Registered Charity Number

1193750

The Gillian Stevenson Charitable Trust CIO

The Gillian Stevenson Charitable Trust CIO

Trustees Report and Annual Accounts

For The Year Ending

31 December 2025

Table of Contents **Page**

Reference and Administrative details	1
Introduction	2
Objectives and Activities	2
Achievements and Performance of the Charity	3
Looking ahead	5
Structure, governance and management	6
Financial review	6
Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others	8
Declaration	8

Reference and Administrative details

Registered name of charity

The Gillian Stevenson Charitable Trust CIO

Also known by working name of charity

Gilly's

Registered number

1193750

Principal address

Springfield House

76 Wellington Street

Leeds

LS21 2AY

Trustees during the year ending 31st December 2025

Alex Stevenson

Judith Stevenson

Simon Glazebrook

Joy Chapman

Independent examiner

John Feaster

C/O Church Bank House, Church Bank, Bradford, BD1 4DY

Bankers

C. Hoare & Co.

37 Fleet Street

London

EC4P 4DQ

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Introduction

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the CIO during its third active year and the position as of 31st December 2025. Trustees consider the CIO to be in a good position to continue its activities during the coming year and that the CIO's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

The board confirms that the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in deciding on the activities of the CIO.

Objectives and activities

The object of the CIO, as set out in the constitution, is to advance such charitable purposes (according to the law of England and Wales) as the trustees see fit from time to time.

As in previous years, the main activity in relation to this purpose throughout the reporting period was the provision of grants to charities working to improve the lives of children, young people, families and adults living in the UK who are disadvantaged due to disability, ill-health or circumstance. The trustees consider this the most effective use of the CIO's resources and believe this has a positive impact by supporting charities already working with these individuals to continue providing and developing their services.

By using an open annual grant application process, we identify small charities (with an annual income of up to approximately £100,000) or specific areas of work within slightly larger organisations (with a defined budget of around £100,000 or less) that would benefit from our support. Grants of up to £5,000 are available.

Alongside this funding, we offer to provide informal, friendly support where this may be helpful. For smaller charities in particular, having someone new to explore ideas or challenges with, share perspectives or make connections where appropriate can be a useful resource.

While grant funding remains the main way in which we support charities, we recognise that the challenges faced by small organisations are not solely financial and fundraising can be particularly time-consuming and resource intensive. Larger charities may have dedicated staff for this work, but for many smaller organisations it is often undertaken alongside other responsibilities or on a voluntary basis.

By also supporting charities in non-financial ways such as keeping our application and reporting processes as simple and proportionate as possible, we seek to strike a balance between meeting the CIO's own responsibilities and minimising the administrative burden on the charities we support.

Achievements and performance

When reflecting on our achievements and performance, there are different aspects of our work we consider.

Supporting 2024 grantees

At the end of October 2024, grants were awarded to ten small charities and ongoing support was provided to these throughout the reporting period.

What worked well:

- Supporting charities to increase their visibility and reach – engaging with social media posts and identifying alternative avenues to target specific audiences.
- Informally sharing the work of the charities that we support with our own network and connections.

What to consider:

- Level of engagement varied significantly between charities – there are several possible reasons for this (lack of time to engage, no potential for additional support identified, engagement with funders is an unfamiliar concept etc) and an attempt will be made to mitigate these through a more structured offer of informal support for the 2026 grant round.

Grant making process 2025

Our third grant application window was open between the end of August 2025 and the beginning of October 2025; 301 eligible grant applications were received and considered by the trustees in advance of the final grants panel meeting at the end of October 2025. This was significantly more than the number of applications received during the 2024 grant cycle (134) which is likely to reflect both the increasing need among charitable organisations for funding in general and an increase in the visibility of the CIO on social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Such a significant increase in applications has implications for both trustees (increasing the workload significantly for administration and reviewing) and applicants (success rate is lower) and our aim is to mitigate this for the 2026 grant round by tightening up our focus and priorities in terms of eligible charity characteristics such as area of operation, function etc.

Transfer of the remaining grants from the 2024 grant round totaling £10,416 and the £10,000 allocated from the 2024 budget for the benefit of our focus charity Windmills (as detailed in our previous annual report) were completed within the first quarter of 2025. A total of £33,759 was available in the account at the time of awarding the 2025 grants in October 2025 and the trustees were able to select 9 successful applications ranging from £1,000 to £5,000 with a total award amount of £30,192.

A summary of grants awarded during the October 2025 grant cycle:

Organisation	Amount	Purpose of Funding
Christmas For CAMHS	£5,000	Providing Christmas gifts for young people on children and adolescent mental health wards across the UK
Dragonfly Cancer Trust	£5,000	Providing carefully curated sibling boxes to the brothers and sisters of young cancer patients that support difficult conversations, help siblings ask questions and enable families to create meaningful moments together
Endure Mentoring	£5,000	Supporting young people with lived experience of the care system, criminal justice experience and being excluded from mainstream education to design and deliver training for professionals such as social workers and youth justice staff
Mersey Cares NHS Charity	£1,242	Delivery of wellbeing box workshops for young carers aged 5-16 across Merseyside
Parenting Together	£4,000	Providing expert services and professional support for cognitively and physically impaired parents engaged in Social Care and Family Court proceedings
Ring20 Research and Support	£3,000	Core costs for providing guidance, advocacy and connection to ensure no one faces Ring20 (a rare form of epilepsy) alone
The Mitchell Foundation	£1,000	Supporting bereaved parents within specialist labour and delivery suites with a range of useful items
Tourette Scotland	£4,000	Inclusive group experiences for families living with Tourette Syndrome where they can participate freely with the support of their community
Yorkshire's Brain Tumour Charity	£4,000	Growing peer support communities in Yorkshire for people who have been impacted by a brain tumour diagnosis

Exploring the potential of engaging external donors

We continued to explore fundraising as an additional way to diversify income streams during 2025, both through direct fundraising and raising our profile as a potential route for others to support small charities.

The CIO put together a small team of runners for the Leeds Half Marathon for a second year in May 2025 and an additional £2,928.09 that was allocated to the October 2025 grant round.

Engaging potential individual external donors outside of fundraising events is an ongoing longer term approach, requiring time to build relationships organically through the trustees' existing networks.

Evaluating our impact as a small grant maker

Evaluating our impact as a small grant maker is an ongoing challenge for both the trust and the funding sector more generally. We see our role as offering timely, flexible support that helps small charities continue, strengthen or develop their work so our funding is a contribution towards what the charities achieve rather than being directly responsible. A qualitative rather than quantitative approach is therefore more appropriate.

By maintaining contact with grantee organisations, following their individual journeys and listening to their views, we continue to refine how we gather the relevant information that helps tell the story of what our support has contributed to.

Looking ahead

Development of the trust's activities throughout 2026 will focus on:

- agreeing a more defined focus for our funding priorities in an effort to reduce the number of grant applications, increase success rates for small charities and make the task of assessing applications more efficient for trustees;
- running another successful grant process in Autumn 2026 based on previous models but with minor refinements designed to improve the experience for both trustees and applicant charities;
- continuing to explore additional fundraising opportunities including the ongoing development of relationship building with individuals looking to support small charities;
- continuing to improve how we gather and share relevant information, so we can tell the stories of the charities we support during their grant period and celebrate what they have achieved, with our funding forming part of that journey;
- refining our offer of ongoing support, giving it more structure and making it more accessible for the charities we support to engage with.

We are committed to continuous reflection and improvement, ensuring the support we provide to small charities remains relevant, accessible, and aligned with our charitable objectives in the most effective and appropriate way.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of the governing document and constitution of the charity

The Gillian Stevenson Charitable Trust CIO (also known by the working name Gilly's) is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and governed by its own constitution.

The trustees have overall control and responsibility for policy and major decision making.

Methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustee, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

The charity trustees will make available a copy of the current version of the constitution and a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees' Annual Report and statement of accounts to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment.

No other person or external body is entitled to appoint one or more of the charity trustees.

Financial Review

Financial position as of 31st December 2025

Total funds in current account as of 31st December 2025 was £3,467.

The CIO is in a position to continue operating. Grants are only offered when the funds are available to do so; additionally, sources of income (donations) have already been identified for 2026 therefore the trustees have no reason to believe that there will be insufficient funds to run a grant cycle in 2026.

Policies on reserves

The trustees have agreed to maintain general reserves in the region of £5,000 to mitigate against any unforeseen expenses relating to the following risks:

1. Income risk: the CIO's annual income is likely to vary from year to year. However, the CIO has no ongoing maintenance or running costs so any variation in income will only impact on the total amount of grants awarded in future grants panel meetings.

2. Expenditure risk: the only planned expenditure by the CIO is in respect to grant-making. An approximate budget for each of the annual grants panel meetings will be set in advance of the start of the CIO's financial year based on existing and predicted income. However, these budgets will be flexible in response to actual funds available at the time of each grants panel meeting. The CIO will

not award grants for which it has insufficient current funds at any given grants panel meeting, nor will the CIO depend on anticipated but unconfirmed income to fund awarded grants. Any unplanned expenditure is likely to be in the form of fines issued for not following legislative requirements. This risk is mitigated by having relevant policies in place that are implemented and reviewed regularly by the board of trustees and by trustees fulfilling their duty to maintain a current knowledge of all legislative requirements.

3. General operating environment: the potential external risks/developments/changes that could impact the CIO's operating position, such as changes in legislation relating to the running of charitable organisations or local/national/international environmental or financial events resulting in extraordinary circumstances and need by charitable organisations. Some risks, such as legislative changes, are likely to be announced in advance and can therefore be planned for by maintaining an awareness of public communications made by the relevant bodies. Unexpected events, by their very nature, cannot be planned for therefore the CIO would wish to maintain some level of reserve funds which could be used to respond to situations of unprecedented need over and above the normal grant-making process.

4. Cost of closure: should an event or events occur which cause the trustees to decide to close the CIO, how closure would be managed and funded. As the CIO has no employees or assets to maintain, the impact of closure would be minimal. Grants are paid in full at the time of award.

Level of reserves

The actual level of reserves held as of 31st December 2025 was £3,467. This is slightly below the agreed level of £5,000 although sufficient to support the minimal ongoing administration costs and poses no risk for the future operation of the trust due to income already identified for 2026.

Statutory Statement on Liabilities

The Trustees declare that:

The charity has given no guarantees where potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement.

The charity has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO.

Statement on remuneration

No remuneration was paid to any trustee or any person connected with a trustee.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

The trustees confirm that no funds are held by the CIO as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature 

Full name **Joy Chapman**

Date **14/08/2026**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Gillian Stevenson Charitable Trust CIO	1193750

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1/1/2025	To	12/31/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Gift Aid	30,425	-	-	30,425	26,408
Gross Bank Interest	100	-	-	100	258
Gross Give As You Live donations	2,708	-	-	2,708	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	33,232	-	-	33,232	26,666
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	33,232	-	-	33,232	26,666
A3 Payments					
Grant payments (listed in annual report)	50,608	-	-	50,608	23,962
Bank charges	542	-	-	542	364
Give As You Live Fees	205	-	-	205	-
Cost of fundraising events and processing fees	-	-	-	-	216
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	51,355	-	-	51,355	24,542
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	51,355	-	-	51,355	24,542
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 18,122	-	-	- 18,122	2,124
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,589	-	-	21,589	19,465
Cash funds this year end	3,467	-	-	3,467	21,589

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	General Fund	3,467	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,467	-	-
	(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
		Joy Chapman	14/08/2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Gillian Stevenson Charitable Trust CIO (the 'CIO')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity trustees of the CIO, 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Name: John Charles Feaster
Address: C/O Church Bank House, Church Bank, Bradford, BD1 4DY
Date: 16/09/2026