South Cheshire CLASP

2025 Annual Report

south cheshire clasp | www.southcheshireclasp.org.uk

Mill House, Brook Street, Crewe, CW2 7DE

☎ 01270 259629

info@southcheshireclasp.org.uk

www.southcheshireclasp.org.uk

registered charity number: 1188608

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Operating for the Public Benefit:

As can be seen from the Project report, CLASP has been able to meet our aims and objectives during the year to provide support for lone parents and their children, enabling them to grow and develop.

Organisational Structure & Governance:

South Cheshire CLASP is governed by its Constitution, adopted on 12th June 2020.

The governing body is the board of Trustees. As at 31st December 2024, there were 6 members. Trustees are recruited annually at the AGM or can be co-opted on to the board. Decision making takes place at bi-monthly Trustee meetings.

Trustees:

John Colclough - Chairman

Ruth Grimshaw - Treasurer

Graham Bushill - Safeguarding Lead

Gemma Harris - Lone Parent Representative

Julia Wood

Rachel Jones

Staff:

Sharon Stowell – Chief Executive Officer

Sharon Hickson Service Manager - Counselling

Sue Chapman Service Manager – Community & Families

Lucy Secker – Finance Officer

Sarah Mankazana - Administrator

Jan Wenlock – Family Support Worker

Rachael Watson – Family Support Worker

Sandra Tatton – Family Support Worker

Sarah Blake-Appleton - Counsellor

Stuart Watson - Counsellor

Volunteers:

Jill Lloyd

Jade Roberts

Binx Hendry

Tom Steadman

Izabelle Stowell

South Cheshire CLASP



407 individual referrals in 2025

Snapshot of 2025

2025 has been a year of significant change, challenge and resilience for South Cheshire CLASP.

"CLASP is a lifeline."
"It gives me a reason to leave the house."
"You are the only ones who understand what it's like."

A new CEO and full management restructure came at a time of wider uncertainty across the funding landscape. At the same time, the needs of lone parent families continued to grow increasingly complex.

Despite these pressures, the strength, resilience and commitment of the CLASP team has been extraordinary. Staff, volunteers and trustees worked together to ensure that families continued to receive the support they rely on, even during periods of significant organisational change and financial uncertainty.

We are now entering the next phase with renewed funding, increased stability and a strong foundation for the future.

Highlights from 2025

- 407 individual referrals received throughout the year
- 146 adults and children accessed counselling support
- 78 children and young people supported through therapeutic groups and targeted interventions
- 20 parents received 1:1 parent support across 122 support sessions
- 15 courses and workshops delivered for 108 parents
- Coffee n' Chat groups continued to provide vital peer support, connection and encouragement for lone parents experiencing isolation
- Families enjoyed holiday activities including a day at the beach, a trip to the zoo, bowling and the Christmas panto.
- Over 90% of families reported improvements in resilience, confidence, emotional wellbeing and family relationships.

VISION AND MISSION

CLASP's aim is to reach out and support those in the local community who are affected by the difficulties associated with parenting alone. Offering specialist support and friendly encouragement to help with the progression from crisis to wholeness and a positive future for the whole family.



The Charity is an expression of care and support for all lone parents in the locality, whatever their circumstances and regardless of how they became lone parents.

South Cheshire CLASP was first established in 1998 and obtained charity status in 2002 under charity number 1093471. In 2020 the Charity became a CIO with the new Charity Number of 1188608.

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

The objects of the CIO are:

For the public benefit and within a Christian ethos to advance the education and development of children and lone parents living in the South Cheshire area, in particular but not exclusively by:

a) providing child development and parenting skills training to parents;
b) providing safe group play and other activities designed to support children's social and emotional development;
c) providing support, activities and signposting to advice which develop the capabilities, competences, skills and understanding of parents;
d) providing activities and services designed to preserve and protect the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and their parents;
e) providing or assisting in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of children and their parents with the object of improving their conditions of life.

We monitor four main objectives across all projects:

- increased ability to cope with family breakdown and/or family situation,
- improved family relationships,
- increased confidence/self esteem,
- improved emotional health and wellbeing.

We meet these objectives by delivering projects for parents and their children based on needs analysis.

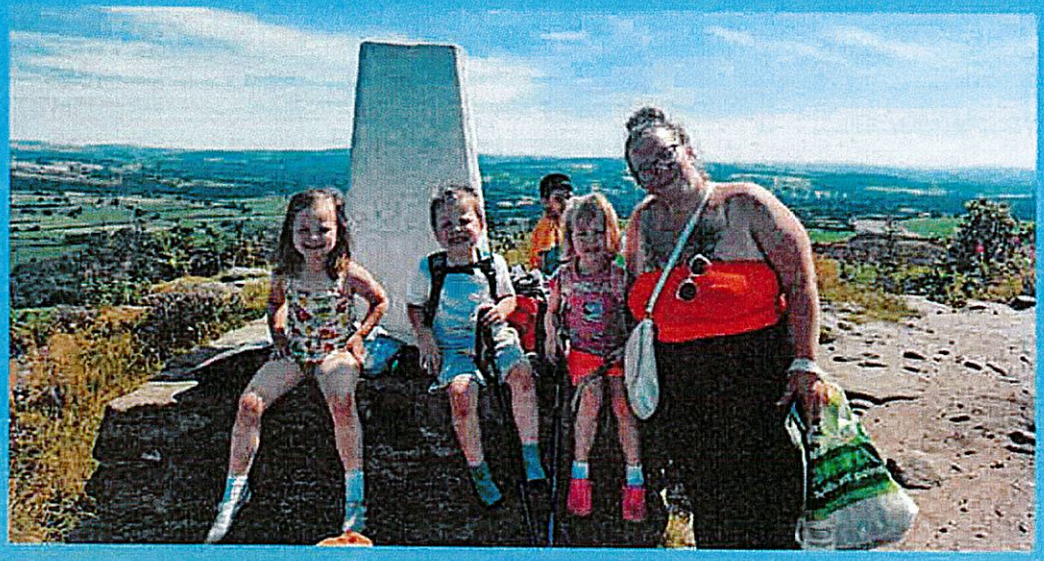
OUR IMPACT

The impact of CLASP's work is both immediate and long term. Lone parent families often arrive feeling overwhelmed, isolated and unsure where to turn. Through a combination of emotional support, practical guidance and opportunities to connect with others, we help families rebuild confidence and stability.

Parents often describe the difference this makes in very simple terms:

"CLASP is a lifeline."
"It gives me a reason to leave the house."
"You are the only ones who understand what it's like."

Across our services, **over 90% of families report improvements** in their confidence, mental wellbeing, relationships and ability to cope with the challenges they face.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2025 was quite a year!

Our opening bank balance was strong, but the promised income for the year was low. We had sufficient funds to last for 12 months, but projecting forward suggested that our medium to long-term position was weak.

An analysis of CLASP's running costs indicated that too big a proportion was spent on management/ administration. Trustees therefore decided that there must be a full review of the senior management structure as phase 1 of a total reorganisation of the charity.

Consequently, Julia Wood took early retirement after a brilliant 13 years as CEO: she had steered CLASP through a huge transformation of its activities, consolidating CLASP's position as a much valued and esteemed local charity.

By September 2025, Sharon Stowell had been appointed as CEO, ably supported by Sue Chapman and Sharon Hickson as service managers. The new senior team has proved highly capable and enthusiastic- CLASP remains in safe hands.

Last autumn, we had a remarkable run of successful funding bids, culminating in the renewal of our Big Lottery funding for a further 5 years, to commence in April 2026. Eventually, our income for 2025 exceeded £250k for the first time, with sizeable funding streams in place for 2026 and beyond.

The transformation of our funding prospects, therefore, meant that stage 2 of our reorganisation changed from originally conceived, no reduced hours and/or redundancies; rather, a consolidation and modest expansion of activities.

This trend has continued into 2026.

Once again, I thank all our staff and volunteers, and a special thanks to our trustees, who have steered CLASP with wisdom and commitment.

As ever, our main concern remains the support and nurturing of lone parent families in the South Cheshire area.

JOHN COLCLOUGH

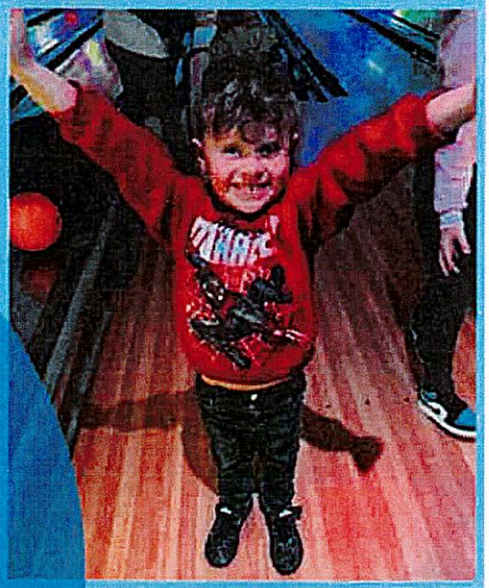
JUNE 2026.

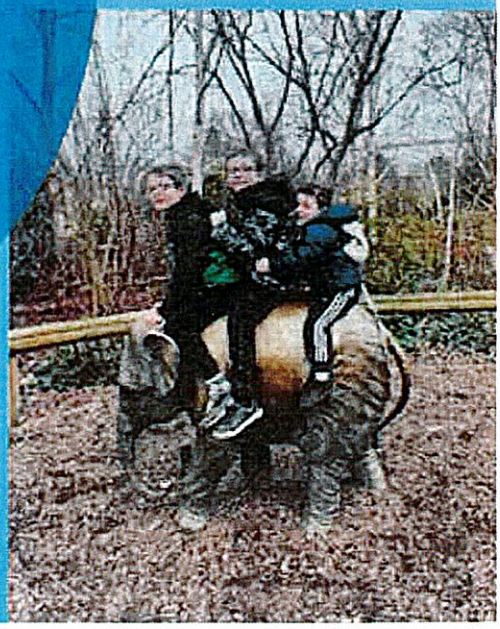


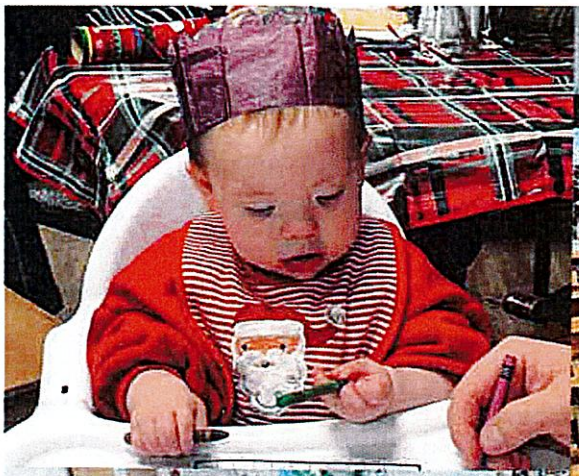
146 adults and children received counselling support in 2025

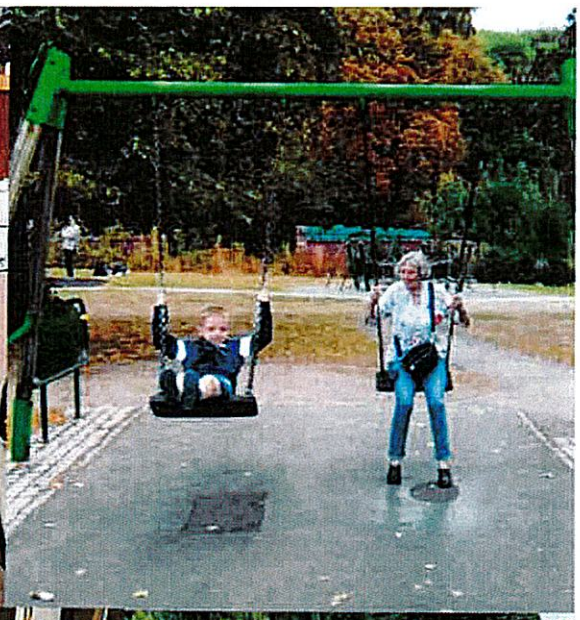
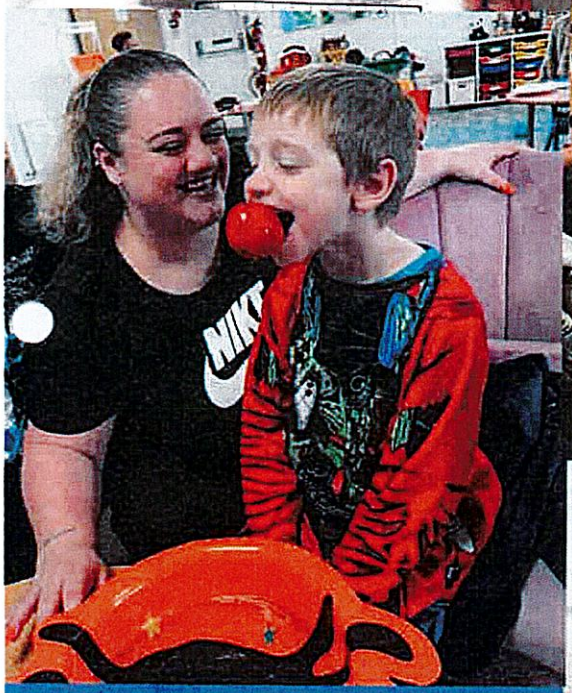
Holiday activities 2025

a day trip to the **beach and funfair**
a **visit to the zoo**
nature trails and hikes
picnics in the park
arts and crafts activities
bowling
Easter egg and pumpkin hunts
breakfast with Santa
a **trip to the Christmas panto**

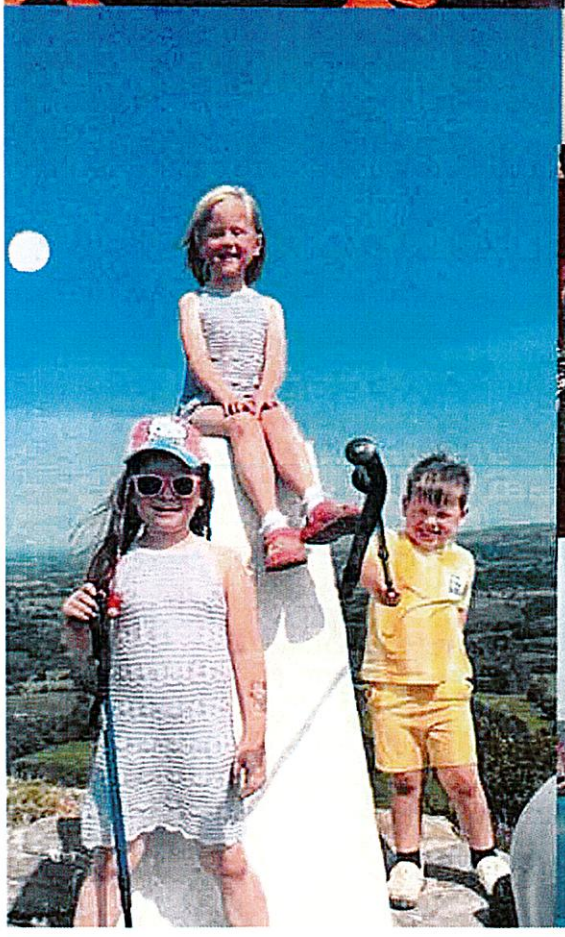


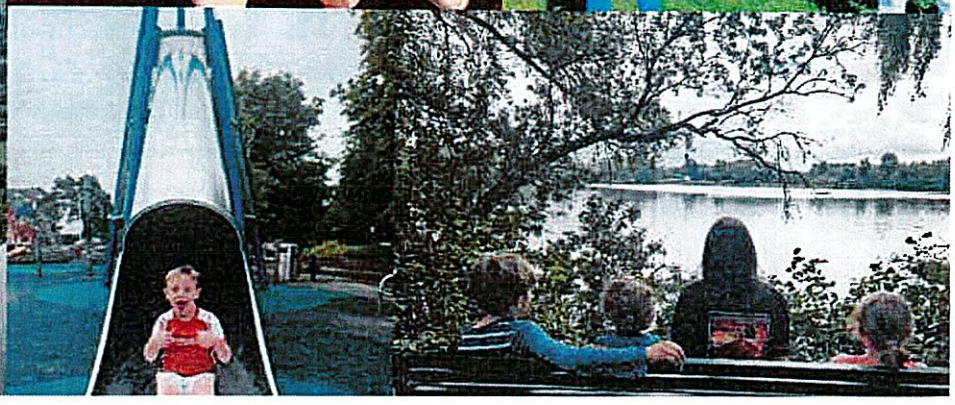






NIKE







Support For Children

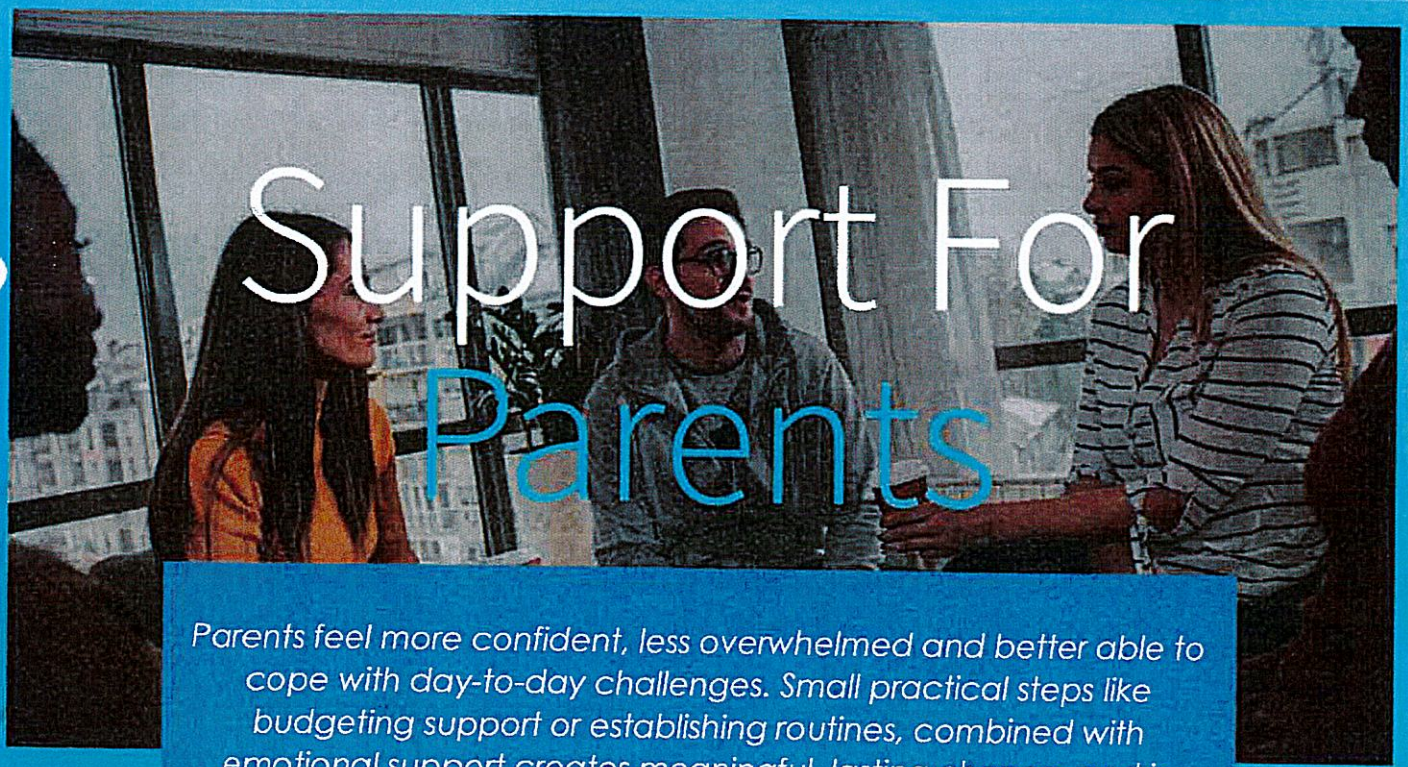
In 2025 we supported

123 Children

Through counselling, therapeutic group work and targeted one-to-one interventions

Parents have told us that the difference can be Transformative:

"It's like having a different child at home."



Support For Parents

Parents feel more confident, less overwhelmed and better able to cope with day-to-day challenges. Small practical steps like budgeting support or establishing routines, combined with emotional support creates meaningful, lasting change, and in some cases, the support we have offered has been life-changing.

ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOMES

Engagement has been consistent across the whole service and all outcomes show high levels of progress

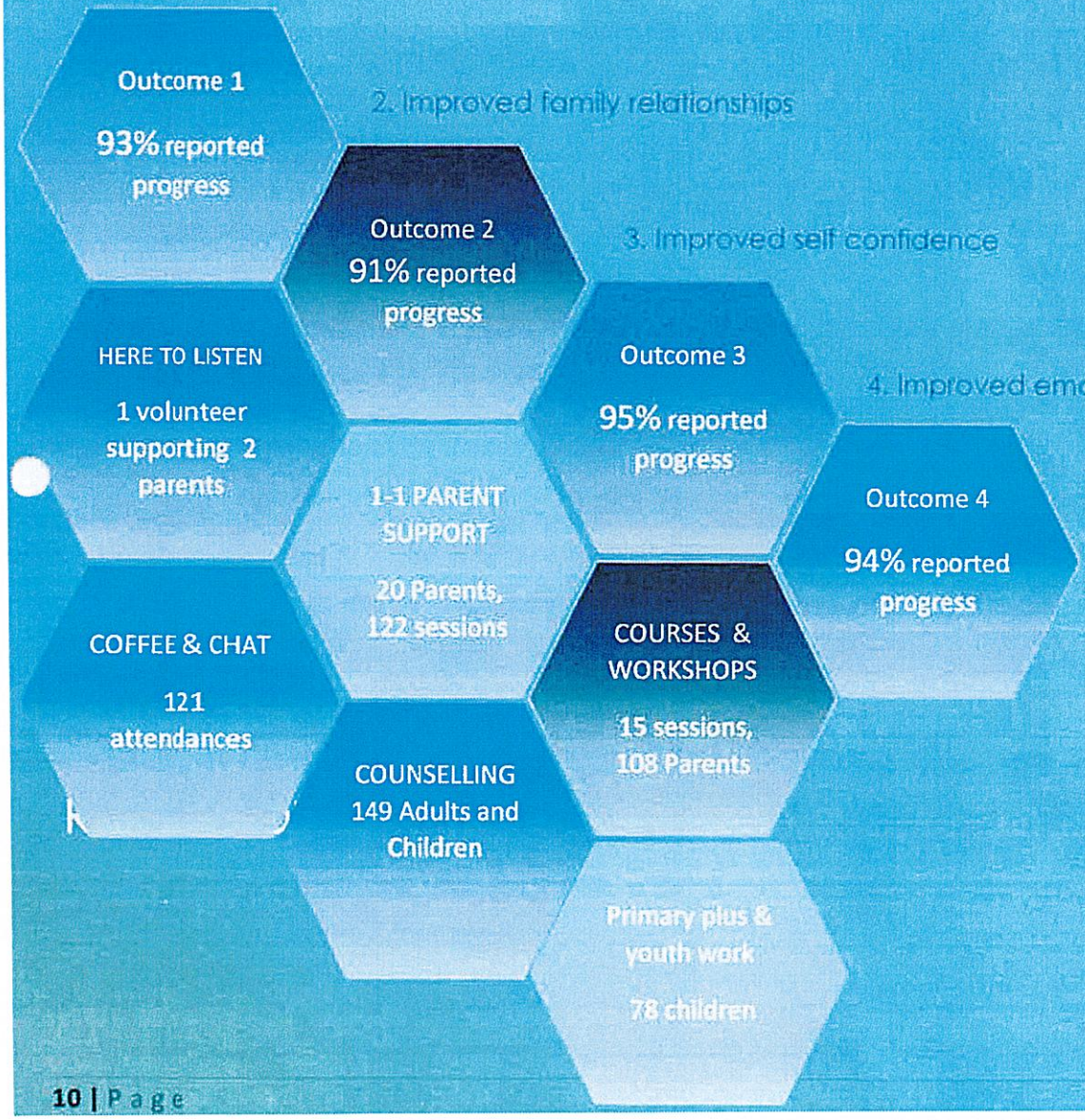
Behind every outcome statistic is a family whose day-to-day life feels more manageable than it did before.

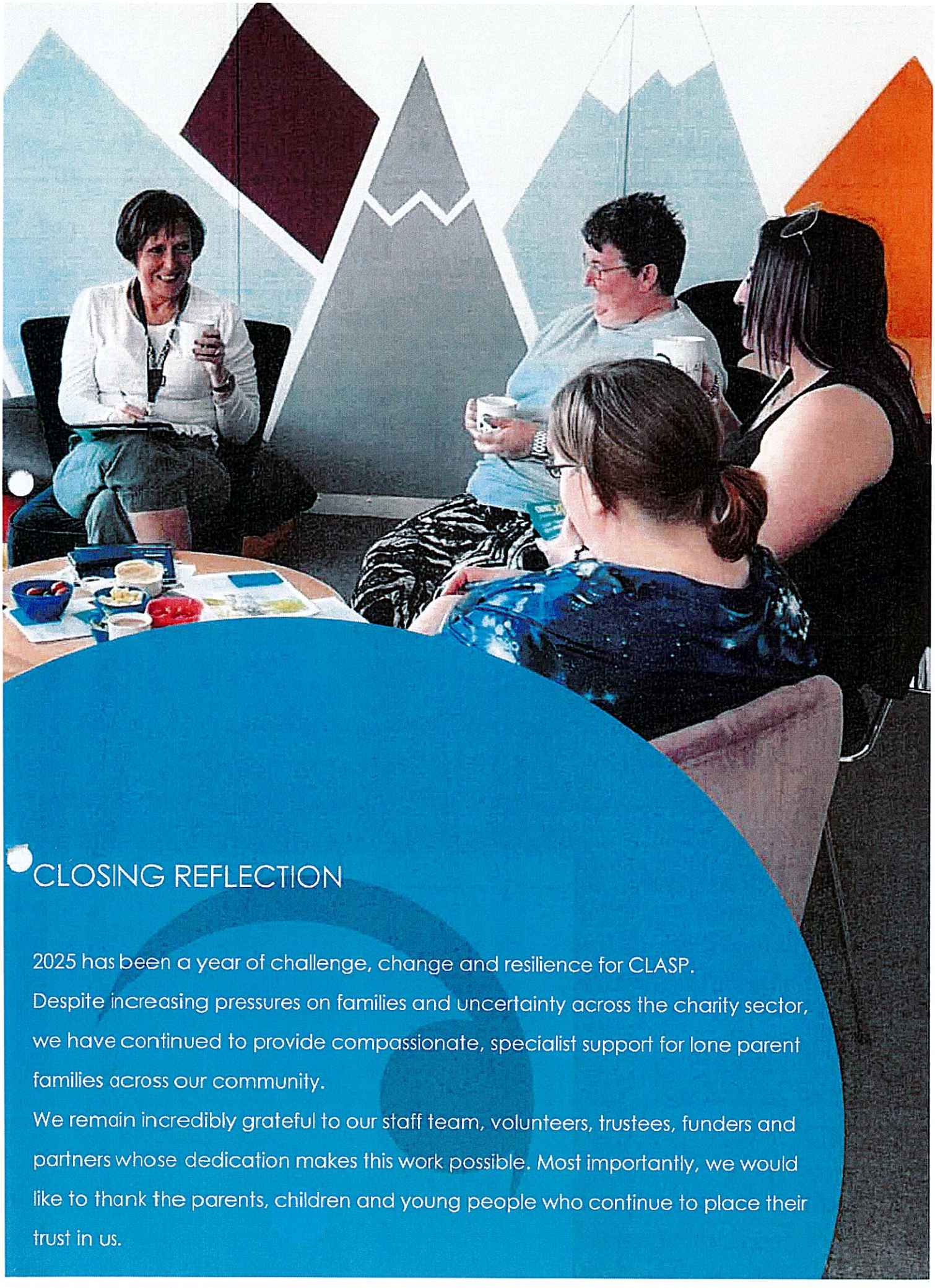
Across all services in 2025, families reported:

- Feeling less alone
- Improved relationships at home
- Greater emotional resilience
- Increased confidence in themselves and their parenting

These outcomes are not abstract. They show up in fewer crises, building resilience and parents beginning to believe in themselves again.

1. Increased resilience
2. Improved family relationships
3. Improved self confidence
4. Improved emotional wellbeing





CLOSING REFLECTION

2025 has been a year of challenge, change and resilience for CLASP.

Despite increasing pressures on families and uncertainty across the charity sector, we have continued to provide compassionate, specialist support for lone parent families across our community.

We remain incredibly grateful to our staff team, volunteers, trustees, funders and partners whose dedication makes this work possible. Most importantly, we would like to thank the parents, children and young people who continue to place their trust in us.

TREASURERS REPORT

I am pleased to report that we have had another good year financially, contrary to expectations at the beginning of the year. We were fortunate enough to obtain a 5-year grant from the National Lottery, which will give us some stability for the future. We also received substantial fundraising from Trust Green and other supporters.

Our total income for the year ending 31st December 2025 was £253,213, and expenditure for the same period was £206,600, giving us a balance of £235,031 at the end of the year, of which £75,616 was in restricted funds and £159,415 in unrestricted funds. Restricted funds are, as the name implies, for specific projects and cannot be spent on other things.

Our Reserve Policy is to retain sufficient to cover 5 months' expenditure of approximately £86,083, and this we have been able to do.

Our improved financial position means that we have started 2026 in a good financial position, but as ever, we are dependent upon securing new funding to maintain our service level.

I have been Treasurer for CLASP almost since the beginning, apart from a short break, but I am now able to hand over to our new Treasurer, Amanda Martin. It has been a privilege to serve the charity over these many years. I will remain as a Trustee.

RUTH GRIMSHAW
TRUSTEE/TREASURER
JUNE 2026

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of South Cheshire CLASP

I report to the trustees on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which have been prepared on the accruals basis in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation 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 Charity'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 exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect,

1. the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

AP Buchan ACMA
28 Cormorant Close
Crewe. CW1 5LN



SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

Year ended 31 December 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	Notes	General Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	32,760	216,868	249,628	209,067
Investments	3	3,585	-	3,585	4,008
Total incoming resources		36,345	216,868	253,213	213,075
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities	4	40,033	166,567	206,600	202,545
Total resources expended		40,033	166,567	206,600	202,545
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) for the year		(3,688)	50,301	46,613	10,530
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	13	181	(181)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(3,507)	50,120	46,613	10,530
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		162,922	25,496	188,418	177,888
Total funds carried forward		159,415	75,616	235,031	188,418

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

South Cheshire CLASP Balance Sheet
As at 31st December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Furniture & Office Equipment		2,129	2,837
Tangible assets	9	2,129	2,837
Debtors and accrued income	10	1,495	1,448
Cash at bank and in hand	12	231,556	184,146
		233,051	185,594
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(149)	(13)
		232,902	185,581
		235,031	188,418
Restricted income funds	13	75,616	25,496
General unrestricted income funds		159,415	162,922
		235,031	188,418

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on _____

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.

_____ John Colclough Trustee

_____ Ruth Grimshaw Trustee

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 December 2025

1. Statutory Information
The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number is 1188608.

2. Accounting Policies
The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and have remained unchanged from the previous year .

Basis of preparation of financial statements
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) issued in October 2019, and the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) applicable in the United Kingdom (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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 pound.

No judgements or key assumptions have been made which would significantly affect either the amounts recognised in the financial statements or the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Public Benefit Entity
South Cheshire CLASP meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.
The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern
The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. Based on the reserves held, the operating model, an assessment of risks, and forward-looking budgets, the Trustees are comfortable that the charity is adequately resourced to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. At the date of sign off, the Trustees confirm there are no material uncertainties in relation to the going concern assumption. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Income
All income is included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to receive it and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered. Currently all expenditure is classed as Charitable Activities. Should there be different activities, costs would be directly attributed to them or, for shared costs, these would be allocated on a consistent basis, based on time spent.

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 December 2025

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Tangible fixed assets over the value of £200 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic life.

Asset Class	**Depreciation Method**
Furniture and office equipment	20% (5 years)

Leases
Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Financial Instruments
Basic Financial assets and liabilities. These include debtors, cash and bank balances and creditors which are all initially recognised at transaction price. Subsequently they are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets and liabilities due within one year are not amortised.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expense

Taxation
As HMRC have granted charitable status to the company, no liability to corporation tax arises on any net surplus arising during the year. Accordingly, no provision is made for taxation in the financial statements.

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 December 2025

2. Voluntary Income		**2025**		**2024**
Unrestricted Funds				
Donations		11,410		6,839
Grants				
Garfield Weston	20,000			
Crewe Rotary Club	250			
Bentley Motors	500			
Asda Foundation	600			
Custom Powders	-		30,000	
CWP	-		10,680	
Total Grants		21,350		40,680
Total Unrestricted Voluntary Income		32,760		47,519
Restricted Funds				
Grants				
Asda Foundation Young Futures Grant	1,000			
CCF A775621 Best Days Out	3,500			
CCF A731032 Coffee & Chat	-		2,500	
CCF Trip/Christmas A738016	-		4,400	
CCF Fund it Forward	10,000		-	
CCF A775522 Summer Open	9,500		-	
CEC Community Response Fund	10,000		-	
Crewe Town Council - Taking Steps	1,500		1,210	
Garfield Weston	-		20,000	
Henry Smith	41,050		39,300	
Julia Rausing Trust	55,000		-	
Lapland Christmas Party Fund	500		-	
Morrisons Foundation Grant 44904918	2,000		-	
Nantwich charity Wardens	5,000		-	
National Lottery Reaching Communities	56,818		-	
National Lottery Awards for All	20,000		-	
National Lottery	-		74,513	
Plus Dane - Golden communities Impact Fund	1,000			
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation			19,625	
Total Restricted Voluntary Income		216,868		161,548
Total Voluntary Income		249,628		209,067

3. Investment income	2025	2024
Unrestricted Funds		
Bank Interest	3,585	4,008
Total Income	**253,213**	**213,075**

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 December 2025

		2025		2024
4. Charitable Expenditure				
Staff Salaries	173,883		170,418	
Counselling Supervision	1,200		1,725	
Volunteer Counselling Expenses	315		370	
DBS Checks	633		258	
Staff Training	172		2,529	
Travel	436		417	
Parents Courses/Activities	639		631	
Materials/Resources	767		779	
Refreshments/	814		780	
Parties/Activities	4,609		3,380	
		183,468		181,287
5. Support Costs				
Utilities	11,515		10,980	
Insurance	2,230		2,475	
Stationery/Telephone/Postage	1,134		1,338	
Repairs & Equipment	632		25	
Database/IT Support	3,379		2,994	
Depreciation	1,218		1,497	
Advertising/Printing	1,305		890	
Office Move	-		721	
Governance	-		-	
Other	1,719		338	
		23,132		21,258
Total Expenditure		206,600		202,545

5. Governance Costs - -

The Independent Examiner has provided the service free of charge to help support the charity

6. Staff Costs

	2025	2024
Wages & Salaries	165,243	158,335
Social security costs	2,082	4,160
Pension costs	6,558	7,923
Total	173,883	170,418

Included within the 2025 staff costs is a One-off Termination Payment, of £12,756.
None of the Trustees receive any salary payments (2024: £ Nil)
No employee was paid more than £60,000 during the year

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
7. Number of Employees		
Total of Full time and Part time employees	10	13
Full time equivalents	4	5

8. Trustees Remuneration
None of the trustees, nor their family members received any income from the charity other than reimbursement of day to day expenses.

	2025
9. Tangible Fixed Assets	
Original Cost	
At 31 December 2024	7,493
New Additions	510
Less Disposals	(1,913)
At 31 December 2025	6,090
Depreciation Value	
At 31 December 2024	4,656
New Charges	1,218
Less Disposals	(1,913)
At 31 December 2025	3,961
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2024	2,837
At 31 December 2025	2,129

	2025	2024
10. Debtors		
Insurance Prepayments	1,495	1,448
11. Creditors		
Accrued expenses	149	13

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 December 2025

12. Cash and Bank Balances

	2025	2024
Cash	27	112
Bank Current Accounts	35,635	41,637
Bank Deposit Accounts	195,894	142,397
Total	231,556	184,146

13. Analysis of Restricted Funds in 2025

	Jan 1st Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Dec 31st Balance
Asda Foundation Young Futures Grant	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
CCF A775621 Best Days Out	-	3,500	(2,840)	-	660
CCF A731032 (Coffee and Chat)	2,101	-	(474)	-	1,627
CCF Trip/Christmas A738016	1,462	-	(1,377)	(85)	-
CCF Fund it Forward	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Cheshire East Council Community Response	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Crewe Town Council	45	-	-	(45)	-
CCF A775522 Summer Open	-	9,500	(1,453)	-	8,047
Crewe Town Council - Taking Steps	-	1,500	(790)	-	710
Garfield Weston	9,579	-	(9,528)	(51)	-
Henry Smith	-	41,050	(36,322)	-	4,728
Julia Rausing Trust	-	55,000	(24,869)	-	30,131
Lapland Christmas Party Fund	-	500	(500)	-	-
Morrisons Foundation Grant 44904918	-	2,000	(723)	-	1,277
Nantwich charity Wardens	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
National Lottery Reaching communities	12,309	56,818	(63,934)	-	5,193
National Lottery Awards for All	-	20,000	(13,757)	-	6,243
Plus Dane - Golden Comms Impact Fund	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Total Restricted Funds	25,496	216,868	(166,567)	(181)	75,616

The individual restricted funds are represented by the grants we have received and we monitor the expenditure against each one.

Acknowledgements & Thanks

The Trustees and Staff Team of South Cheshire CLASP would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the individuals, organisations, funders, partners and volunteers who have supported us throughout 2025.

Whether through donations, funding support, partnership working, volunteering, free training, professional guidance or simply championing the work we do, your support has made a real difference to lone parent families across our community.

Your kindness, encouragement and commitment have helped us continue providing vital emotional and practical support to parents, children and young people when they needed it most. We are truly grateful to stand alongside such a compassionate and supportive community.

- All of our wonderful volunteers
- Amy Noble
- Angie Bartlett
- Ann Norburn
- Anonymous donors
- Asda Brighter Futures Foundation
- Asda community champion Garry
- Audlem Baptist Church
- Bentley Motors
- CSB Compliance Group
- CVS Cheshire East
- Cheshire Community Foundation
- Cheshire Connect (Dianne Parrish)
- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire Photobooth Company
- Christians Against Poverty
- Crewe Rotary
- Crewe Soroptimists
- Crewe Town Council
- Custom Powders
- Dunelm (staff and customers)
- Everybody Health & Leisure
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Henry Smith Charity
- Homebird
- J & R Rivers
- Jan Ferguson
- Jan Wenlock – 'Diary of a Weary Duck'
- Julia Rausing Foundation
- Lapland Foundation
- L Gentil
- Local Primary & Secondary Schools
- Martin Corlett Moss
- Mornflake
- Morrisons Foundation
- My CWA
- Nantwich Churchwardens Merged Charity
- Nantwich Rotary
- Peter Colyer
- Pete Buchan
- Plus Dane
- Springboard
- St Bridget's Trust
- Tesco community champion 'Wonderful Wendy'
- Thandi
- The Carers Trust
- The National Lottery & Lottery players
- The Oakhanger Project
- Trustgreen
- Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
- West St Christian Fellowship