Charity registration number: 1163906

Kinship Carers UK

Keeping Families Together

Kinship Carers UK

Trustee Report

For the year ended 31st March 2026



Kinship Carers UK Legal and Administration Information

Charity Number: 1163906

Trustees :
Don Beckett, Chair (appointed 2017)
Millie Easterlow (appointed 2026)
Victoria Smith (appointed 2015)
Susan Sztybel (appointed 2015)
Donna Weaver (Appointed 2020)
Clare Whittaker (appointed 2019)

Chief Executive
Enza Smith MBE (appointed 2015)

Treasurer
Jane Hinton (appointed 2016)

Principal Registered Address:
43 Somers Road
Barbourne
Worcester
WR1 3JJ

Website:
www.kinshipcarersuk.com

Contact number:
07714531802

Bank:
HSBC
6-9 Broad Street
Worcester
WR1 3LH

Kinship Carers UK

Trustees ' Report

Year Ended 31ST March 2026

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document.

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

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable regulations and the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts. They comply with the charity's governing document.

1. Structure

Kinship Carers UK was established on 5th September 2011. Kinship Carers UK became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 8 October 2015.

2. Charitable Objectives

Kinship Carers UK's objectives are to promote better care, upbringing and establishment in the lives of children, in particular by:

- Promoting the role of kinship carers and, in particular, the care by grandparents at all levels, particularly in circumstances of family breakdown, single parenthood or other difficult conditions;
- Supporting and advising kinship carers, grandparents and friend and family carers who are acting as, or intend to act as, carers, particularly in the circumstances outlined above.
- The relief of children, their carers and carers' families in the area of benefit by providing facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and their leisure time occupation, to improve their condition of life.

3. Public Benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising their powers and duties and when planning and delivering the charity's activities.
During the year ended 31 March 2026, Kinship Carers UK advanced its charitable purposes by providing free support, information, advice, training, peer support and advocacy to

kinship carers and the children and young people in their care. The charity's work helps families remain safely connected, reduces isolation, hardship and disadvantage, and promotes positive outcomes for kinship families.

Activities delivered during the year included face-to-face and virtual support groups, individual advocacy, community cafés, training sessions and family activities across England and Wales. These services supported emotional wellbeing, strengthened family relationships, improved carers' knowledge and confidence, and increased access to practical assistance and community connections. They also helped families engage with schools, courts and other professionals.

Kinship Carers UK recognises and champions the vital role of relatives and family friends who assume responsibility for raising a child who cannot live with their parents. The charity listens to kinship families, helps them identify positive changes and provides independent, reliable information and advice. The experience of existing kinship carers also provides valuable insight and support to prospective carers and the professionals who work with them.

All activities undertaken during the year were carried out in furtherance of the charity's purposes and were designed to benefit kinship families who might otherwise struggle to access appropriate services and support. The trustees are satisfied that these activities delivered public benefit and directly furthered the charity's stated objectives.
The charity will continue to facilitate support groups, provide virtual and face-to-face support and training, and work with relevant organisations to ensure that kinship families have access to current, reliable information and effective support.

Risk Management
The trustees are committed to maintaining effective governance and oversight of the charity's activities. The trustees are not aware of any serious incidents that required reporting to the Charity Commission during the reporting period.
The trustees have appropriate policies and procedures in place to identify, manage and report serious incidents should they arise.

4. Our Vision

Around 300,000 children in the UK are raised by family and friend carers. These children have suffered similar adversities to those in the care system, yet the support they receive bears little, if any, relationship to their needs. Some children will always need to be cared for away from their natural parents, so we are helping create a world where every unique kinship family we meet is recognised and supported.

- All kinship care families receive the support, encouragement and opportunities they need to enjoy their lives
- There is recognition of the support that children coming into kinship care are likely to need to address traumatic experiences of abuse, neglect, harm and serious family dysfunction

- Provision for kinship children with the right help and people in their lives who believe that every kinship family can thrive.

We do this by:

- **Combatting the isolation** and stress that kinship families encounter daily and helping children stay connected to their families and communities.
  We give kinship families free, confidential support, including advocacy.

- **Giving kinship families a stronger voice**
  Informing, empowering and supporting kinship families, children and young people in their care through projects and campaigns which directly benefit them
  Ensuring that children who have experienced the loss or removal of their parents get the help and support they need to move forward with their lives.

- **Generating information** such as support materials and educational literature for kinship carers and professionals, including social workers, teachers and health care professionals, as a means of improving the lives of kinship families.

- **Continuing to be a well-managed charity** and, in the near future, operating from a fixed location and achieving long-term financial stability

- **Setting up more support groups in the UK** and offering support and training to support group leaders virtually and face to face. Continuing to facilitate the Kinship carers support groups both face-to-face and virtually, always striving to find new ways to help them. Likewise, I will continue to work alongside other relevant organisations to convey up-to-date information.

5. Our Values

We are independent: We always act and speak in the best interests of kinship carers and the children in their care, and any political or commercial interests do not compromise us.

We are engaged: We actively listen to and talk with kinship carers, their children, and young people in their care, as well as other people and organisations, with expertise and insights that can help.

We are transparent and accessible. Our website, www.kinshipcarersuk.com, and publications communicate what we do, why we do it, and how we spend the donations we receive.

Kinship Carers UK's long-term aspiration is to develop and refine the service and to provide a blueprint that can be duplicated in other areas of the country where there is a growing need.

6. What We Have Achieved

Kinship Carers UK champions the vital role of kinship carers, also known as friends and family carers, who take on the significant responsibility of permanently raising a child who would otherwise be unable to remain with their parents.
Through events, peer support, practical assistance and community engagement, the Charity has supported kinship families to reduce isolation, improve their wellbeing and develop stronger, more resilient support networks.

We have offered the following:

- **Supported Families**

  We have supported over 1200 families across the United Kingdom to date. These are families we meet either regularly or in times of crisis. Most families have orders such as Special Guardianship Orders, Child Arrangement Orders, Kinship Fostering, Kinship Carers with private arrangements, and grandparents sharing responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.

- **Virtual and Face-to-Face Support Groups**

  - Four weekly online support groups throughout the year
  - Five face-to-face support groups in Worcestershire covering Malvern, Kidderminster and two support groups in Worcester, both daytime and evening.
  - Support groups are regularly attended in two other areas of the country: Cheltenham and Wyre Forest Area.

  During support groups, we offer adults advice, emotional support and encouragement. Some sessions offered are bespoke training for carers on the following subjects:

  Adoption and special guardian support fund
  Compassion fatigue and self-care
  Kinship Legal Law Q & A
  Therapeutic Parenting for Kinship Carers
  Positive mental health
  Protective Behaviours include parent-to-carer abuse
  Understanding Attachment
  Understanding Kinship

- **Kinship Community Cafe**

  Kinship Community Café has been a great success. We host 12 cafés annually with guest speakers from various professional backgrounds, providing carers access to people they might not usually meet. The popular Kinship Community Café offers carers a virtual space to connect with other kinship carers. This group has seen

significant interest, and the diverse range of guest speakers has been a valuable resource for carers who may not have the opportunity to attend specialised kinship training.

- **Kinship Carers UK Friends**

  Kinship Carers UK Friends comprises 15 volunteers, including adults we have previously supported and their friends. The friend group provides feedback and insight to improve our charity's work, fundraising, and activities that support our aims and objectives.

- **Advocacy Service**

  Our advocacy service has been a life-saving link for several kinship carers. We have supported carers in meetings with professionals, such as Child in Need meetings, Child Protection meetings, Family Conferences, and meetings with schools to help teachers understand the issues children face. The increase in virtual meetings has enabled us to expand our support across the country. We have also successfully provided Mackenzie's friend support to carers in court.

- **Peer Support Programme**

  The peer support programme has been very successful. Our experience has shown us that each carer has their own identity and story; likewise, so have the children. We carefully identify carers with a wealth of experience from their life circumstances and encourage them to share, identify with, and support others.

- **Virtual Support Group**

  We understand that attending support groups is very difficult for carers for many reasons. Demand for our virtual support groups has increased dramatically. We host three to four weekly support groups, with carers from across the UK.

- **Advocacy Support**

  We have offered advocacy support virtually. Kinship Carers have found this support very helpful, and it has helped carers use the support we have given them to act confidently and independently. Advocacy is a significant part of our activity after the support group activities. We have supported potential family and friends' carers through the court process, gaining valuable experience in legal processes.

  We have successfully supported carers, leading to positive outcomes for everyone, working collaboratively with carers and professionals to achieve the best result.

We have supported carers and their children and young people in schools by helping teachers understand how past trauma affects their school lives, and that they are not 'naughty children' but children who need therapeutic support, as with any other looked-after child.

- **Activities**

  We also encourage families to meet in safe, open-air environments and use various media to communicate, including pen pal activities such as sharing letters and photos.

  While family time is important, it is also essential for carers to step out of the carer role for an evening and have some 'me time'. This year, we have had several 'adult only' evenings. They proved very successful, and we will build on them in the future when it is safe to do so. Alternatively, we offer virtual social evenings for kinship carers to befriend other carers in a secure environment, which has also proved very successful.

- **Collaboration with Other Organisations and Raising Awareness**

  Kinship Care Alliance
  Kinship Carers UK has worked successfully with the Kinship Care Alliance. The Alliance comprises organisations that share aims and beliefs about kinship care. The Kinship Care Alliance aims to prevent children from being unnecessarily raised outside the family, improve outcomes for children who cannot live with their parents and are living with relatives, and secure better recognition and support for family and friend carers.

  Centre of Excellence in Child Trauma
  We have worked successfully with this wonderful not-for-profit organisation, which has helped us provide much-needed therapeutic support for both children and kinship carers.

- **Raising awareness**
  This year Kinship Carers UK has focused on raising media awareness by encouraging carers to share their kinship experiences anonymously. We have had great success with our social media sites and are proud of the positive response.

7. Future Plans

- Our key objectives for this coming year are to:

- Continue supporting kinship families with bespoke support and training by understanding their needs and finding solutions.

- Further develop high-quality support materials online, continuing to offer phone and online support.

- Further develop support groups nationwide, building support groups where needed.

- Further develop family activities

- Continue working with other agencies, universities and businesses to influence policies for the next generation of kinship carers.

- Continue developing our infrastructure and working with volunteers from all walks of life.

8. Our Future Aims

Our aims for the next three years explain our beliefs, main priorities, and how we will benefit kinship families.

Everything we do is designed to improve the day-to-day experience of kinship families, the children in their care, and their future lives. Kinship Carers UK is a voice for all Kinship families; we listen to what they say about their experiences, identify with them what improvements can be made, and work in partnership with those who can help us bring about positive change.

Long Term Aspirations

The long-term aspirations for Kinship Carers UK are as follows:

- To establish a permanent base from which to work.

- Working from this location, we will continue supporting Kinship carers with education support, counselling, and training to provide a supportive and nurturing environment for families that encourages and promotes communication, positive behaviour patterns, cooperation and mutual respect.

- We will also support the families and provide rest to the carers by offering opportunities to participate in enjoyable and motivating activities and experiences with the children in their care.

9. Funding and Support

We are immensely grateful to everyone who has supported Kinship Carers UK for their generosity and belief in our work.

Individuals who have directly supported us through activities include:

- Admin by request
- Black Pear Lettings
- Bradley Smith
- Cloth Workers
- Groundworks
- The Eveson Charitable Trust
- The National Lottery Awards for All
- Worcestershire County Council

10. Governance and Management

The Board of Trustees held four meetings during the year. Trustees serve for three years, after which they put themselves forward for re-appointment. The Board reviews skill requirements and may appoint a trustee in areas beneficial to the charity's operations. The Board seeks new trustees through dialogue with trustees and advertising. Newly appointed trustees serve for a maximum of 3 years, and the Board will have at least three trustees, as stated in the charity's governing document. Each new trustee receives a copy of the CIO documentation and documentation that outlines their role and responsibilities. The Chief Executive Officer also meets with new trustees to ensure each person clearly understands their role.

The Board of Trustees sets Kinship Carers UK's policies. The trustees elect a chairperson, and the Chief Executive Officer is accountable to the Board of Trustees for executing these policies.

11. Financial Review

The charity received total income of £32,153 during the year and incurred expenditure of £33,782.
At the year end, total funds stood at £48,315, comprising unrestricted funds of £30,608 and restricted funds of £17,707.
The deficit reported for the year reflects the planned use of previously accumulated reserves and grant funding to deliver charitable activities and support services for kinship families.
Trustees remain satisfied with the charity's financial position and believe that available funds are sufficient to support planned activities in the forthcoming year.
The charity continues to monitor expenditure carefully and seeks to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively to maximise impact for beneficiaries.

12. Reserves Policy

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining an appropriate level of reserves to ensure the charity can continue its activities and meet its financial commitments.

The charity's unrestricted reserves are held to:

- Manage cash flow fluctuations.
- Respond to unforeseen circumstances.
- Provide financial stability.
- Enable the continuation of services while future funding is secured.

The trustees review reserves regularly and currently consider the level of unrestricted reserves to be appropriate in light of the charity's size, activities and future commitments. Restricted funds are held separately and may only be used for the specific purposes for which they were awarded.

13. Volunteers

Our work would not be possible without the hard work of our volunteers, including our trustees, support group leaders, youth group workers, administration, fundraisers, and casual volunteering staff. We are very grateful to all our skilled and dedicated volunteers who continue to play a vital role in supporting Kinship Carers UK and kinship families.

With special thanks to the following:
Debbie Elwood
Jane Hinton
Millie Easterlow

14. Serious Incident Reporting

The Board of Trustees ensures that Kinship Carers UK has appropriate financial and operational control systems. The Chief Executive Officer identifies significant risks to which the charity may be exposed; the Board of Trustees reviews and addresses all risks.

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the charity's governing document. Trustees must ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Commission standards.

The CIO requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give an accurate and fair view of the movement of funds, including income, expenditure, governance, and reasonable steps taken to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial information included on the Charity Commission's website.

15. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures	Donna Weaver	Victoria Smith
Full Names	Donna Weaver	Victoria Smith
Position	Trustee	Trustee
Date	11th November 2026	11th November 2026

Charity registration number: 1163906

Kinship Carers UK

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the period from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity Commission CC16 guidelines.

Section A: Receipts and Payments

	25/26				24/25
	Restricted Funds	**General Fund**	**Total Funds**		
Receipts					
Guest Speaker Payments					£355
Awards	£25,300		£25,300		£30,500
Just Giving		£218	£218		£686
Donations		£6,635	£6,635		£18,461
Total Receipts	**£25,300**	**£6,853**	**£32,153**		**£50,002**
Payments					
Salary	£5,000	£20,651	£25,651		£19,779
Bank Charges		£81	£81		£60
Travel	£115	£557	£672		£1,563
Office Equipment	£1,648	£94	£1,742		£308
Communications	£248	£1,463	£1,711		£1,039
Family Activities		£588	£588		£371
Room Hire		£200	£200		£0
Insurance		£408	£408		£382
Website & Software		£809	£809		£481
Promotions	£20	£15	£35		£0
Training / Support Groups	£562	£363	£925		£0

Utilities		£960	£960		£0
Total Payments	**£7,593**	**£26,189**	**£33,782**		**£23,983**
Net of Receipts (Payments)	**£17,707**	**-£19,336**	-£1,629		£26,019
Transfers between Funds			£0		£0
Cash Funds at start of period			£49,944		£23,925
Cash Funds this year end			**£48,315**		**£49,944**

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

	2025/26				**2024/25**
	Restricted	**General Fund**	**Total**		
Cash Funds	£17,707	£30,608	£48,315		£49,944
Monetary Assets	£0	£0	£0		
Investment Assets	£0	£0	£0		
Assets retained for the charity's own use	£0	£0	£0		
Liabilities	£0	£0	£0		

Notes

1. The accounts were prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
2. All receipts and payments for the period were split between restricted and unrestricted.
3. Guarantees given by the CIO: there are no guarantees where a liability may arise at the period-end date.
4. Secured Debts: there are no debts secured by a charge on the CIO's assets at the period end date.
5. All assets and liabilities are disclosed within the statement of assets and liabilities (section B).
6. Restricted Funds:

   Eveson Trust: £5,000 – salary costs. Remaining 31st March 2026: £0.
   Cloth Workers: £4,800 - computers, laptops and other technology. Remaining 31st March 2026: £3,166.
   Ground Works: £500 - support groups and family activities. Remaining 31st March 2026: £0.
   Worcestershire County Council: £15,000 awarded towards support groups, insurance, travel and other approved charitable activities. Unspent restricted balance at 31 March 2026: £14,541.
   Technology and Equipment Expenditure funded through the Clothworkers Foundation grant related to technology and equipment used directly for project delivery and beneficiary support. No such items were retained as assets of the charity at the year end.

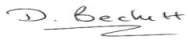
7. Trustee and related-party transactions – None.

8. Significant non-monetary resources – None.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the charity accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full Names	Donald Beckett
Position	Chair
Date	28/10/2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To The TRUSTEES OF

KINSHIP CARERS UK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Kinship Carers UK (CIO) for the year ended 31 March 2026, on pages 8 to 15, prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out above.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income is less than £250,000 and it has opted to prepare receipts and payments accounts. The trustees are not required to appoint an examiner who is a member of an accountancy body. The examiner will need to demonstrate sufficient financial awareness, numeracy skills and relevant experience to carry out the work and make the judgements required.

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:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. The accounts 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.

Independent Examiner's Name, Qualification & Details

Name	Ms Andria Cooper
Relevant qualification	Finance Manager - AAT
Signature	
Date	11/11/2026