Charity Registration No. 1188092

Company Registration No. 11677892 (England and Wales)

SHEILA COATES FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2026

The Courtyard
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SHEILA COATES FOUNDATION

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SHEILA COATES FOUNDATION

COMPANY INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr J M Ericson Ms A K Duffy Ms M V Hartshorne Judge V Mayer Mr B P Delo Mr D J Coates Ms S L Harris
Charity number	1188092
Company number	11677892
Registered office	The Courtyard Shoreham Road Upper Beeding Steyning West Sussex BN44 3TN
Auditor	TC Group The Courtyard Shoreham Road Upper Beeding Steyning West Sussex BN44 3TN
Bankers	NatWest Bank Unit 40 Churchill Square Brighton BN1 2ES
Solicitors	H3 Solicitors Suite 1 The Old Pig Styes Brightharms Farm Bines Road Partridge Green West Sussex RH13 8EQ

The Trustees, who are Directors for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, are pleased to present their Annual Report together with the audited Financial Statements of Sheila Coates Foundation ("SCF") for the year ended 28 February 2026.

The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements comply with the current statutory requirements and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: the Statement of Recommended Practice issued effective 1 January 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Reference and administrative details of the charity, the Trustees, advisers, and key management of SCF during the year under review and up to the date of the signing of the Trustees' report, are set out on pages 8 and 9 form part of this report.

Objectives and activities

The charitable objects of Sheila Coates Foundation (SCF) are for the public benefit to advance the education (including social and physical training) and mental health of persons, especially persons under the age of 30 who have autism and related conditions (beneficiaries), by making grants and in such other ways as the trustees see fit.

SCF was registered as a charity in 2020 and established in the memory of the late Sheila Coates.

Sheila was an inspirational creator of a service in Oxfordshire for children with autism and related conditions. She led a team of more than 90 staff working with 200 children in many host schools. The philosophy which Sheila engendered by her example lives on: respect and caring for each child and each family combined with a realism about their challenges; a willingness to explore new ideas; developing the service to address the daily reality of the children's problems; and giving staff freedom to develop their own initiatives.

Sheila Coates Foundation was founded by the entrepreneur Ben Delo with our current chair, Anne Duffy. As a child, Ben was excluded from three primary schools and subsequently diagnosed with autism. With the help of Sheila Coates, who was in charge of provision for children with special educational needs in Oxfordshire, he attended a special resource base, where he flourished.

SCF's vision is for autistic young people to be given every opportunity to achieve their potential and thrive in society.

The primary method of achieving the charitable objectives is to fund qualifying initiatives in England. Our grants policy sets out how trustees determine SCF's grant-making activities, how these are undertaken, and trustees' roles in processes and financial management.

The Board of Trustees determines the focus, size, timing and longevity of each grant-making programme in line with SCF's charitable objectives and financial position. In doing so it takes into account available resources, identified need and how funding can achieve the greatest impact.

SCF does not want to replicate support or interventions that are, or should be, ordinarily available or statutorily provided. Instead, SCF grants help those working with autistic young people to set up and run initiatives that will make a significant difference over and above what is already on offer.

SCF allocates grants to mainstream schools and colleges. It only funds initiatives where there is a clear rationale, which show they are innovative and creative, which fulfil a need, and where impact can be clearly measured.

SCF's grant-making is responsive to changes within the education and wider context. Where there is a specific or urgent need, the trustees may alter the focus or approach to grant-making.

The trustees have taken into account the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when making decisions to which the guidance is relevant. This includes:

- reviewing SCF's aims and objectives
- planning the direction of SCF
- planning future activities
- identifying and managing risk
- setting the grant-making policy.

All our charitable activities focus on funding initiatives in England are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

In 2024 SCF adopted a three year strategic plan after a review of its activities. This plan confirmed the rhythm and standardisation of yearly grant making (rapid impact funds) in line with the charitable objectives. It was agreed that grant making should continue to support mainstream secondary schools and colleges to be innovative. Resources were allocated to ensure that grant making processes remain up-to-date and nimble.

We identified that SCF had a great deal of information about the barriers and solutions to autistic students thriving in education. The strategic plan therefore initiated work with the Autism Centre for Education and Research (ACER) at the University of Birmingham. We asked them to evaluate SCF's work so that learning can be shared widely and future funding decisions can have the benefit of an external evaluation by a world renowned organisation. In addition, a targeted funding round based on need was introduced, linked to SCF's desire to deepen our learning about what works for autistic young people. The strategic plan makes provision for ongoing development of the charity, ensuring it remains compliant and mindful of best practice in all its work.

Achievements and performance

Rapid impact funds

The primary route for SCF grant-making is through regular 'rapid impact funds', which provide small grants to mainstream secondary schools and colleges to support autistic students. These funding rounds have proved to be hugely beneficial. For schools and colleges they are a practical and manageable way of resourcing much-needed activities which deliver impact for autistic students after just six months.

Since 2021 trustees have designated £2,558,000 for rapid response or rapid impact funding. This amount has funded ten grant-making rounds offering one-off awards of £1,000 or £5,000 (standardised to £5,000 from April 2024) to 600 mainstream secondary schools, colleges or other mainstream-based provision, supporting over 26,000 autistic students.

Rapid impact round nine, totaling £500,000, was launched in April 2025. This round was open to eligible applicants across England, funding creative and innovative projects and initiatives that enable autistic students to excel and achieve, flourish and succeed - in line with SCF's vision. The positive response, and wide range of proposals reflects a continuing need from mainstream schools and colleges for funding to support autistic students.

A structured categorisation framework was introduced in this round to classify the 'type' of activity funding requested, informed by analysis of previous rounds. This framework has strengthened our ability to analyse demand, assess alignment with funding priorities, and track trends over time as well as improving the link between funding, activity 'type', and impact on autistic students.

Analysis showed that requests relating to 'places and spaces' (e.g. indoor and outdoor safe/sensory spaces) accounted for 50% of all applications in rapid impact fund nine. This was followed by: group-targeted interventions (e.g. clubs and therapeutic initiatives); resources; and staff training/continuing professional development (CPD). Other categories included technology integration (e.g. audiovisual robots); whole-school or college initiatives; and individual or one-to-one support.

Through this round, we provided a total of £495,000 to 99 schools and colleges, supporting 5,396 autistic young people.

In line with our strategic plan's objectives to understand more about 'what works' for autistic students we launched our first targeted funding round (rapid impact fund ten) in autumn 2025. The focus of this round was in response to the high level of demand for indoor safe/sensory spaces funding in the previous round. We recognised the limited evidence regarding the effectiveness of safe/sensory spaces and wanted to learn more.

SCF funded 40 schools and colleges to develop these spaces. An accompanying research project as part of the partnership with ACER will strengthen the evidence base about safe spaces using community of practice and Ripple Effect Mapping methodologies. This work will contribute to a more robust understanding of what works and inform future investment and practice.

Grant-giving plans for 2026 include two rounds due to launch in April 2026. Rapid impact fund 11 will focus on building autism-inclusive cultures, whilst rapid impact fund 12 will focus on tackling or preventing non-attendance.

Impact

All grantees are required to report on the impact of their funding, enabling trustees to assess outcomes, and ensure that charitable funds are used effectively.

Six months after funded activity begins, grantees submit an impact statement summarising the number of autistic students supported, the extent of impact achieved, and the difference SCF's funding has made. Grantees also provide information on the sustainability of activities and the use of funds. This provides a consistent, high-level measure of project impact.

Up to and including rapid impact fund round eight, a representative sample of approximately 20 grantees were also asked to complete additional impact measures. These consisted of simple rating scales designed to assess student engagement and wellbeing, aligned with SCF's aims.

Participating schools and colleges identified a small cohort of students and provided baseline and follow-up data, enabling comparative analysis and providing a more detailed assessment of the outcomes and impact of the funded activity.

Within 2025/26 Impact Statements were received in relation to rapid response fund eight. For this round SCF funding had an impact on at least 3,400 autistic students. 69% of respondents indicated that their project had 'significant' impact (allocating it a 'four' from the four-point scale), whilst a further 28.5% scored impact as a 'three'.

A thematic analysis of the impact statements indicates that autistic students were calmer and more regulated, with improvements in attendance, engagement, behaviour, learning, wellbeing, confidence and social interaction.

There is evidence that some projects have had an impact on the wider school or college culture, supporting a shift towards inclusion, increasing staff engagement and confidence in supporting autistic students, engendering whole-school awareness of autism and improving home-school relationships.
The impact statements indicate improvements in the wellbeing and engagement of autistic students. Almost two thirds of students (64.6%) participating were reported as being more engaged with learning (compared with 58.9% in rapid impact round seven). Over half (59.8%) of ratings across a range of situations showed reduced anxiety after SCF-funded activity (compared to 56.3% in rapid impact round seven), with 57% of ratings showing students to be less anxious in lessons.

94% of respondents indicated that their activity would continue after the funding period, suggesting that grant recipients both valued the impact and had created sustainable initiatives.

Our work with ACER continues to examine our impact measurement framework so that it is not onerous for grantees and is easily analysed so that it can be communicated effectively and inform future decision-making.

Financial review
The results for the year are set out on page 15 of the financial statements. The incoming resources for the year are £1,715,556 (2025: £600,000). The increase is due to additional donations from SCF's benefactor during the year.

From incoming donations, £495,000 was designated for the ninth rapid impact fund, £230,000 for the targeted funding round to support safe spaces and £92,309 for the new partnership with University of Birmingham Autism Centre for Education research (ACER).

Outgoing resources for the year were £948,413 (2025: £635,611), of which £161,104 were running costs (2025: £135,611).

Reserves policy
SCF Funds are all unrestricted in that they are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of its objects and are thus available for the awarding of grants. However, within the unrestricted funds the trustees maintain sufficient free reserves:

- to provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our work
- to provide a level of funding for unexpected opportunities
- to provide cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income.

The trustees will review the above criteria with reference to the charity's strategy and annual plan and determine the target level of free reserves to meet these.

At the end of the reporting period, the charity's reserves were £859,605. The free reserves were £829,605.

The trustees will at times designate funds from free reserves for significant project costs, agreed grants or replacement of major assets. This has been the case with funds for all of the charity's grant-making programmes.

Investment policy

Currently, the charity holds no investments. However, in preparation for investing, the trustees have set an investment policy to support the grant-making activities of the charity.

This provides for any income from any investments to be reinvested to assist with meeting the grant-making programmes. Trustees expect any investments to generate a reasonable level of income, as income forms an important component of the overall total return.

The charity holds in cash sufficient funds to meet immediate cash-flow requirements. SCF makes use of deposit accounts to hold funds for day-to-day activities, including planned grant rounds. In 2025/26 these deposits resulted in an additional £15,555 in income for the charity.

Major risks

Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity has been exposed, have reviewed those risks and where necessary taken the appropriate action to address them. Our procedures for risk management are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Internal Fraud (theft or misappropriation of funds):

SCF manages this risk through:

- expenditure/cheque signatory authorisation limits set by the bank and agreed by the Board
- annual budget approved by the Board, and performance measured vs. the budget at regular intervals
- written statement of policy and practice on income receipt (donations) and payment procedures (invoices, expenses, purchasing cards)
- comprehensive financial records maintained.

Significant pressures on school capacity and teacher retention lead to grantees being unable to apply for funding or to deliver impact in line with original goals agreed with SCF:

SCF manages this risk through:

- strong relationship management between schools and the grant manager
- a flexible approach to grants and grant spend which is focussed on the delivery of outcomes
- regular review with grant manager, CEO, external partners and Trustees to understand how SCF's grant making strategy can best support the sector.

Reputation Risk:

The charity recognises that any negative publicity, misperception, or adverse event could impact stakeholder confidence, donor support, and our ability to achieve our objectives.

SCF manages this risk through:

- clear governance and oversight of all external communications
- adherence to agreed policies for trustees and staff
- monitoring public and media communications to ensure consistency with the charity's mission and values
- regular review of potential reputational risks as part of the overall risk management framework.

Loss of key staff:

SCF employs three staff (all on a part time basis) and the loss of one of these staff may pose a short-term risk in terms of the on-going business of SCF.

SCF manages this risk by documented policies and procedures, appropriate notice periods and a detailed holiday and absence policy.

SCF's running costs are kept to a level commensurate with good governance and best practice grantmaking processes and procedures.

Loss of key Board members

After involvement of almost seven years, our current Chair will be stepping down in July 2026. In order to address this, a recruitment working group has been established and a thorough recruitment process has begun. Trustees are confident that this will result in a positive outcome.

The Trustees are satisfied that effective measures are in place to ensure good governance; to prevent financial or administrative fraud or malpractice; protect the good reputation of SCF, and to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and guidance. SCF has no premises. All work is undertaken remotely. The Trustees recognise the risks associated with remote working, including data security, reduced oversight, and staff wellbeing. These risks are mitigated through appropriate IT controls, clear policies and procedures, regular communication and oversight, and ongoing support for staff and trustees.

Plans for future periods

A three-year strategic plan (2025 - 2028) has been adopted and the budget agreed. SCF will continue to deliver against the strategic plan, ensuring the grant making policy is reviewed and influenced by what our stakeholders tell us and the wider educational and charity world.

SCF intends to communicate its work more widely so that schools can learn from the projects we have funded and, if appropriate, findings will influence policy and practice.

Structure, governance and management

Sheila Coates Foundation (SCF) is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company number 11677892) and registered as a charity in England & Wales (1188092). It has an exemption from using 'Limited' in its name. Its governing document is its memorandum and articles of association: incorporated on 14 November 2018, as amended by Special Resolution on 4 February 2020, as amended by Special Resolution on 2 June 2021.

The Foundation is run on a day-to-day basis by The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, assisted by two members of staff. The Foundation is a member of the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) and the Autism Alliance. Professional advice is sought from external advisers as and when necessary.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees as defined by section 177 of the Charities Act 2011. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association one third of the directors must retire from office by rotation at each annual general meeting. They may put themselves forward for re-election if eligible. The minimum number of directors is three and there is no maximum number.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and none received benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 7 of the accounts.

In accordance with the charitable objects, the charity's work focuses on autistic young people. The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that the needs of this group are appropriately reflected through the diversity of the trustee body. Over 50% of the current trustees are experienced in work with or in support of vulnerable young people or have lived experience of autism. Additionally management, business and finance skills are well represented on the Board.

The Board has formally approved arrangements for the recruitment and induction of new Trustees and keeps the skills requirement of the Board under review. If a Trustee retires, or additional Trustees are required, the Board considers recruitment. In November 2025 the current Chair announced their intention to step down in the summer of 2026. The Board has commenced the search for their replacement.

On appointment, the Chair of Trustees, Chief Executive and Business Manager are on hand to support new trustees as they settle into their roles. New trustees are provided with documents and briefings to familiarise them with the charity and the context within which it operates. This covers the following main elements:

- The Charity Commission: Charity trustee welcome pack
- The Charity Commission: The Essential Trustee (CC3)
- The Charity Governance Code
- meetings with key staff covering roles, responsibilities, finance and operations
- SCF Strategic Plan
- The Memorandum and Articles of association
- recent Board meeting minutes
- most recent statutory accounts.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests, and these are reviewed annually and recorded in the Trustees' register. In the event of a potential conflict of interest the affected Trustee does not take part in any decision making and this is recorded in the minutes of the relevant meeting.

Board meetings are held four times a year, one of which is intended to be held face to face in person, and three held online. During the reporting period, meetings were held in person and online, in accordance with Article 41 of the Articles of Association.

The directors who held office during the period and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Mr J M Ericson
Ms A K Duffy
Ms M V Hartshorne
Judge V Mayer
Mr B P Delo
Mr D J Coates
Ms S L Harris

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

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Ms A K Duffy

Trustee

Date: 4 July 2026

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2026

The trustees, who are also the directors of Sheila Coates Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law 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, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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 Companies Act 2006. They 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SHEILA COATES FOUNDATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sheila Coates Foundation (the 'charity') for the year ended 28 February 2026 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 charitable company's affairs as at 28 February 2026 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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.

Other matters

The financial statements for the prior period were not audited. We have obtained sufficient, appropriate audit evidence that the comparative period balances do not contain a misstatement that could materially affect the current period financial statements.

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.

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, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, 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 liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit, in respect to fraud, are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses; and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and its management.

Our approach was as follows:

- We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, and through discussion with the directors and other management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the directors and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;

- We considered the legal and regulatory frameworks directly applicable to the financial statements reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006) and the relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK;

- We considered the nature of the industry, the control environment and business performance, including the key drivers for management's remuneration;

- We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit;

- We considered the procedures and controls that the company has established to address risks identified, or that otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud; and how senior management monitors those procedures and controls.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified fraud risk. These procedures included: testing manual journals; reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performing analytical procedures; and enquiring of management, and were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

TC Group

Mark Cummins FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of TC Group

Statutory Auditor
Office: Steyning

Date: 6 August 2026

SHEILA COATES FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Current financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2026 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,700,000	-	1,700,000	600,000
Investments	4	15,556	-	15,556	-
Total income		1,715,556	-	1,715,556	600,000
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	161,104	787,309	948,413	635,611
Total expenditure		161,104	787,309	948,413	635,611
Net income/(expenditure)		1,554,452	(787,309)	767,143	(35,611)
Transfers between funds	11	(817,309)	817,309	-	-
Net movement in funds		737,143	30,000	767,143	(35,611)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 March 2025		92,462	-	92,462	128,073
Fund balances at 28 February 2026		829,605	30,000	859,605	92,462

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Prior financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	**3**	600,000	-	600,000
Total income		600,000	-	600,000
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	**5**	135,611	500,000	635,611
Total expenditure		135,611	500,000	635,611
Net income/(expenditure)		464,389	(500,000)	(35,611)
Transfers between funds	**11**	(500,000)	500,000	-
Net movement in funds		(35,611)	-	(35,611)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Fund balances at 1 March 2024		128,073	-	128,073
Fund balances at 28 February 2025		92,462	-	92,462

SHEILA COATES FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	**12**	300,000		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		613,150		99,987	
		913,150		99,987	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(53,545)		(7,525)	
Net current assets			859,605		92,462
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds - general	**16**		829,605		92,462
Unrestricted funds - designated	**15**		30,000		-
			859,605		92,462

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 4 July 2026

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Ms A K Duffy

Trustee

Company registration number 11677892 (England and Wales)

SHEILA COATES FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	**19**		497,607		(34,464)
Investing activities					
Investment income received		15,556		-	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			15,556		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			513,163		(34,464)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			99,987		134,451
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			613,150		99,987

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Sheila Coates Foundation is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Courtyard, Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3TN.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by trustees for a specific purpose.

1.4 Income

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

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with the irrecoverable element of VAT included with the item to which it relates and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the awarding of grants to beneficial third parties, and the governance costs associated with the continuing operation of SCF.

Governance costs (included within Support costs) comprises all costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements with which the charity must comply.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.6 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.

1.7 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.

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.

1.8 Employee benefits

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.

1.9 Retirement benefits

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Donations and gifts	1,700,000	600,000

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Interest receivable	15,556	-

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2026	2025
	£	£
Direct costs		
Staff costs	130,072	94,800
Organisational running costs	20,096	34,351
	150,168	129,151
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	787,309	500,000
Support and governance costs		
Governance	10,936	6,460
	948,413	635,611
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	161,104	135,611
Unrestricted funds - designated	787,309	500,000
	948,413	635,611

	2026	2025
Governance costs comprise:	£	£
Audit fees	10,200	3,280
Legal and professional	736	3,180
	10,936	6,460

7 Grants payable

During the year grants totalling £748,309 were paid to 101 educational institutions (2025: £500,000 paid to 100 institutions).

8 Trustees

No trustees received remuneration directly from the charity in 2026 or 2025.

Expenses totalling £417 were reimbursed to two trustees during the year (two trustees in 2025: £412).

Payments totalling £126 (2025: £126) were made to Voipfone during the year, a company co-owned by the spouse of one of the trustees.

One of the trustees, SCF's benefactor, donated £1,700,000 (2025: £600,000) to the Charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2026 Number	2025 Number
Management	3	3

Employment costs	2026 £	2025 £
Wages and salaries	118,912	87,070
Social security costs	5,214	3,376
Other pension costs	5,946	4,354
	130,072	94,800

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:

	2026 £	2025 £
Aggregate compensation	130,072	94,800

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Chief Executive, Business Manager and the Grants Manager.

10 Taxation

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

11 Transfers

During the year, the trustees designated £817,309 from general unrestricted funds to its support grant funds.

12 Debtors

	2026	2025
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Prepayments and accrued income	300,000	-

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	**£**
Other taxation and social security	3,378	3,378
Other creditors	796	796
Accruals and deferred income	49,371	3,351
	53,545	7,525

14 Retirement benefit schemes

	2026	2025
Defined contribution schemes	**£**	**£**
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	5,946	4,354

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.

15 Unrestricted funds - designated

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 March 2025	Resources expended	Transfers	At 28 February 2026
	£	£	£	£
Rapid impact fund	-	(695,000)	725,000	30,000
ACER fund	-	(92,309)	92,309	-
	-	(787,309)	817,309	30,000

Previous year:	At 1 March 2024	Resources expended	Transfers	At 28 February 2025
	£	£	£	£
Rapid impact fund	-	(500,000)	500,000	-

Starting in 2021 trustees designated funds for rapid impact funding to provide support in response to the real issues facing autistic young people in secondary schools. These funded grant-making rounds offering one-off awards of £1,000 or £5,000 to mainstream secondary schools, colleges or alternative provision. SCF rapid impact funds are for short-term solutions which can be put in place immediately, and have been in support of: mental health and well-being; increasing autism knowledge and expertise in schools and colleges; enhanced access to specialists for assessment, advice, interventions; co-production or collaboration with autistic young people. During the year ended 28 February 2026, one-off awards of £5,000 were made available to eligible applicants across England through these funding opportunities.

In addition to the above, for the year ended 28 February 2026 the trustees have designated funds over an 18 month period for the Autism Centre for Education and Research (ACER). The first gift installment was made in April 2025 with October 2026 being the final period for funds being paid.

16 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 March 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 28 February 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	92,462	1,715,556	(161,104)	(817,309)	829,605

Previous year:	At 1 March 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 28 February 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	128,073	600,000	(135,611)	(500,000)	92,462

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2026	Unrestricted funds designated 2026	Total 2026
	£	£	£
At 28 February 2026:			
Current assets	829,605	30,000	859,605
	829,605	30,000	859,605

	Unrestricted funds general 2025	Unrestricted funds designated 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£
At 28 February 2025:			
Current assets	92,462	-	92,462
	92,462	-	92,462

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year other than those already included in note 8 (2025 - none).

19 Cash generated from operations

	2026	2025
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	767,143	(35,611)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(15,556)	-
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(300,000)	-
Increase in creditors	46,020	1,147
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	497,607	(34,464)

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.