The Clare Project

Annual Report — 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Year in Review

Early 2025: started with the devastating news that our beloved Executive Director, Gray, would be leaving the organisation. Work began to recruit a new Executive Director, and as an interim measure the key operational and financial elements of the role were taken up internally.

We experienced unprecedented levels of staff sickness, but despite this challenge we were able to continue to run our social events with minimal disruption thanks to the teamwork and cover. This felt especially important following the Supreme Court ruling and subsequent EHRC guidance that created so much fear and uncertainty for our community. We are not a crisis service, but we saw an increase in people attending our services in crisis. We also saw a lot of joy and community resilience over this past year, which was great to witness and be able to continue to offer safe spaces for the TNBI community to gather.

Over the year we formed a partnership with a new funder, The Shameless Fund, which not only brought in some vital unrestricted funds, but also led to sharing peer support and network building with organisations up and down the UK and internationally.

July: we carried out research into TNBI experiences of cycling in Brighton & Hove in partnership with Brighton University. Instead of a traditional report, the research was published as a zine which TNBI community members contributed to as part of the research and wider engagement across Sussex. This can be viewed here: : https://heyzine.com/flip-book/09baa74e27.html

August: we celebrated our 25th anniversary with a special event in collaboration with Queer Heritage South. The event brought together a panel of community members that helped set up The Clare Project, attendees through the years, and current members of staff — a chance to celebrate all the amazing work that has taken place to provide a safe and consistent space for the TNBI community to gather.

To take care of our staff and their wellbeing, we closed our services for a summer break and were fortunate to be able to offer wellbeing vouchers to the whole staff team, too.

September: we published the TNBI experiences of mental health research and zine in partnership with the Sussex Research Engagement Network. https://heyzine.com/flip-book/66d927e080.html

October: our new Executive Director was officially in post, with a key focus on stability for the organisation and managing any uncertainty from the changes. Focus then shifted to securing multi-year funding and longer-term grants.

Our HIV Lived Experience Engagement Worker continued their research and engagement project with West Sussex County Council to improve access to sexual health screening and support for TNBI community members. This saw a series of community engagement feedback sessions and suggestions for how the council could make improvements. As a result of this project, we also commenced a project with Terrence Higgins Trust and Elton John Aids Foundation to engage with the TNBI community and improve information and access to PrEP and HIV prevention support.

Our Community Development Coordinator delivered a series of training sessions to the community and professional services on understanding transmisogyny — educating, raising awareness and understanding of how trans women and transfemme people are disproportionately affected by oppression.

We continued to work in partnership with the Sussex Gender Service to help design and continuously improve how the service meets the needs of the TNBI community. We also engaged the Trans Health Improvement Group in the external review of the service. This work continues to ensure we remain a vital part of the design and delivery of the service.

December: we were able to close our services for a winter break, allowing staff time to reset ready for the new year as part of our ongoing wellbeing offer.

March: confirmed that The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund awarded us a three-year grant from 2027 to 2029 — excellent stability for the next few years at such an important time.

Core Delivery Breakdown (April 2025 – March 2026)

Session activity across our core service streams over the year:

Service Stream	Sessions	Key Highlights & Venues
Weekly Drop-ins	51	Weekly drop-ins at DGMC featuring health pop-ups, clothes swaps, and community social space.
Care Navigation & Practical Support	36	In-person drop-ins (at The Queery / Trans Pride Centre), online sessions, and Pizza & Paperwork legal/admin support.
Online Socials & Digital Groups	23	Bi-weekly Zoom community socials and online care navigator access.
Youphoria Movement & Wellbeing	17	Low-sensory classes, skateboarding, sea dips, self-defence workshops, and rounders.
Over-50s Group & Outings	15	Monthly peer socials at Alcampo Lounge, dance workshops, a Charleston trip, and winter outings.
Community Meals	14	Monthly Meet & Eat dining out, free festive feast, and Nourish sessions at The Community Kitchen.
Neurodivergent Groups	12	Dedicated monthly peer support groups held at The Queery and Trans Pride Centre.
Outdoors Events	11	Wheelchair-accessible community walks and seasonal fire socials at Deneway Nature Reserve.
Outreach, Arts & Celebrations	19	Drama performance at The Actors Theatre, TCP 25th Anniversary, and presence at regional Prides (Brighton, Hastings, Crawley).
Total	**198**	

Key Service Highlights & Strategic Impact

- **Embedded Healthcare & Practical Advocacy:** We integrated vital pop-up services directly into our weekly drop-ins, hosting partner agencies including WellBN, Switchboard IDVA (domestic abuse support), PrEP2U/THT (sexual health and HIV testing), and Citizens Advice/IncomeMax for financial advocacy. Our therapist Serge continued to see community members on a 1:1 basis.
- **Low-Barrier Wellbeing & Recreation:** Our Youphoria initiative and group walks fostered inclusive physical activity, offering safe, non-judgmental spaces for trans, non-binary, and intersex adults to engage in movement.
- **Tackling Isolation & Cost-of-Living:** Dedicated peer spaces for neurodivergent and over-50s community members ensured tailored support, while community dinners (Meet & Eat, Nourish, and the Free Festive Feast) directly alleviated isolation and financial pressures.
- **Milestones & Outreach:** Strategic highlights included celebrating The Clare Project's 25th Anniversary at the Old Courtroom, delivering a community drama production at The Actors, and expanding visible outreach across regional Pride events.

Financial Position 2025/26

Overview

In 2025/26 The Clare Project received total income of around £243,000. Spending was slightly higher than income, and our reserves are lower than last year.

Most of our money was spent on what matters most: staff delivering frontline services, which made up 81% of everything we spent. Full financial statements will be available with our annual return to the Charity Commission.

Thank You to Our Funders

Our work is only possible because of the generous support of our funders and donors. Thank you to everyone who supported us this year, including:

Our main funders	
Sussex Gender Service	Shameless Fund
Trust for Developing Communities	Roddick Foundation
National Lottery (Nourish)	Research Engagement Network
Ageing Well	Thriving Communities Fund
West Sussex County Council	Catalyst Fund
Brighton & Hove City Council	University of Brighton
28 other smaller funders	Individual donations

Where the Money Went

What we spent money on	Share of spending
Staff delivering frontline services (salaries, National Insurance, pensions)	81%
Activities & service delivery (room hire, refreshments, training, honorariums)	8%
Freelance & clinical support	6%
Premises & overheads (rent, insurance, IT, admin)	5%