TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

2025

BELONGING | CONNECTION | VISIBILITY

Creating communities for LGBTQ+ people across Yorkshire.

A year of community, connection and continued support.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

Out Together's charitable purpose is to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people who are socially excluded on grounds of age and sexual orientation, in particular older people who identify as LGBT+, relieving their needs and assisting their integration into society. The charity delivers inclusive social opportunities, befriending, digital inclusion and partnerships that help reduce isolation and strengthen belonging.

Public benefit

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Activities are designed to create accessible opportunities for connection, participation and practical support, particularly for people experiencing isolation or exclusion.

Developing our charitable purpose and strategic direction

Out Together's development reflects a continuing commitment to its founding ambition of addressing loneliness, isolation and social exclusion within LGBTQ+ communities, particularly among older people. As our experience has grown, so too has our understanding of the different circumstances in which isolation occurs and the opportunities available to address it.

What began as an approach centred on bringing people together through social activities has developed into a wider vision of connected, supportive and sustainable communities.

A particularly important part of our learning has been the recognition that every community is different. Each town, city and rural area has its own cultural identity, social characteristics, established support networks and gaps in provision. As we have developed a deeper understanding of these differences, we have deliberately adapted our approach to reflect local circumstances, avoiding a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

This has meant taking time to understand what already exists, listening to local communities, identifying unmet needs and exploring opportunities to work alongside established organisations. Avoiding unnecessary duplication and building on the strengths of existing provision have become central principles of our approach. Increasingly, we see our role not simply as delivering activities ourselves, but as helping to connect people, organisations and resources in ways that strengthen the wider community.

This evolution has been guided by our strategic ambitions, but it has also been shaped by opportunities arising through relationships with members, volunteers, community organisations, businesses and other partners. We have learned to balance a clear sense of direction with the flexibility to respond to local needs and emerging opportunities.

Our partnership with the Shameless Fund provided vital funding to strengthen Out Together's organisational capacity and invest in the communications infrastructure needed to support our growing ambitions. This enabled us to improve internal coordination, strengthen connections with members, volunteers and partners, and develop the external relationships essential to extending our reach and building a more connected and collaborative organisation.

The development of local hubs, our rural initiative Out in the Country and our collaborative work with the wider LGBTQ+ sector illustrate how we have adapted our approach to different circumstances while remaining committed to our underlying charitable purposes.

These developments share a common objective: enabling people to connect, participate, develop friendships and feel part of communities in which they are valued and supported.

Our growing ambitions have also required us to consider how the charity itself must develop. We recognise the importance of sustainable funding, effective governance, clear strategic leadership, operational capacity and partnerships that enable others to contribute to our charitable objectives.

Our approach is therefore both purposeful and responsive. We are guided by a clear vision, but recognise that achieving it requires local understanding, collaboration, flexibility and a willingness to learn from experience.

The next stage of our development will focus on consolidating this progress, strengthening our organisational foundations and demonstrating more clearly the difference our work makes to the people and communities we serve.

Achievements and performance

Overview

2025 was a year of steady progress for Out Together. We built on the strong foundations of the previous year, continuing to bring LGBTQ+ people together through welcoming social activities, digital inclusion, befriending and local partnerships. Our focus remained on the everyday connections that reduce isolation, build confidence and help people feel part of a community.

Community hubs and social activity

Out Together sustained a growing network of welcoming local hubs, with five hubs operating by April and plans underway for a sixth in Harrogate. Regular coffee mornings, lunches, theatre visits and other shared experiences gave members opportunities to build friendships and reduce isolation. The charity also developed its reach through activity in Bingley and Hebden Bridge, alongside plans for rural engagement through Out in the Country. During the year, 155 activities were held, with 3358 attendances recorded across the programme.

Befriending and individual support

The charity launched its befriending service with Sky during 2025, building a new route to companionship for members who may be unable to attend activities in person. This complemented the charity's regular social programme and reflected its commitment to reducing isolation regardless of mobility, confidence or geography.

Digital inclusion

Digital inclusion continued through weekly Thursday sessions delivered in person, online and in hybrid formats, helping members use devices, video calls and everyday online services. Practical support included access to tablets, smartphones, SIM cards and smart speakers where needed, with an equipment register maintained and referrals to AbilityNet for specialist one-to-one support. The charity

also explored a virtual neighbourhood so members unable to travel could remain connected. During the year, 54 sessions supported 572 attendances.

Fundraising and partnerships

Fundraising and partnerships remained important to sustaining community activity. The charity organised Call Me Dusty and prepared its June summer Ball, with £13,000 of sponsorship reported by April and strong early ticket reservations. The cancellation of the Saltaire venue for Call Me Dusty created an estimated £5,000 shortfall against expectations, prompting consideration of event insurance and financial risk. Club Out Together continued to build corporate connections, with more than 130 contacts signed up by April. Partnerships and discussions with organisations including Sky, PwC and other corporate supporters helped broaden the charity's reach and practical support.

Staffing and volunteering

Volunteers remained essential to the delivery of community activities, befriending, fundraising and practical support. The charity continued to build on relationships with corporate volunteering partners and to make use of paid staff capacity where funding permitted. During the year, 4 volunteers contributed approximately 416 hours.

Visibility, heritage and rural inclusion

During the year, Out Together developed the Rainbow Flag Forum and the interactive Flag in the Yorkshire Map project, with support connected to the Gilbert Baker Foundation. These initiatives helped celebrate LGBTQ+ history and visibility while opening conversations beyond established community spaces. The charity also developed Out in the Country to recognise the particular barriers faced by LGBTQ+ people living and working in rural areas.

Engagement and operational systems

In April, the charity reported growth in subscribed contacts from 364 in January to 466 in April. This was a measure of communications reach, not a count of unique people supported. Improvements to event registration and reporting were intended to give a clearer picture of participation and help local hub coordinators plan activities.

Governance and organisational development

The board undertook a substantial programme of leadership and organisational development during 2025. A review of the charity's future vision was adopted as a guiding document in July, alongside work on trustee succession, a board skills audit and clearer chair responsibilities. The governance subgroup continued reviewing policies, including whistleblowing. Operational systems also improved: Mailchimp became the core contact-management platform, Eventbrite was trialled for event registration and reporting, shared working arrangements were strengthened and the website was developed to support new activities. These changes were designed to improve coordination, accountability and the experience of members and volunteers.

Looking ahead

Looking towards 2026, the trustees aimed to build on the charity's established hubs and individual support by creating more opportunities for LGBTQ+ people to connect across Yorkshire, including

smaller towns and rural communities. Priorities included extending digital inclusion beyond Leeds, developing accessible in-person and online activities, and strengthening relationships with local groups and corporate partners. The board also prioritised a clearer communications strategy, sustainable core funding, stronger volunteer and staff support, and effective safeguarding and governance. Together, these ambitions set a direction for sustainable, locally responsive growth while protecting the charity's core commitment to reducing isolation.

Financial review and reserves

The charity recorded total receipts of £86,925 and total payments of £96,531 in 2025, resulting in net payments exceeding receipts by £9,606. Cash funds reduced from £39,838 at the start of the year to £30,232 at 31 December 2025. Income comprised donations and grants of £50,234 and fundraising event receipts of £36,691. Expenditure comprised freelance consultancy (£48,870), administration (£2,977), PR and communications (£11,830), members' activities (£15,151) and fundraising events (£17,703). Fundraising events therefore contributed £18,988 before other organisational costs. The deficit highlights the importance of securing sustainable core funding alongside the charity's programme growth.

Financial summary

Reserves policy

The trustees' reserves policy is to seek unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately two to three months of core operating costs. At 31 December 2025, the charity held £30,232 in unrestricted cash funds and no restricted cash funds. Reserves support continuity of core activities and provide resilience while the charity develops longer-term funding.

Designated funds, commitments and deficits

The year-end accounts record no restricted or endowment cash funds. During the year, the board noted that some unrestricted funds were informally earmarked for particular projects, including funding associated with Shameless and Share Gift. Such informal allocations do not, in themselves, change the classification of those funds as unrestricted.

Going concern

The charity ended 2025 with £30,232 in cash funds, following a net reduction of £9,606 during the year. The trustees recognised the importance of securing sustainable core funding, managing expenditure carefully and maintaining sufficient liquidity to support the charity's activities and future development.

Structure, governance and management

Out Together is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), registered charity number 1188461. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the governing document and oversee strategy, charitable delivery, safeguarding, finances and risk.

Governing document and trustee appointments

Governing document: Trust deed.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the charity's governing document.

Trustees serving during the year

The following trustees are recorded Tim Gittins (Chair until 16 July 2025; remained a trustee following his resignation as Chair); Sophie Linley (trustee; appointed Co-Chair on 16 July 2025); Perry Law (trustee; appointed Co-Chair on 16 July 2025); Antony Ball (Secretary and trustee); Katie Robinson (trustee); Sam Glenister-Bailey (trustee); and Hannah Bithell (trustee until stepping down on 16 July 2025). Thomas Porteus joined as Chair in October 2025, at which point Sophie Linley, Perry Law, Sam Glenister-Bailey resigned as Trustees.

Approval

The trustees approve this report for the reporting period stated above.

Signed: _____
Name and office: Thomas Porteus, Chair
Date approved: 31 October 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

OUT TOGETHER	1188461

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start 01/01/2025	To	Period end date 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 and Grants	50 234	-	-	50 234	56 043
Fundraising events	36 691	-	-	36 691	26 722
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	86 925	-	-	86 925	82 765
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	86 925	-	-	86 925	82 765
A3 Payments					
Freelance consultancy	48 870	-	-	48 870	34 177
Administration	2 977	-	-	2 977	1 976
PR and communications	11 830	-	-	11 830	3 371
Members activities	15 151	-	-	15 151	17 088
Fundraising events	17 703	-	-	17 703	10 860
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	96 531	-	-	96 531	67 472
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	96 531	-	-	96 531	67 472
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 9 606	-	-	- 9 606	15 293
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	39 838	-	-	39 838	-
Cash funds this year end	30 232	-	-	30 232	15 293

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank	30 232	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	30 232	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Out Together (formerly Friends of Dorothy)		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1188461
Set out on pages	CC16a (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 DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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:	DocuSigned by: C. T. Dunning 24303CDD41C44E5...	**Date:**	31/10/2026
Name:	Mr Charles Dunning ACA CTA		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Accountant and tax advisor.		
Address:	32 Coronation Avenue, Normanton, WF6 2LW		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	None