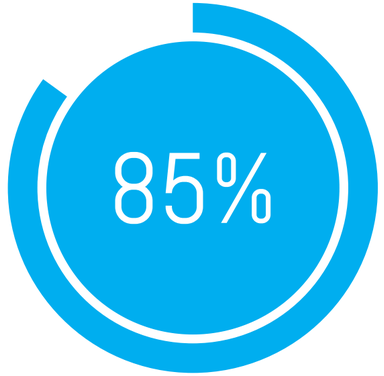
MACS uses a range of evaluation methods during events and activities, as well as afterwards. All findings are fed into our new dashboard, launched in 2025, which provides real-time insight into the impact we're making against the outcome goals set out in our Theory of Change. We are very pleased to be able to share these results here, and to boast a fantastic improvement across all but one of our goals at the end of Year 2 of our *Plan to Thrive* strategy, proving our objectives are on the right track!



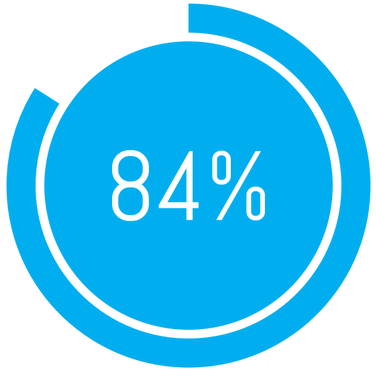
85% reported having a better understanding of MACS conditions. Up from 78% in 2024.



79% felt more connected to others with MACS experiences, an encouraging rise from 68% in the previous year.



85% said MACS enabled them to recharge and alleviated the pressures of everyday life with a MACS condition. A rise of 4% since we began to measure the impact in 2024.



84% felt less alone and isolated thanks to being part of MACS, rising from 60% in 2024. This proves our increased offering of in-person events is having an impact!



MACS contributed to the improved confidence and self esteem for 80% of respondents. This is an 11% increase on 2024, which we are very pleased to see.



65% told us that their well being has improved - 1% less than last year and our lowest result! We are working hard to address this, with a new counselling provision being introduced in 2026, as well as a Jamie's Farm trip, (designed to improve mental well being), team training, and other initiatives.

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Our Plan to Thrive Strategy

Our Community

Build a positive and supportive community, increasing our membership by 10% every 12 months.

Develop and refresh the MACS brand.

Develop a ‘Thriving at Thirty’ campaign to build awareness and showcase what is possible with a MACS condition.



Our Support

Strengthen our advice and information

Develop an engaging events programme.

Extend our network of regional volunteers and events nationwide

Develop and extend our range of peer support activities.

Develop ways to support people with MACS conditions to access their rights & entitlements and employment.

Provide ‘Helping Hands’ grants.



Our Income

Continue to build relationships with supporters and funders and diversify income streams to fund 100% of charitable costs.



Our People and Systems

Review and improve our current IT & internal controls so that we are equipped to deliver our strategy.

Effectively capture and communicate our impact to members and other stakeholders and learn from the insights this brings.



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Progress so far...

Our Community

Building a positive and supportive community, increasing our membership by 10% every 12 months
While we have only seen a 5% membership growth in Year 2 of our strategy (2025), we have grown the membership by 11% overall since launching our Plan to Thrive, increasing to 3,601 members in total.

Developing and refresh the MACS brand
In April 2026, we launched our newly evolved logo, which was designed to better represent the MACS conditions and community.

Developed a 'Thriving at Thirty' campaign to build awareness and showcase what is possible with a MACS condition
2024 marked MACS' 30th anniversary—a milestone year that we celebrated through our Thriving at Thirty campaign. The campaign not only honoured three decades of MACS' impact, but also shone a spotlight on the incredible achievements of our members. Throughout the year, we shared inspirational success stories that showcased the strength, resilience, and ambition within our community. We also re-imagined our former 'Family Weekend' into a vibrant Thriving at Thirty birthday celebration, bringing together more members in one place than at any time since the pandemic—a powerful reminder of the connection and community at the heart of MACS.

Our Support

Strengthening our advice and information
A new suite of resources was launched in 2025, co-produced with our membership, offering comprehensive support at every stage of the MACS journey—from parents receiving an initial diagnosis, to children starting school, through to adults with MACS conditions entering the workplace.

We also redesigned our website to make it easier for members to navigate, ensuring that important information—including content they may not yet know they need—is clear, prominent, and accessible.

In addition, we reviewed all of our signposting information and began forming new partnerships with other organisations, enabling us to support our members in a more holistic and joined-up way.

Developing an engaging events programme
We expanded our events calendar this year, with our Big MACS Meet Up attracting 100 more attendees than the previous year, the launch of a new pantomime event, and the introduction of the Mersea Adventure Trip. Overall, attendance increased across all events, with the standout highlight being the significant growth at our summer Big MACS Meet Up.

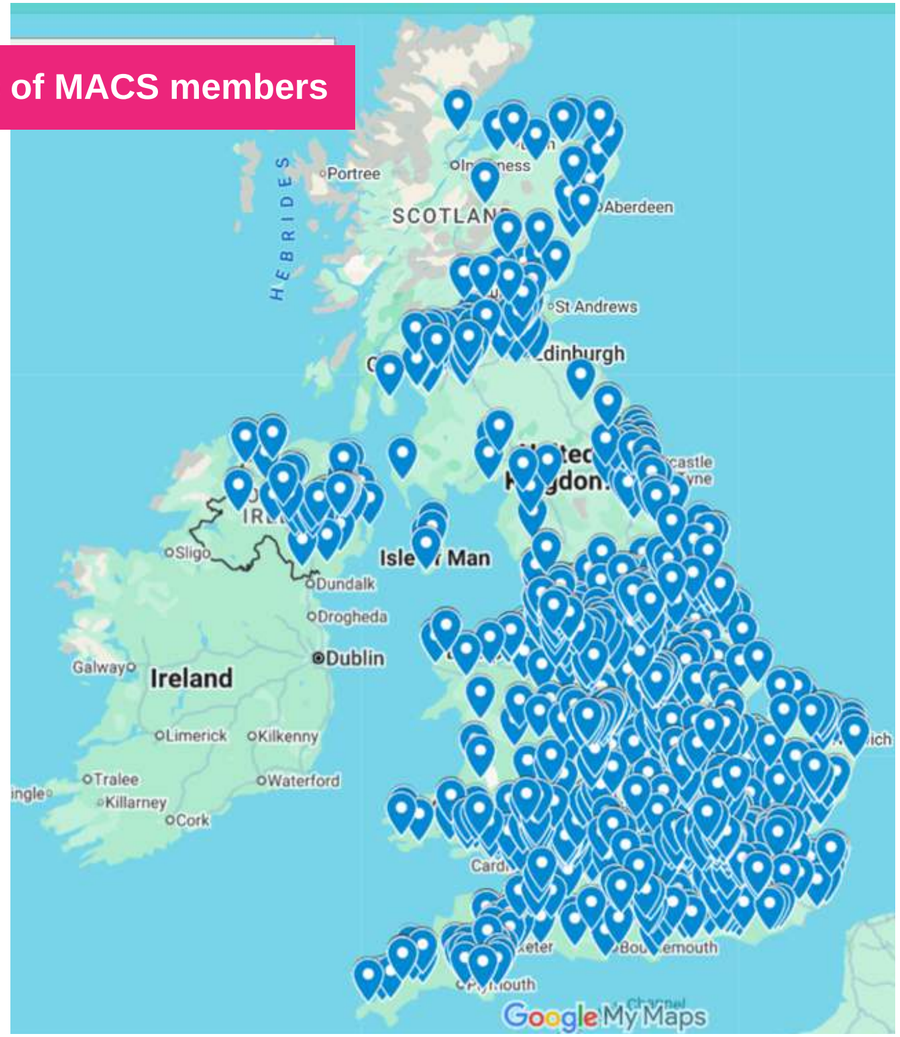
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Extending our network of regional volunteers and events nationwide
We ended 2025 with as many new Regional Volunteers as there are MACS regions. We also recruited a brand new Regional Volunteers and Events Coordinator to build on this success and ensure all of our members have regular events closer to home.

Developing and extending our range of peer support activities
We have utilised Google maps functionalities to categorise members by location, condition and other relevant factors to better identify where 1-1 peer connections can be made, then reached out to members with this offer. 47 families responded and we facilitated connections with introductions and support.

43% of parents who gave their feedback in 2025 told us that MACS has helped to connect their child to other young people with MACS conditions and lived experience, and 38% of those children have made lasting friendships through in-person introductions at MACS events.

Map of MACS members



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Developing ways to support people with MACS conditions to access their rights & entitlements and employment

We're really excited to have launched our new MACS Employability initiative in 2025! The scheme is person-centred and designed to be as flexible as possible. There's a budget available per applicant, and we've been encouraging members to put together their *dream wishlist* of anything that might help them move toward employment. That could include:

•Support with training
•Help accessing the community
•Being paired with a mentor who has similar experiences or works in their chosen field
•Assistance getting work experience
•Equipment to help with job searching or writing a CV

Even members who have no idea where to start—that's okay too. We work with them to create a plan that suits them. While the budget isn't unlimited, the ideas can be, so whether it's free or pricey, we encourage members to think big and we'll see what we can do.

Provision of Helping Hand Grants

We funded four iPads and a sensory bundle in 2025.

"*We can't thank you enough for the IPad. Having the Ipad enables Kara to write notes in class, as well as study whilst at hospital appointments. This is especially important for Kara for her Post 16 Studies.*

She also uses it to revise, where she has a laptop in front of her and generates study notes from the school online resources. This helps Kara remember facts by re writing them again, then still having them on the move to study.

Kara also uses the IPad for her Art work. She can create her mood boards and be creative whilst on the move and at hospital appointments.

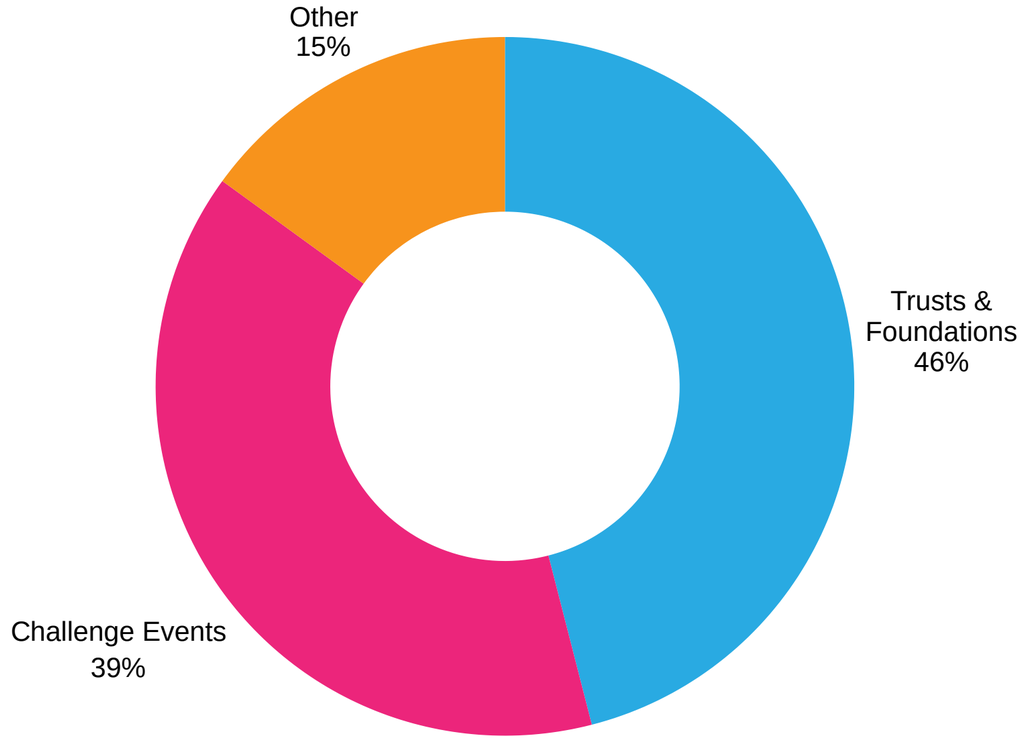
Apple products are so much more accessible for the partially sighted."

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Our Income

Build relationships with supporters and funders to diversify income streams to fund 100% of charitable costs.

Our separate income strategy to diversify income streams, focuses on the aim to move from the previous split of 73% Challenge Events / 17% Trusts & Foundations / 10% other to 40% / 40% / 20% by 2025 and we're very nearly there:



Our People and Systems

Reviewing and improving our current IT & internal controls so that we are equipped to deliver our strategy

In 2025, we entered into a new contract with MirrorSphere, a Managed IT Services Provider based in Oxfordshire. We kicked off this partnership with the purchase of brand new equipment for the entire team as the existing laptops and phones were nearing their expiration dates and would soon no longer be capable of performing necessary updates. MirrorSphere have onboarded an all machines and systems with cyber security as a priority, ensuring that risk is minimised as MACS continues to grow.

Effectively capturing and communicating our impact to members and other stakeholders and learn from the insights this brings

This year, MACS strengthened how we capture, analyse and communicate our impact by embedding a more consistent, organisation-wide approach to evaluation. We completed our annual member survey and shared the findings in Focus magazine, outlining clear plans for improvement in response to what members told us.

We also launched a new Impact Dashboard, which brings together feedback from all events and services to provide measurable, real-time insights that inform decision-making and drive continuous improvement. While we work towards making the dashboard publicly accessible to increase transparency, we continue to report against our outcomes framework through the annual report and regular member communications, ensuring stakeholders can clearly see the difference MACS is making.

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Our Services and Support
Activity and Adventure

Calvert
18 10-18 year olds attended for 4 days of adventure and challenges at the Calvert Trust in the Lake District.

“It’s really difficult for them to make friends and MACS provides a safe space where they are accepted for who they are and can totally be themselves. You really are all such wonderful people and the kids are totally amazing. Looking forward to seeing you all again!“



Sailing
11 young people attended the annual sailing voyage - the ultimate experience for fun, friendship and adventure, run in partnership Ocean Youth Trust South, an adventure sail training charity, in their 30-metre vessel Prolific.

“J loved the trip and made his first best friend.”



Mersea Island
20 members attended for a weekend on Mersea Island, packed with exciting activities like archery, climbing, obstacle courses, and more!

“*This was a really great event. Loved the activities, the staff at the adventure park were super friendly and the whole day was great for building confidence and making connections with other MACS families.”*



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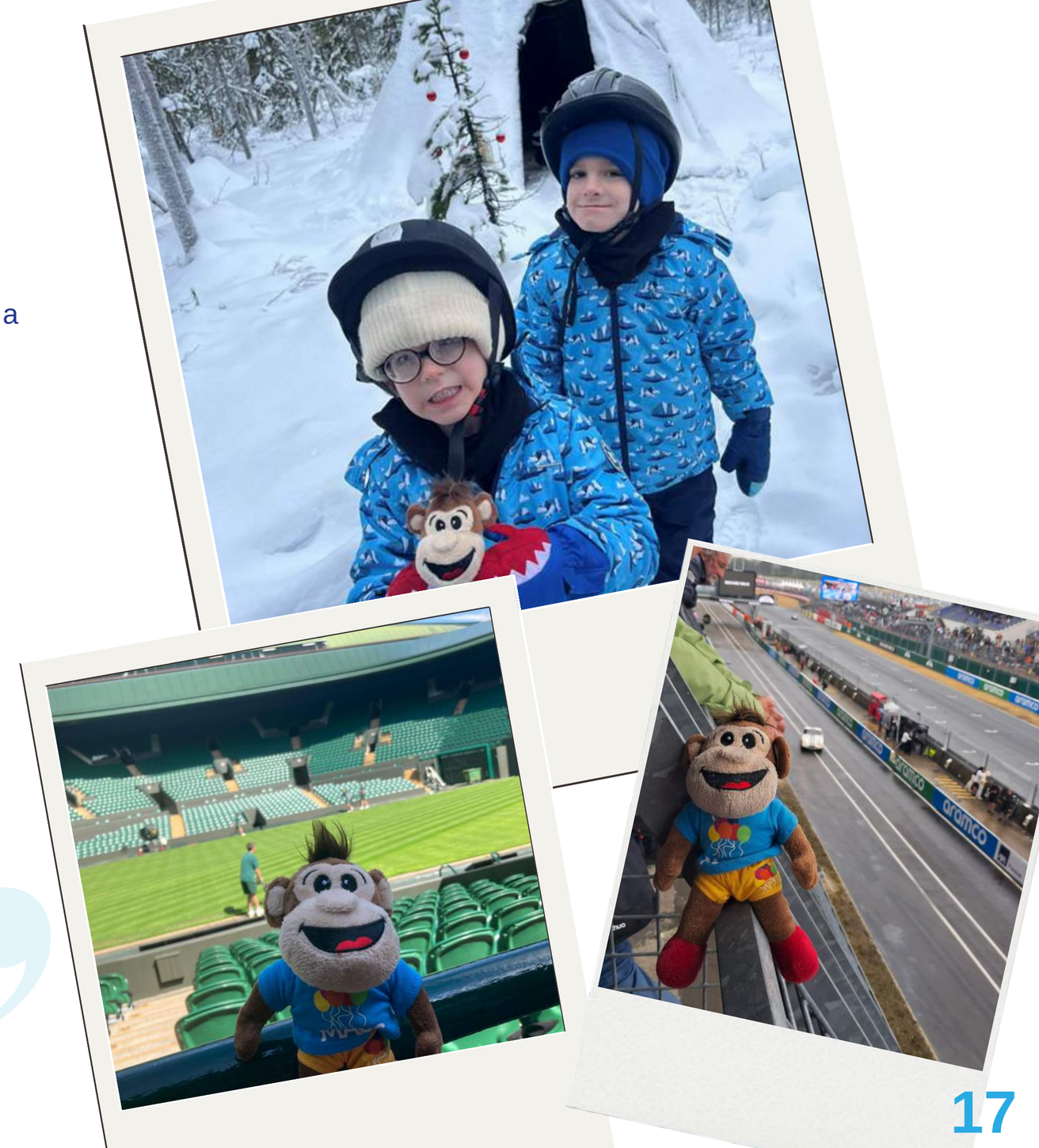
Mini Macs's Adventures

Mini Macs even had his own adventures, joining families on their holidays and travels throughout 2025. The well-travelled primate was the envy of the whole MACS team, having been taken along (for free!) to Lapland, Disneyland, Le Mans 24hr Car Race, and even Wimbledon - to name just a few!

"Felix and his sister Phoebe were very excited to have mini MACS come and stay with us to celebrate Felix turning 4. Felix recognised mini MACS monkey from the MACS Focus magazine that has children in it with eye conditions just like him.

Later in the week on Felix's birthday Mini MACS helped Felix open his cards and presents, and Felix was so happy to receive his own card from Mini MACS.

The children have absolutely loved having Mini MACS visiting us and joining in all the celebrations for Felix's 4th birthday. We hope we can have him stay with us again in the future for another adventure."



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National and Regional Events

Big MACS Meet Up

235 people joined us for our Big MACS Meet Up at Drayton Manor - double the amount of attendees in 2024! This was a fantastically fun weekend packed with fun. Saturday featured a full programme of activities and a three-course family meal followed by a disco, with Sunday dedicated to exploring the theme park together.

“A sincere thanks from us! The families all get so much from just sharing their hopes & worries with others that are either going through or have gone through similar.”.

“Thanks so much to everyone at MACS. Great weekend! Louis had some really lovely moments and it has really helped with his confidence”.



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Pantos

148 members attended four volunteer-led panto events in Canterbury, Chesterfield, Dunstable, and Southampton.

“I attended/hosted the Southampton Panto, Peter Pan in December 2025. It was amazing as a MACS parent to see how happy it made everyone. The touch tour before the show was fantastic where the children got to meet Smee from the cast. They were able to feel and touch the props used as well as stand on the stage, which helped as we could be shown where our seats were. This helped us familiarize ourselves with the theatre. The show itself was fantastic and had not only the children laughing but the adults as well. As a MACS mum it was really beneficial being able to meet up with other MACS parents and have someone to talk to who understood the condition themselves. being able to meet with and discuss this with other MACS Parents, who have been through the same and similar experiences is so beneficial.”

Our first meeting with other MACS members was a local Pantomime. It helps us, as a family, feel less isolated in our area knowing there are other MACS families close to home. We are able to chat about our daughter's future, ask advice, hear about other's achievements and feel better about what lies ahead.”

Online Events

We also welcomed 148 members to 42 online events including coffee mornings for new members, quizzes, MACS adult support groups and creative writing workshops.

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Other services and support...

Employability

In 2025 we were very lucky to secure some funding from TPT for our employability project. This was after several discussions in which we were able to gain some valuable insight on how our scheme may work. 2025 saw us advertise the project as widely as we could and we received our first couple of applications, and while these haven't necessarily progressed it has really helped us to see what our members are needing and how we can assist. In 2026, on the back of this, we are creating a sign up evaluation questionnaire which should enable us to clearly keep track of the support required while still protecting the person centred, individual approach we are so proud of.

While the launch has been quieter than we may have hoped, it has given us time to take each query and research and adapt our offering. For example not everyone is aware of their own employment barriers and so the questions we will use from 2026 should help us gain a greater insight into each individual and then help find these barriers to overcome.

It was noted in our discussions with TPT how unique our project is, and it is encouraging that some of our adults with MAC conditions are keen to be mentors as the project progresses. It has become clear this particular project is ever-changing, from our proposed day event in 2024, to podcasts which never gained any interest for input, we are constantly assessing the best way to make this project as successful as possible for our members.

Counselling

2025 saw the soft launch of our counselling project. The majority of the work done here was to find suitable counsellors. We wanted someone with lived experience of visual impairment as again, this is something quite unique to MACS to offer counselling from a counsellor who has similar experiences. Our primary counsellor is Sally. By happy coincidence she has a MACS condition, although is not a member. As we identify, the "VI world" is quite small and often people know each other even just vaguely. Therefore we have a secondary counsellor, Martia, who is able to support where Sally cannot.

Sally is based in Scotland, is a mum of two and her specialism is increasing confidence, lowering feelings of isolation and having confidence that while life with a MACS condition may be different, it's no less fulfilling. In 2026 Sally will be working on some small group sessions, in the hope of gaining some more interest in the project. We know it is needed, but is a sensitive topic and needs a gentle, long-term approach.

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Access Tech

In 2025 we introduced the Access Tech Volunteer role to support members in using and obtaining accessible technology equipment and software. There have been a small flurry of questions throughout the year covering topics such as gaming, navigation and iPads. While none of these have lead on to in-person visits or lengthy projects, our volunteer, Sean was able to take a trip and assist a primary school aged child with some technology resulting from a Helping Hand grant. This illustrated a need to link these projects together. Not only is Sean well placed to advise members on the most suitable tech, but by linking him in as soon as a grant is complete we're following through and providing all the possible support we can; recommendation, grant, set-up, support.

The end of 2025 saw Sean on paternity leave but also 2 members hoping to start 2026 with some support. Sean is also working on some resources for our website and while group Zooms weren't really needed he is hoping to provide some one-off more specific sessions in 2026.



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Outreach and Awareness Raising

In 2025, MACS significantly expanded its reach, visibility, and engagement across all communication channels. Through consistent messaging, targeted campaigns, and impactful storytelling, we strengthened awareness of MACS conditions, increased community engagement, and supported families, professionals, and supporters with timely and accessible information.

Across Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, MACS saw substantial year-on-year growth, with particularly strong increases in link clicks, impressions, and profile visits!

Platform	Followers 2024	Followers 2025	Growth
Facebook	3,119	3,348	7.30%
Instagram	959	1,169	21.90%
LinkedIn	403	582	44.40%
Total	4,481	5,099	13.80%



7% GROWTH



22% GROWTH



44% GROWTH

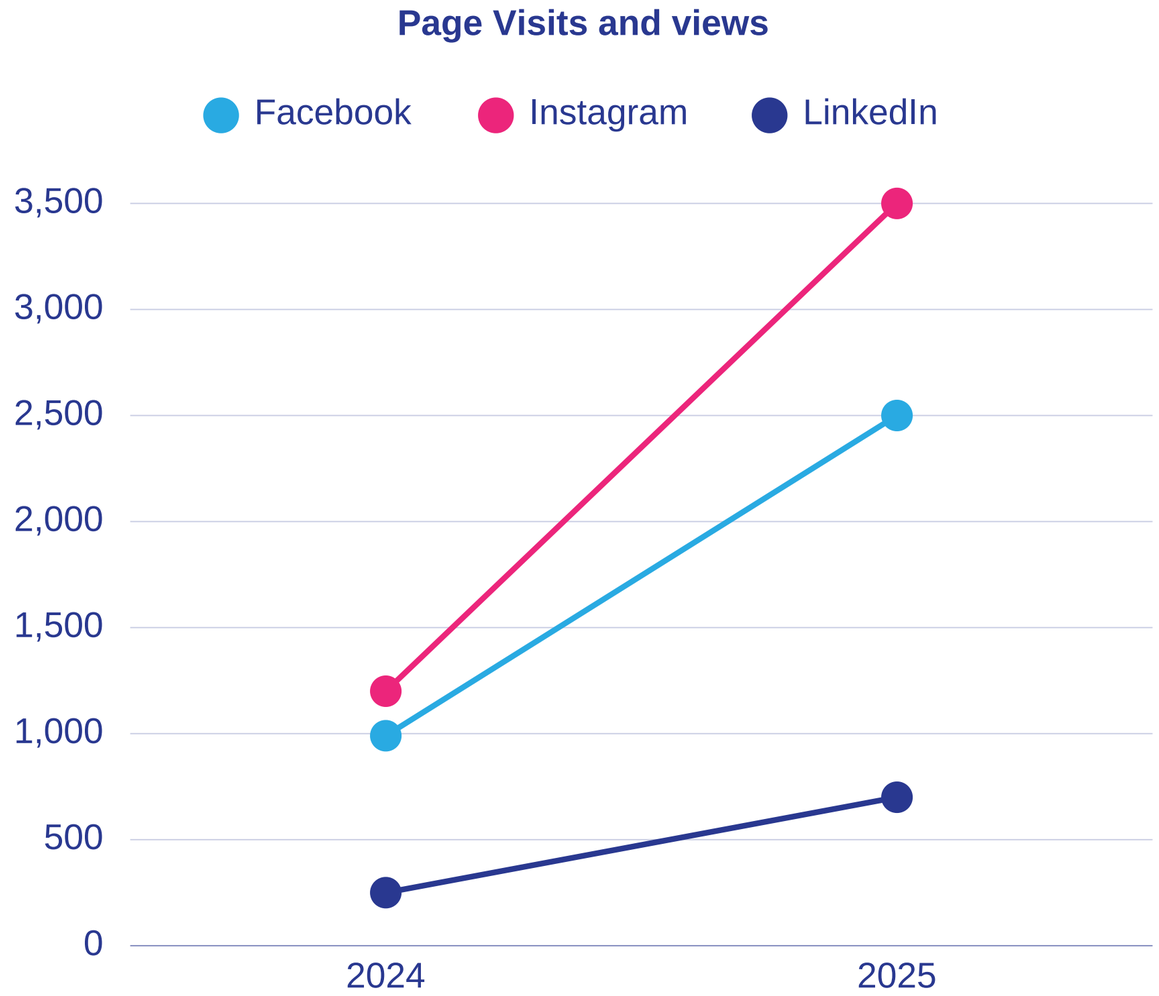
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Significant growth in visibility: Page visits and views increased across nearly every month, with major spikes during Awareness Week, Rare Disease Day, and fundraising campaigns. (Facebook)

Top performing post reach more than doubled, with several posts exceeding 2,000–3,000 impressions. (Instagram)

Impressions increased sharply, with several months surpassing 1,000 views—four times higher than typical 2024 levels. (LinkedIn)

We saw an average of 300% growth in engagement and 174% growth in page visits and views.



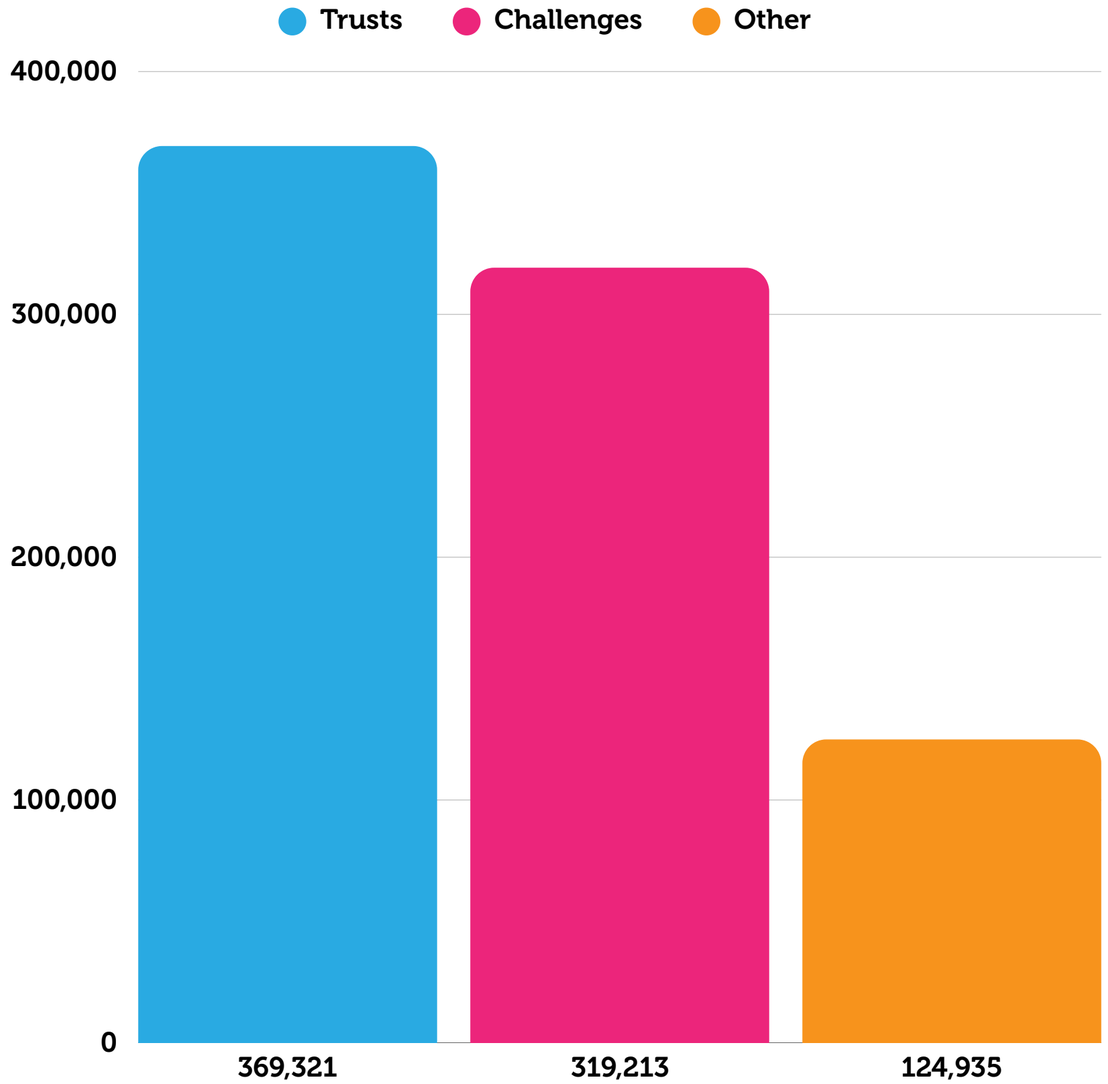
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Fundraising



2025 was an exceptionally strong year for fundraising, with total income reaching **£813,469** against a target of £582,238. The target for the year had been set lower than 2024's income because that year included two one-off, unsolicited donations totalling £60,000. To plan responsibly, we therefore based the 2025 budget on core income plus a modest 7% growth assumption, excluding those extraordinary funds.

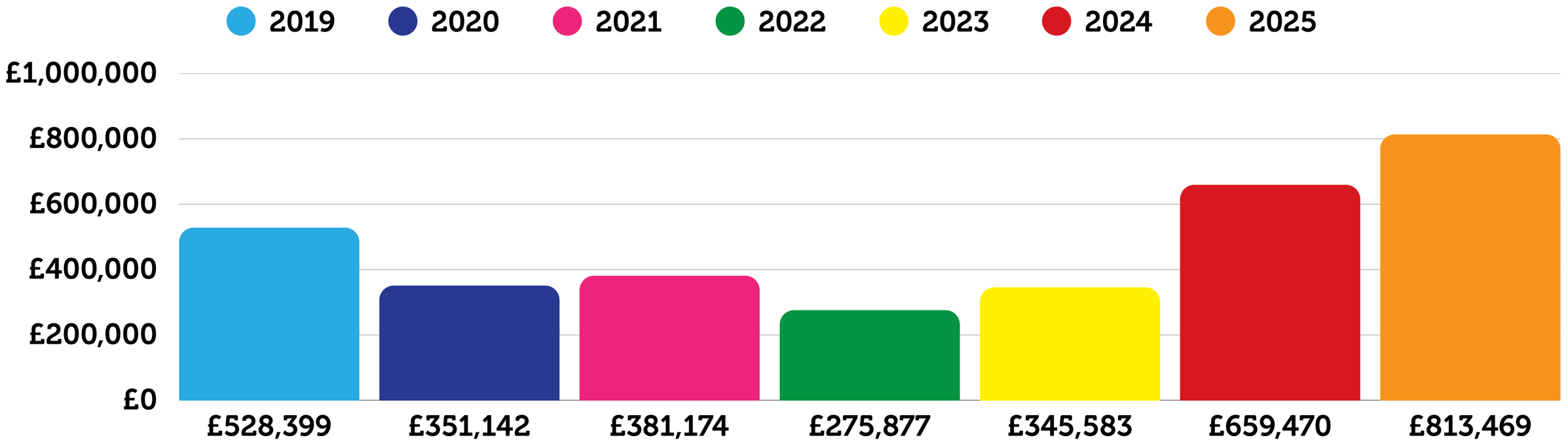
During 2025, MACS received £96,551 from a Trust as part of its wind-down process, along with a further £50,000 legacy gift. These additional, unbudgeted funds amounted to £146,551 and account for the majority of the surplus above target. Even without these exceptional gifts, income still exceeded budget by £64,680, driven largely by an outstanding London Marathon campaign, larger grants from Trusts and Foundations, and strong community fundraising throughout the year.



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Following the financial impact of the pandemic — and the subsequent aftershock that contributed to a deficit budget in 2022, largely driven by the London Marathon's post-pandemic recovery plan which included reduced charity places, and an unfavourable event date — we are extremely pleased to report a full return to stability and growth. Not only have we recovered, but we are now thriving and firmly back on the upward trajectory set out in the fundraising strategy launched in 2022.

We were able to strengthen our income position quickly through increased Trusts & Foundations capacity introduced in 2022, which helped bolster income while the London Marathon returned to its pre-pandemic levels. As a result, Trusts income has now grown to sit alongside the Marathon as one of our strongest and most reliable income streams. We have also made significant progress in expanding income across all other areas — including community fundraising, individual giving and corporate support. With a new Fundraising Manager joining the team in 2026, we now have the additional capacity needed to pursue growth from previously untapped income streams, as well as to accelerate the development of those which have been performing steadily for some time.



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Trusts & Foundations

Income from Trusts and Foundations **grew by 42.5% overall** this year, reflecting the success of our long-term, relationship-led fundraising approach. While this figure includes two exceptional grants (£27,000 in 2024 and £96,551 in 2025), underlying income still increased by **17.5% year-on-year** when these grants are excluded. This demonstrates sustainable growth driven by strategic fundraising activity and strong funder relationships, rather than reliance on one-off income.

A total of **67 funders** supported MACS, with **38 repeat funders contributing £171,600** - reflecting the trust placed in our stewardship and responsible spending. We also welcomed **17 first-time funders (£94,388)** and saw **9 lapsed funders** return after more than three years, highlighting the impact of our focused relationship-building. Notably, we achieved an increase in grants over £10,000, securing 9 awards at this level, including **five over £20,000**.

Continued investment in a dedicated Trusts and Foundations Fundraiser has been key. Over three years, this resource has increased our funding pipeline by **200%**, with tailored applications achieving a **24% success rate**.

With thanks to all our funders - including those who chose to remain anonymous.



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Trusts & Foundations

Funder	Purpose	Amount
Anonymous donor (exceptional unrestricted grant)	Unrestricted	**£96,551**
Anonymous (other)	Unrestricted	**£40,000**
People's Local Trust	Unrestricted	**£20,000**
National Lottery Awards for All – Northern Ireland	Regional Volunteer Programme	**£19,694**
National Lottery Awards for All – Scotland	Regional Volunteer Programme	**£19,694**
National Lottery Awards for All – Wales	Regional Volunteer Programme	**£19,694**
Echo Trust	Mental Wellbeing Programme	**£19,000**
The Powell Family Foundation	Unrestricted	**£15,000**
Vision Foundation / Fight for Sight	Core support: 1:1 peer connections	**£11,629**
Dorothy Hay-Bolton	Unrestricted	**£9,000**
Baily Thomas Charitable Fund	Calvert care costs	**£8,000**
Farthings Foundation	Sailing	**£5,000**
Sir James Knott Charitable Trust	Unrestricted: North East	**£5,000**
Theodore Maxxy Charitable Trust	Unrestricted	**£5,000**
Whirlwind Charitable Trust	Calvert	**£5,000**
Other grants under £5,000	Various restricted and unrestricted purposes	**£71,059**
Total grants received		**£369,321**

Note: "Anonymous (other)" combines 5 indvidual awards and "Other grants under £5,000" combines 49 individual awards.

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Challenge Events

London Marathon

The largest share of our challenge events income came from the outstanding efforts of our 155 supporters who took part in the TCS London Marathon 2025. Together, they raised a record-breaking £304,867 — our highest Marathon total to date — with an average of £1,967 per runner, representing an 11% increase on pre-pandemic levels.



Solicited Challenge Events

The fundraising team worked hard to promote our MACSimum Power initiative, focusing on Wing Walking, Skydives and Bungee Jumps. While interest levels were encouraging, we were unable to secure any confirmed participants, and therefore did not generate income from solicited challenge events outside of London Marathon in 2025.



Unsolicited Challenge Events

Our unsolicited challenge activity performed well, raising £6,760. Half of this total came from supporters taking part in the Dundee and Glasgow Kilt Walks, with the remainder generated through a variety of independent challenges, including a Brighton-to-Paris cycle ride, a 500km running challenge, and an incredible MACS dad who raised almost £1.5K through Gravity Racing in his MACS-branded soapbox kart.

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Other income

Community income
The Community remit achieved £8,835 against a £12K target. While we didn't achieve target, we still saw an increase of 50% on 2024 income!

Gift Aid bought
Gift Aid bought in a remarkable £30,367 against the £30,179 budget.

Legacy and In Memory Donations
This income stream was boosted by a large legacy donation £55K donation, bringing the total to £55,910 - a massive increase on last year's £3K.

Individual Giving
Individual Giving was down at £8,112 against its £11.5K target and 75% down on 2024. With a £7K anon donation removed from 2024, this year is still 29% down and an area for focus in 2026..

£425 of Community income was raised by MACS member, Evie, for her sponsored hair chop!



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Reserves Policy

The Trustees of MACS have established a reserves policy to ensure the charity maintains an appropriate level of unrestricted funds to safeguard operations, support members, and manage financial risks. Reserves are defined as unrestricted funds freely available for general use, excluding restricted or endowment funds, fixed assets, and funds already committed or designated.

The Trustees consider it prudent to hold reserves to:

- Provide a buffer against unexpected income shortfalls or cost increases.
- Ensure continuity of core services in the event of funding delays.
- Enable a responsible response to unforeseen circumstances, such as emergencies or policy changes.

Allow strategic investment in opportunities aligned with the charity's objectives. The target level of reserves is set at £200,000-£400,000 (equivalent to 3-6 months of operational and member services expenditure). This level balances financial resilience with effective use of funds for charitable purposes. Reserves are reviewed quarterly by the Finance Committee and reported to the Board of Trustees, with the position disclosed annually in the audited accounts and Trustees' Report. Any significant variance from the target range will be explained.

At year end our total reserves stand at £748,319, of which £157,316 are restricted funds and £155,250 are designated, leaving £435,753 free reserves (defined as unrestricted and undesignated funds less any tangible fixed assets). This is in line with our reserves policy outlined above

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Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees regularly review the risks facing the charity and maintain a comprehensive risk register, supported by mitigation plans and ongoing monitoring. The principal risks identified during the year are outlined below.

Staff Wellbeing and Capacity

As a small charity, MACS relies on a relatively small team to deliver services, raise funds and manage operations. There is a risk that high workloads, the emotionally demanding nature of supporting families affected by rare eye conditions, or unforeseen staff absences could impact staff wellbeing, increase burnout, and reduce organisational capacity. This risk is mitigated through regular supervision and wellbeing check-ins, workload monitoring, flexible working arrangements, health and safety assessments, and a commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive working culture. Particular focus is being placed on strengthening wellbeing support, developing neuroinclusive practices and ensuring accessibility needs of employees are met.

Financial Sustainability

The charity's ability to continue delivering services is dependent upon generating sufficient income to meet expenditure commitments. While income is increasingly diversified, there remains a reliance on key income streams, particularly challenge events and Trusts and Foundations. Economic uncertainty, changes to supporter behaviour, or reductions in fundraising performance could impact future income. To mitigate this risk, MACS maintains a fundraising strategy focused on income diversification, regular financial forecasting, reserve monitoring, and robust financial oversight through the Board and Finance Committee.

Data Protection and Cyber Security

MACS holds sensitive personal information relating to members, supporters, volunteers and staff. A cyber attack, data breach or failure of information security systems could result in financial loss, regulatory action, disruption to services and reputational damage. Mitigations include mandatory cyber security training, multi-factor authentication, security software across organisational devices, robust data protection policies and procedures, managed user access controls, and ongoing reviews of cyber security arrangements.
on and plans to further strengthen business continuity arrangements.

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Safeguarding and Health & Safety

The charity works with children, young people and vulnerable adults through a range of services and events. A safeguarding failure or health and safety incident could result in harm to beneficiaries, reputational damage and regulatory consequences. MACS maintains safeguarding policies and procedures, undertakes DBS and reference checks where appropriate, provides safeguarding training, completes event risk assessments, and ensures safeguarding remains a standing item within Board discussions. External providers are also subject to due diligence before services are commissioned.

C**ompliance and Governance**

Charities operate within a complex regulatory environment and there is a risk that MACS could fail to comply with legal, regulatory or governance requirements. Such failures could result in reputational damage, financial penalties, regulatory intervention and operational disruption. The Board mitigates this risk through regular policy reviews, compliance monitoring, external professional advice where required, trustee oversight, internal controls and regular review of the organisational risk register.

Organisational Resilience and Business Continuity

As a remotely operated charity with a small staff team, there is a risk that significant disruption, loss of key personnel, or failure of critical systems could impact service delivery. The charity reduces this risk through documented procedures, knowledge sharing, cloud-based systems, accessible document storage, regular team communication and plans to further strengthen business continuity arrangements.

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Governance and Leadership

MACS is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by its Constitution and registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Charity Registration Number 1161897) and the Scottish Charity Regulator (Charity Registration Number SC052711). The charity was established to support individuals and families affected by Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia and Coloboma (MACS conditions) across the United Kingdom.
The charity is constituted as a membership organisation, with voting members electing trustees and contributing to the governance and future direction of the charity. The governing document sets out the charity's charitable objects, powers, membership arrangements, and the appointment and responsibilities of trustees.

Overall responsibility for the governance, strategy and financial stewardship of MACS rests with the Board of Trustees. Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity pursues its charitable purposes for the public benefit, complies with legal and regulatory requirements, manages its resources effectively, and safeguards the charity's assets and reputation. The Board meets regularly throughout the year to review strategy, performance, risk, finance, safeguarding, compliance and organisational development.

New trustees receive an induction covering their legal duties and responsibilities, the charity's governing document, strategic objectives, finances, key policies and operational activities. Trustees are encouraged to undertake ongoing training and development to support effective governance.

The Board delegates the day-to-day management of the charity to the Director of Charity Development and senior leadership team. The Director of Charity Development is responsible for implementing the strategy agreed by the Trustees, managing staff and resources, and ensuring the effective delivery of services and activities. Regular reporting enables Trustees to monitor progress against strategic objectives, financial performance, operational risks and impact.

During 2025, the Board continued to focus on ensuring strong governance, financial sustainability, effective risk management and the development of services that meet the needs of people with MACS conditions and their families. Trustees and staff worked closely together to support the charity's continuing growth and long-term strategic development.

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Trustee Induction and Training

The Trustees recognise the importance of effective induction and ongoing training to ensure the Board can discharge its responsibilities with confidence and in line with best practice in charity governance. New trustees are provided with a structured induction programme, which includes:

- An induction pack setting out the charity's governing documents, strategic plan, financial overview, and key policies (including safeguarding, reserves, financial controls, and code of conduct).
- Copies of the Charity Commission's guidance "The Essential Trustee" and other relevant regulatory information.
- Meetings with the Chair and key staff members to provide an overview of MACS' work, priorities, and governance arrangements.
- The opportunity to attend meeting and events and observe service planning and delivery to gain first-hand insight into MACS' charitable activities.

In addition to induction, the Trustees have committed to ongoing development.

This includes:

- Access to external training and sector webinars on governance, safeguarding, fundraising regulation, and finance.
- Biannual Board discussions on skills and training needs, supported by a skills audit to identify gaps.
- At least one development session per year dedicated to strategy and governance.
- Mandatory training in key areas such as safeguarding, equality and diversity, and data protection. These arrangements ensure that all trustees are fully equipped to understand their legal duties, contribute to strategic decision-making, and support the charity's mission effectively.

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Statement of Public Benefit

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when setting the charity's objectives and planning its activities. The Trustees are satisfied that the activities described throughout this report further MACS' charitable purposes by providing support, information, advice, advocacy, community connections and opportunities for people affected by Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia and Coloboma and their families across the United Kingdom. Through these activities, MACS helps people to feel less isolated, better informed, more connected and better able to access the support they need to thrive. The Trustees consider that the charity's services provide clear public benefit and are delivered in pursuit of its charitable objects.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 28-Sep-2026 | 10:41 CEST and signed on its behalf by:..... T Gordon, Chair of Trustees

Signed by:
Teresa Gordon
Signer Name: Teresa Gordon
Signing Reason: I approve this document
Signing Time: 28-Sep-2026 | 10:40 CEST
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Docusign Envelope ID: 80D91524-333F-8348-81C1-844815583E13

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe themes and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the constitution.

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 28-Sep-2026 | 10:41 CEST and signed on its behalf by: ..... T Gordon Chair of Trustees

Signed by:
Teresa Gordon
Signer Name: Teresa Gordon
Signing Reason: I approve this document
Signing Time: 28-Sep-2026 | 10:40 CEST
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Docusign Envelope ID: 80D91524-333F-8348-81C1-844815583E13

Independent Auditor's Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of MACS (Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia & Coloboma Support) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

-We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity and the sector in which they operate:
-We obtained an understanding of how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of management and Trustees.
-We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud.
- Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process.
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its accounting estimates, in particular in relation to income recognition and cut off.
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant law and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ian Rodd BSC FCA FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of TC Group



Statutory Auditor
Office: Bournemouth

28 September 2026
Date:.....

TC Group is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	616,728	178,010	794,738	499,258	150,919	650,177
Charitable activities	3	15,678	-	15,678	8,735	-	8,735
Investments	4	2,913	-	2,913	558	-	558
Other income	5	140	-	140	-	-	-
Total income		635,459	178,010	813,469	508,551	150,919	659,470
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	177,553	-	177,553	147,717	-	147,717
Charitable activities	7	212,940	80,180	293,120	129,848	117,984	247,832
Total expenditure		390,493	80,180	470,673	277,565	117,984	395,549
Net income and movement in funds		244,966	97,830	342,796	230,986	32,935	263,921
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		346,037	59,486	405,523	115,051	26,551	141,602
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		591,003	157,316	748,319	346,037	59,486	405,523

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

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BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	14	121,122		86,868	
Cash at bank and in hand		656,488		334,828	
		777,610		421,696	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(29,291)		(16,173)	
Net current assets			748,319		405,523
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	17		157,316		59,486
Unrestricted funds	18		591,003		346,037
			748,319		405,523

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 28-Sep-2026 | 10:26 CEST .....

.....
S Hiley
Trustee

Signed by:
Sarah Hiley
Signer Name: Sarah Hiley
Signing Reason: I approve this document
Signing Time: 28-Sep-2026 | 10:26 CEST
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**21**		318,747		192,128
Investing activities					
Investment income received		2,913		558	
Net cash generated from investing activities			2,913		558
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			321,660		192,686
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			334,828		142,142
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			656,488		334,828

Docusign Envelope ID: 80D91524-333F-8348-81C1-844815583E13

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 | Accounting policies

Charity information

MACS is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) for the public benefit and registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales and with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The principal address is: MACS Charity, 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9JQ.

1.1 | Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (“FRS 102”) and the Charities SORP "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 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 £.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

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.

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1 | Accounting policies | (Continued)

1.3 | Charitable funds

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

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.

1.4 | Income

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Challenge events - Income is included when receivable by the charity, due to the nature of the London Marathon fundraising, it can take several months for all related income to be collected. Donations - Income is included when received by the charity. Gift aid is claimed on allowable donations. Grants - Income from government and other grants whether capital or revenue is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met and that the income can be measured reliably. Gifts in kind - Donated gifts and services are included at their estimated market value.

1.5 | Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset’s use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Governance costs

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

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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:

Furniture and equipment | 3 year straight line

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.

Assets are capitalised over the value of £500.

1.7 | 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.

1.8 | 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 initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

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Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

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 initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.9 | Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

1.10 | 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.

1.11 | Retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2 Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	339,140	-	339,140	332,564	-	332,564
Legacies	55,910	-	55,910	-	-	-
Grants	191,311	178,010	369,321	108,220	150,919	259,139
Gift aid reclaimed	30,367	-	30,367	58,474	-	58,474
	616,728	178,010	794,738	499,258	150,919	650,177

A detailed breakdown of material grant income can be found in the Trustees' Report on pages 26 and 27. The other funders have requested anonymity and are included in the total grant income above.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
General charitable activities		
Sales of purchased goods	987	1,103
Member services		
Member service delivery	14,691	7,632
	15,678	8,735

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	2,913	558

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
HMRC Interest	140	-

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Fundraising events	62,680	47,890
Fundraising subscriptions	13,421	10,996
Marketing and promotions	7,529	6,326
Other fundraising costs	1,381	2,269
Staff costs	92,542	80,236
	177,553	147,717

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	General charitable activities 2025 £	Member service delivery 2025 £	Total 2025 £	General charitable activities 2024 £	Member service delivery 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs						
Staff costs	7,388	101,609	108,997	7,376	88,193	95,569
Depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	399	-	399
Other charitable expenditure	26,590	125,825	152,415	23,591	100,311	123,902
	33,978	227,434	261,412	31,366	188,504	219,870
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)						
Support	15,392	-	15,392	11,201	-	11,201
Governance	16,316	-	16,316	16,761	-	16,761
	65,686	227,434	293,120	59,328	188,504	247,832
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	65,686	147,254	212,940	59,328	70,520	129,848
Restricted funds	-	80,180	80,180	-	117,984	117,984
	65,686	227,434	293,120	59,328	188,504	247,832

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	-	187
Administration costs	12,647	9,287
Finance costs	2,745	1,727
Governance costs	16,316	16,761
	31,708	27,962

Analysed between:

General charitable activities	31,708	27,962

Governance costs comprise:

	2025 £	2024 £
Audit fees	10,500	9,900
Accountancy	4,806	6,861
Legal and professional	1,010	-
	16,316	16,761

9 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	10,500	9,900
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	-	399
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	187

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

10 Trustees

During the year ended 31 December 2025, 1 member (2024:1) of the Board received travel and subsistence expenses totalling £1,669 (2024: £1,056). None of the trustees received any remuneration or other benefits from the charity or from any related entity during the year (2024: nil).

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Headcount	7	7

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	182,060	158,998
Social security costs	10,280	9,051
Other pension costs	9,199	7,756
	201,539	175,805

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

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	58,916	53,135

12 Taxation

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

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2025	4,361
At 31 December 2025	4,361
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2025	4,361
At 31 December 2025	4,361
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2025	-
At 31 December 2024	-

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	-	4,334
Other debtors	35,948	14,076
Prepayments and accrued income	85,174	68,458
	121,122	86,868

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	3,836	3,099
Trade creditors	14,955	2,699
Accruals and deferred income	10,500	10,375
	29,291	16,173

16 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	9,199	7,756

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.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

17 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 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£
Admin officer salary	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Counselling	-	6,000	-	6,000
Data Dashboard	3,300	-	(3,300)	-
Employability	-	4,000	-	4,000
Focus Magazine	-	1,500	(1,500)	-
Helping Hands	10,033	1,500	(3,830)	7,703
Hospital Advertising Campaign	-	4,000	-	4,000
Jamie's Farm	-	13,000	-	13,000
MACS Meets	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
MACS Travel	-	1,000	(782)	218
Member Services (any)	7,000	6,000	(8,262)	4,738
Member Services (children and young people)	1,100	-	-	1,100
Parent Carer Talks	1,000	-	-	1,000
Plan to Thrive	-	15,000	-	15,000
Recreational and Sporting Activities	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
Calvert - Adventure Break	-	23,500	(23,000)	500
Mersea	1,500	2,000	(3,500)	-
Sailing	5,000	6,300	(10,300)	1,000
Regional Volunteers and Events	22,583	60,082	(3,243)	79,422
Salary - Member Engagement Officer and Comms and Outreach	-	26,628	(8,721)	17,907
Toys, Games and Equipment for MACS events	1,970	-	(242)	1,728
	59,486	178,010	(80,180)	157,316

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

17 Restricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
13 to 25 Year Olds in London	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
Admin Officer Salary	5,000	5,000	(5,000)	5,000
Data Dashboard	-	3,300	-	3,300
Giving Members a Break	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Helping Hands	8,296	4,000	(2,263)	10,033
Hospital Advertising Campaign	-	5,400	(5,400)	-
Local Socials	1,924	-	(1,924)	-
MACS Meets	2,137	-	(2,137)	-
Member Services (any)	5,444	13,000	(11,444)	7,000
Member Services (children and young people)	-	1,100	-	1,100
Non-Stop Kids Workshops	-	2,623	(2,623)	-
Regional Volunteers Programme (including pantos)	-	23,966	(1,383)	22,583
Parent Carer Talks	-	1,000	-	1,000
Plan to Thrive	-	45,000	(45,000)	-
Recreational and Sporting Activities	-	1,000	-	1,000
Calvert - Adventure Break	2,750	15,800	(18,550)	-
Mersea	-	1,500	-	1,500
Sailing	-	12,500	(7,500)	5,000
Seable	-	11,200	(11,200)	-
Toys, Games and Equipment for MACS Events	-	3,530	(1,560)	1,970
	26,551	150,919	117,984	59,486

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17 Restricted funds (continued)

Current year fund descriptions

Admin Officer Salary - Contribution towards the salary costs of the Admin Officer.

Counselling - Funding received to provide counselling to MACS individuals where needed.

Data Dashboard - Restricted towards the development and implementation of a dashboard to capture various evaluation data and member feedback to help MACS monitor and improve its impact.

Employability - Funding for a new project for MACS as part of our commitment to transitional services providing tailored barrier-led support for blind and partially sighted members, helping them tackle the well-documented inequalities in accessing work.

Focus Magazine - Funding for a bi-annual printed members newsletter available in braille as needed which connects members to information, inspiring stories, research, events and fundraising updates.

Helping Hands - Funds restricted to the purchase of services or products for members in need of financial support in line with our helping hand policy.

Hospital Advertising Campaign - Restricted to fund informational posters to be displayed in 21 hospitals, reaching 105,000 ophthalmology appointments and generating 304,000 impressions, which led to three new families joining us in the month of the campaign.

Jamie's Farm - Funding received to contribute to an immersive five-day residential on a working farm, focusing on mental wellbeing & socialising, helping teens grow in confidence.

MACS Meets - Funds restricted to any costs relating to the organising and running of a MACS meet.

MACS Travel - Funds restricted to support the running of trips for participants.

Member Services - Funds restricted to any member services activities.

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17 Restricted funds (continued)

Current year fund descriptions continued:

Member Services (children and young people) - Funds restricted towards any MACS services and activities accessed by children and young people.

Parent Carer Talks - Funds restricted for a series of six bi-monthly online expert talks for MACS parents and carers.

Plan to Thrive - Funds restricted towards Plan to Thrive, MACS' three year long strategy, launched in 2024, which aims to achieve our sustained impact goal for people with MACS conditions in the UK and their families to be less isolated, better connected and have access to the advice, information and support they need to thrive and confidently lead a fulfilling life.

Recreational and Sporting Activities - Restricted towards a collective of all MACS adventure and activity events, encompassing all services designed to encourage members to be active and participate in sports.

Calvert - Adventure Break - Funds restricted for adventure break specifically for members attending Calvert.

Mersea -Restricted to fund a weekend of outdoor activities on Mersea Island for young people aged 8 and up.

Sailing - Restricted towards a sailing voyage in partnership with Ocean Youth Trust for a group of 16 - 25 year old MACS members.

Regional Volunteers and Events - Formerly known as the Regional Volunteer Programme, the fund has been renamed to reflect changes in programme delivery. While lower volunteer recruitment has resulted in a reduced focus on volunteer-led activity, the restriction on the funds of delivering regional events across the UK remains unchanged.

Salary - Member Engagement Officer and Comms and Outreach - Funding for a Member Engagement Officer and the Comms and Outreach team.

Toys, Games and Equipment for MACS events - Restricted for games, electronic toys and other interactive equipment to be used at MACS Meet Ups and the Thriving at Thirty Event.

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17 Restricted funds (continued)

Prior year fund descriptions:

13 to 25 year Olds in London - Restricted to fund charitable activities in London.

Giving members a break - Funds restricted towards holiday vouchers for MACS families to use on accessible trips and days out.

Local Socials - Funds restricted to MACS events limited to a geographical location.

Non-stop kids workshops - Funds restricted towards a series of six interactive online workshops for families during the school holidays.

Seable - Restricted towards a tailored holiday to Sicily for blind and visually impaired MACS adults.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

18 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 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Annual event	72,000	39,895	(39,736)	(159)	72,000
Geographical	17,205	10,750	(16,388)	56,683	68,250
Strategy development fund	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
General funds	256,832	584,814	(334,369)	(71,524)	435,753
	346,037	635,459	(390,493)	-	591,003

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Annual event	-	-	-	72,000	72,000
Geographical	19,596	28,960	(31,351)	-	17,205
Thriving at 30	-	27,333	(24,493)	(2,840)	-
General funds	95,455	452,258	(221,721)	(69,160)	256,832
	115,051	508,551	277,565	-	346,037

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Designated fund descriptions:

Annual event - Designated to fund the annual social MACS event.

Geographical - Designated to MACS events and activities limited to a geographical location.

Strategy development fund - Designated to support the strategic planning activities and future organisational development of our future 3 year plan.

Thriving at 30 - Designated to fund the Thriving at 30 event, a weekend to celebrate the 30th anniversary of MACS

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 December 2025:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	591,003	157,316	748,319
	591,003	157,316	748,319

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 December 2024:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	346,037	59,486	405,523
	346,037	59,486	405,523

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

20 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year ended 31 December 2025, a grant through provision of equipment of £560 was awarded under the Helping Hands grant scheme to a close family member of a trustee. The recipient met the scheme's normal eligibility criteria. The trustee concerned took no part in the assessment, approval or decision-making process relating to the grant.

There were no other related party transactions in either period.

21 Cash generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Surplus for the year	342,796	263,921
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(2,913)	(558)
(Gain)/loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	187
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	-	399
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(34,254)	(25,590)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	13,118	(46,231)
Cash generated from operations	318,747	192,128

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.