SPEAKING OUT FORUM

Charity number: 1186266

Trustees 'Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name: Speaking Out Forum
Charity registration number: 1186266
Principal address: 2 Plowley Close, Manchester, M20 2DB

Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of approval:

- Simone Lakmaker, Chair
- Jessica Lakmaker
- Jemma Lakmaker
- Toby Marlow
- Noel Fagan
- Rebecca Blahuta
- Sue Goldman

2. Structure, governance and management

Speaking Out Forum is a Charitable Organisation governed by its constitution adopted on 24 October 2019.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the charity's constitution. No external person or organisation is entitled to appoint trustees.

The trustees are responsible for the overall governance, strategic direction and financial management of the charity.

3. Charitable purposes and public benefit

Speaking Out Forum's charitable purpose is to help people with learning and physical disabilities by providing opportunities to develop public-speaking and other life skills, improving their prospects and helping them overcome challenges in their daily lives.

Speaking Out Forum is a neuro-affirming charity that empowers people with a variety of learning differences, and those who have experienced social marginalisation, to develop confidence, communication and public-speaking skills.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning the charity's activities and making decisions relevant to its work

4. Activities and achievements during the year

During the year, Speaking Out Forum:

- delivered two public-speaking and communication workshops;
- worked with approximately 30 participants;
- supported participants to develop confidence, communication and self-advocacy skills;
- worked with community partner organisations;, including Friendship Circle;
- enabled participants to practise and deliver speeches in supportive settings;
- recruited 3 new Facilitators and developed a Facilitator training programme;
- initiated the adaptation of our programme for the Deaf, and
- the trustees consider that these activities furthered the charity's purposes and provided public benefit by helping participants gain confidence, develop their communication skills and have their voices heard.

5. Financial review

The charity received total funds of approximately **£47,210** during the year, comprising:

- £19,910 in grants;
- approximately £27,000 in donations from individuals; and
- approximately £300 from charitable activities.

Total payments during the year were £15630 resulting in a surplus of £31580.

At the year-end, the charity held total funds of £57032 comprising:

- unrestricted funds of £37122 and
- restricted funds of £19910

The restricted funds relate principally to National Lottery Awards for All project grant.

The charity had no funds in deficit at the year-end.

6. Reserves policy

The trustees 'policy is to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately 6 months of normal operating expenditure. This provides protection against unexpected reductions in income and enables the charity to meet its ongoing commitments. At the year-end, unrestricted reserves amounted to £37122. The trustees consider this level to be appropriate and will keep it under review.

7. Approval

This report was approved by the trustees of Speaking Out Forum on 09 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed: _S. Lakmaker
Name: Simone Lakmaker
Position: Chair/Trustee
Date: 20 October 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name: Speaking Out Forum | Charity number: 1169255

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 01/01/2025 To 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations (Private)	27,000	-	-	27,000	-
Lottery Awards For All	-	19,910	-	19,910	-
Programme Sales	300	-	-	300	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	27,300	19,910	-	47,210	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	27,300	19,910	-	47,210	-
A3 Payments					
Overheads	13,940	-	-	13,940	-
Programme direct costs	1,690	-	-	1,690	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	15,630	-	-	15,630	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	15,630	-	-	15,630	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,670	19,910	-	31,580	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	11,670	19,910	-	31,580	-

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories / Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
Awards For All Grant	-	19,910	-
Grants, Donations & Gift Aid	37,122	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	37,122	19,910	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
S. Lakmaker	Simone Lakmaker	16.10.2026
J. Lakmaker	Jessica Lakmaker	16.10.26

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Speaking Out Forum

On accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 | **Charity no (if any)** 1186266

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 6 October 2026

Name: Michael Kayser

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: 17 Hartsbourne Avenue, Bushey Heath, Herts, WD23 1JP