THE ESCAPE YOUTH CLUB

CHAIR'S REPORT — 2026

1. Introduction

This year has been a turning point for The Escape Youth Club as we returned to our home at **Park Centre, Burgess Hill**. Being back in our own space has brought stability, renewed energy, and a stronger sense of community for our young people aged **10–17**, our volunteers, and our trustees.

2. Overview of the Year

Since reopening at Park Centre, we have focused on rebuilding our sessions, strengthening our structure, and reconnecting with local families. Attendance has grown steadily, and young people have responded positively to being back in a familiar, welcoming environment.

Key achievements include:

- Relaunching weekly sessions at Park Centre
- Reintroducing structured activities and wellbeing support
- Updating safeguarding, policies, and administrative systems

3. Youth Engagement

Young people aged 10–17 have shown enthusiasm for creative, social, and active sessions. We have seen improvements in confidence, friendships, and engagement, especially among those returning after our relocation period.

4. Volunteers

Our volunteers remain central to the club's success. This year we:

- Welcomed new volunteers
- Utilised volunteers' skills to strengthen the team
- Strengthened communication between trustees and the volunteer team

As we grow, **recruiting more volunteers** will be essential to expanding our offer and supporting larger sessions.

5. Partnerships & Community Links

Returning to Park Centre has opened new opportunities to work with:

- Park Centre
- Local schools
- Community organisations

We aim to **build more partnerships** to bring in external activities, workshops, and support for young people.

6. Priorities for the Year Ahead

Now that we are settled back at Park Centre, our priorities include:

- **Organising more activities** across arts, sports, wellbeing, and youth leadership
- **Working with more partners** to widen opportunities
- **Recruiting additional volunteers** to support growth
- **Increasing membership** and welcoming new young people from Burgess Hill and surrounding areas
- Securing funding to support expanded provision

7. Conclusion

Returning to Park Centre has given The Escape Youth Club a renewed sense of identity and purpose. With a committed team and enthusiastic young people, we are ready to grow, strengthen our offer, and continue providing a safe, supportive space for ages 10–17 in Burgess Hill.



Signed: Chair of Trustees The Escape Youth Club 2026

THE ESCAPE YOUTH CLUB **CHARITY NUMBER** **1190278**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		Dec-25 Unrestricted Funds		Dec-24 Unrestricted Funds
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible Assets				
IT Equipment		£ 695.98		£ 695.98
Depreciation (3 yrs from July 2020)		-£ 695.98		-£ 695.98
		£ -		£ -
Phone		£ 599.00		£ 599.00
Depreciation (3 yrs from Jan 2023)		-£ 599.00		-£ 399.33
		£ -		£ 199.67
Gazebo		£ 834.00		£ 834.00
Depreciation (3 yrs from Aug 2022)		-£ 834.00		-£ 671.83
		£ -		£ 162.17
Laptops and Cases		£ 1,737.76		£ 1,737.76
Depreciation (3 yrs from Jan 2023)		-£ 1,737.76		-£ 1,158.51
		£ -		£ 579.25
Total Fixed Assets		£ -		£ 941.09
CURRENT ASSETS				
Tuck Shop stock		£ 35.00		£ 35.00
Current Account		£ 4,694.03		£ 5,766.98
Savings Account		£ 7,747.45		£ 7,669.59
Cash		£ 1,147.90		£ 100.00
		£ 13,624.38		£ 13,571.57
CURRENT LIABILITIES		£ -		£ -
NET ASSETS		£ 13,624.38		£ 14,512.66
Funds brought forward from Jan 23	£ 15,521.05		£ 14,218.91	
Excess of income over expenditure 2024	-£ 1,008.41	£ 14,512.64	£ 1,302.14	£ 15,521.05
Excess of Income over expenditure current year		-£ 888.28		-£ 1,008.41
Total Funds		£ 13,624.38		£ 14,512.66

Signed 

Approved by Karen Taylor on 8th October 2026

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 2025 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		2025		2024	
INCOME					
				£ 4,388.02	
Donations/Fundraising	Bank	£476.08		£ 3,000.00	
Grants	Bank	£1,337.00		£ 450.00	
Tuck Shop	Bank	£933.72		£ 550.00	
Subscriptions	Bank	£617.16		£ 35.00	
Tuck Shop	Cash	£ 1,773.96		£ 66.76	
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 773.94		£ 428.40	
Bank interest received	Savin	£ 77.86	£5,989.72		£ 8,918.18
EXPENDITURE					
Depreciation on FA for 12 months		£ 941.09		£ 1,172.92	
Insurance		£ 390.18		£ 378.96	
Activities		£ 89.59		£ 1,104.34	
Website & IT		£ 68.56		£ 47.93	
Phone		£ 72.00		£ 72.00	
Card Skipper Subs		£ 168.00		£ 128.03	
Tuck Shop		£ 1,330.48		£ 598.11	
DBS Checks/Safeguarding		£ 120.00		£ 277.68	
Supplies				£ 135.52	
Rent and Storage		£ 3,405.53		£ 3,220.00	
Training				£ -	
Repairs and renewals		£ 224.35			
Card Fees		£ 25.24			
Costs of fund raising events				£ 225.00	
Other		£ 42.98	£ 6,878.00	£ 255.55	£ 7,616.04
Excess Income Over Expenditure			**-£ 888.28**		**£ 1,302.14**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The Accounts have been prepared from the receipts and payments on the bank statements, and any cash receipts and payments made over the period.

The depreciation of the Fixed Assets has been calculated on a 36 month basis

The club moved back into Park Centre in September 2025. While they were operating elsewhere, they still had to cover storage and venue hire costs of around £400 a month, using past grant funding and money raised through fundraising.

Now that they're settled back into Park Centre, their only regular outgoing is the hire fee, which is roughly £250 per month. With fewer volunteers available, they've focused on running the Friday evening session, but hope to introduce occasional events and partner with Park Centre on future projects.

They didn't apply for any new grants during this period, as the club had enough funds to manage without additional support.

The club continues to have a healthy bank balance, and with storage costs now gone, they're in a stronger position. They plan to run set projects and activities, applying for funding when it's needed.