Charity registration number: 1193856

Happy Hill Essex CIO

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Lambert Chapman LLP
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Silks Way
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CM7 3GB

Happy Hill Essex CIO

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Happy Hill Essex CIO

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	H L Hill K L Leggett K Alliston J A Waite D M Hart
Charity Registration Number	1193856
Principal Office	Great Notley Country Park Great Notley Braintree Essex CM77 7FS
Independent Examiner	Mark Pearson BFP FCA Lambert Chapman LLP 3 Warners Mill Silks Way Braintree Essex CM7 3GB
Bankers	Santander UK Plc Bridle Road Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB

Happy Hill Essex CIO

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The charity's purpose is to improve the lives of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) by providing safe, inclusive and meaningful opportunities that enable them to play, learn, develop independence and reach their full potential.

Happy Hill Essex CIO supports children and young people aged 0–25 years across Essex, together with their families and carers. Through the provision of short breaks, community activities, social opportunities, life-skills development and family support, the charity seeks to reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and increase access to opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable to those with complex additional needs.

Our vision is for every child and young person with SEND to have the opportunity to play, grow and feel empowered, regardless of the complexity of their needs.

The charity aims to:

- Promote the wellbeing, independence and personal development of children and young people with SEND.
- Provide high-quality, inclusive short breaks and recreational opportunities within safe and supportive environments.
- Support children and young people to develop confidence, communication, social skills and meaningful friendships.
- Encourage participation in physical, recreational, educational and community-based activities.
- Enable children and young people to develop life skills that will support them throughout childhood and into adulthood.
- Provide information, guidance and practical support to families and carers.
- Work collaboratively with families, professionals and partner organisations to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

To achieve these aims, the charity delivers a range of services including Saturday Clubs, Holiday Clubs, Youth Clubs, Stay and Play sessions, community-based activities, sibling support opportunities and specialist programmes designed to support independence and life-skills development.

The charity adopts a person-centred approach, placing the child or young person at the heart of all decision-making. Regular communication with families, carers and professionals helps ensure that support is tailored to individual needs, aspirations and outcomes. Through effective partnership working, the charity contributes to a coordinated support network that promotes positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The Trustees remain committed to ensuring that all activities further the charity's charitable objectives and deliver meaningful and lasting benefits to the children, young people and families we support.

Our Mission

TOGETHER we **EMPOWE**R children and young people to **PLAY** and **GROW**

There are four key elements to our mission:

TOGETHER: We are a community of support, information, advice and friendship.
EMPOWER: Children and young people make their own choices and develop their full potential.
PLAY: A safe space to be active, have fun, socialise and be themselves in a supportive environment.
GROW: Opportunities to try new activities, learn new skills and explore wider community settings; building their confidence, self-esteem and independence for future life experiences.

Our Values

CHILD LED
SUPPORT & CARE
PATIENT
LISTEN & LEARN
FUN & LAUGHTER

Achievements and performance
The charity continues to experience increasing demand for support, advice and guidance from families of children and young people with complex additional needs. Many families approach Happy Hill Essex CIO when they are unable to access appropriate services elsewhere or require additional support to meet their child's needs.

During the reporting period, the charity:
• Supported children and young people aged 0–18 years with complex additional needs, many of whom required high levels of supervision and personalised 1:1 support.
• Delivered 39 Saturday Club sessions, providing safe, inclusive and accessible opportunities for social interaction, recreation and community participation.
• Supported an average of 30 children and young people at each Saturday Club session, delivering approximately 1,170 attendance opportunities across the year.
• Delivered Holiday Club provision across 12 weeks of school holidays, equating to approximately 60 activity days.
• Supported an average of 15 children and young people per Holiday Club day, providing approximately 900 attendance opportunities throughout the reporting period.
• Delivered a combined total of approximately 2,070 supported play, leisure and community access opportunities during the year.
• Provided approximately 8,010 hours of direct support to children and young people with complex additional needs, enabling them to participate safely in activities that promote independence, confidence, communication and social development.
• Supported access to a wide range of community-based activities including swimming, bowling, parks, cinemas, sensory experiences, gardening projects, arts and crafts activities, animal encounters and life-skills opportunities.
• Utilised the charity's minibuses to facilitate safe transportation and enable access to community activities across Essex, reducing barriers to participation for children and young people with additional needs.
• Maintained appropriate staffing ratios to support children and young people with autism, learning disabilities, communication difficulties, sensory processing needs, epilepsy and behaviours that may challenge services.
• Continued to provide specialist support for children and young people whose needs are often considered too complex for mainstream community provision, ensuring they are not excluded from opportunities available to their peers.
• Provided families and carers with regular respite opportunities, helping to reduce family stress and improve overall wellbeing, whilst ensuring children and young people could access safe, child-centred and inclusive activities within their local community.

The Trustees believe these activities have made a significant contribution to improving the quality of life, wellbeing, social inclusion and community participation of children and young people with complex additional needs, whilst also providing vital support to their families and carers.

We are thrilled and deeply grateful for the chance to provide the community with a dedicated space that caters to the diverse needs of the wider special needs community.

Aims and key objectives for future periods

Our building continues to require further development and investment to ensure it meets the growing needs of children and young people with SEND. Planned projects include the installation of wheelchair-accessible playground equipment, a new sedum roof, additional sensory and therapeutic equipment, accessible outdoor learning spaces, sensory garden development, life-skills resources, specialist furniture, storage facilities and improvements to our community transport provision.

We are committed to making full use of our purpose-built facility and expanding the range of opportunities available to children, young people and families. Planned developments include the continued growth of our Hub-based activities, community trips and experiences, Holiday Clubs, Saturday Clubs, Stay and Play sessions, Youth Clubs, gaming and social groups, sibling support sessions and dedicated opportunities for personal assistants and families to access inclusive play spaces.

The Trustees are particularly excited about the launch of our New Horizons Day Opportunities Programme for young adults aged 18–25 years. This programme will provide structured weekday opportunities designed to develop independence, life skills, confidence and community participation, supporting young adults with SEND as they prepare for adulthood and future opportunities.

In addition, we plan to expand our after-school provision for children and young people with SEND and further develop our sibling support programme, recognising the important role siblings play within families and the need for dedicated opportunities that support their wellbeing and social connections.

These developments will enable the charity to reach more beneficiaries, increase community participation and provide a wider range of inclusive opportunities for children, young people and families across Essex.

Plans for future periods
Financial Challenges and Cost Pressures

The Trustees continue to face significant financial pressures arising from increases in the National Living Wage, rising employer costs and wider inflationary impacts across the charity sector. As a provider of specialist support for children and young people with complex additional needs, Happy Hill Essex CIO relies on maintaining appropriate staffing levels and ratios to ensure the safety and wellbeing of beneficiaries.

Over recent years, successive increases in the National Living Wage have resulted in substantial additional staffing costs. Whilst the Trustees fully support fair pay and remain committed to valuing and retaining skilled staff, these increases have placed considerable pressure on the charity's operating budget.

The charity has also experienced increased expenditure associated with the operation and maintenance of its purpose-built facility. Following the transition from hiring community halls to managing our own dedicated premises, the charity has incurred additional costs including utilities, maintenance, insurance, repairs, compliance requirements and ongoing investment in equipment and resources.

Despite these challenges, the Trustees remain committed to ensuring that children and young people with SEND continue to have access to safe, high-quality and inclusive services. The Trustees actively seek grant funding, charitable donations, fundraising opportunities and partnership working to help offset rising costs and ensure the long-term sustainability of the charity.

The Trustees recognise that demand for the charity's services continues to grow and remain focused on balancing financial sustainability with the need to provide accessible, high-quality support for children, young people and families across Essex.

What Our Members Say…

"Happy Hill has changed our lives. For the first time, we have found a place where our child is truly understood, accepted and supported. The difference it has made to our family is immeasurable."

"Knowing my child is safe, happy and having fun gives me peace of mind. The support we receive from Happy Hill allows us to recharge as a family and continue caring for our child at home."

"My son struggles to access many community activities due to the complexity of his needs, but at Happy Hill he is welcomed, included and encouraged to be himself. He counts down the days until his next session."

"The staff are incredible. They take the time to understand each child as an individual and always go above and beyond to ensure they have a positive experience."

"Happy Hill has helped my daughter build confidence and friendships. She now enjoys trying new activities and has become much more independent."

"As a parent of a child with complex needs, it can often feel isolating. Happy Hill has given us a supportive community where we feel understood and valued."

"The opportunities available through Happy Hill simply do not exist elsewhere for young people with needs as complex as my son's. We are incredibly grateful for everything the charity provides."

"My child comes home smiling every time. Seeing them happy, engaged and included means the world to us."

"The team consistently go the extra mile to make sure every child can take part. Their dedication, kindness and professionalism are exceptional."

"Happy Hill provides so much more than activities. It gives our children opportunities, confidence, friendships and a sense of belonging, whilst giving families much-needed support and respite."

OFSTED Comments …

“Children are at the heart of this unique and inspirational provision. They benefit immensely from the exceptional support they receive at this specialist setting. Staff and leaders create a warm, fun and stimulating environment that sparks children's curiosity and interest.”

"Children form fond and positive relationships with staff who, in turn, respond to their needs with great empathy and patience. Staff and leaders continuously praise children for their efforts and encourage them to persevere when challenges occur.”

Activities and events

Happy Hill Essex CIO provides a wide range of inclusive activities and opportunities for children and young people with SEND. Activities are designed to promote wellbeing, social inclusion, independence, communication, confidence and community participation within a safe and supportive environment.

Our purpose-built Hub offers access to a variety of activities and facilities, including:

- Sensory room and sensory-based activities.
- Soft play facilities.
- Arts, crafts and creative activities.
- Table tennis, pool and indoor recreational games.
- Accessible trikes and outdoor play opportunities.
- Life-skills activities including cooking, food preparation and independent living skills.
- Gardening and environmental projects.
- Community trips and outings.
- Animal experiences and nature-based activities.
- Gaming, technology and social clubs.
- Group activities that encourage communication, teamwork and friendship building.

The wide range of activities enables children and young people to make choices about how they spend their time, encouraging independence and self-expression. Activities are adapted to meet individual needs, ensuring that all participants can engage in a way that is meaningful and enjoyable for them.

Our clubs provide an essential source of support for children, young people and their families. Many of the children we support experience barriers to accessing mainstream leisure activities due to the complexity of their needs. Through our specialist provision, they are able to access opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable to them.

Participation in our activities helps children and young people to:

- Develop friendships and reduce social isolation.
- Build confidence and self-esteem.
- Improve communication and social skills.
- Develop independence and life skills.
- Access positive recreational experiences within their community.
- Increase physical activity, wellbeing and emotional resilience.

For families and carers, the clubs provide valuable respite opportunities, reassurance that their child is safe and supported, and access to a welcoming community of families with shared experiences.

The Trustees believe that these activities play a vital role in improving the quality of life, wellbeing and future opportunities of the children and young people supported by the charity.

We offer Saturday Activity Clubs:
Children over the age of 4 are offered recreational activities that are tailored to suit their individual needs, a one to one playworker is assigned to all children who require a minimum of one to one support for either complex medical or behavioural needs.

Our Saturday Clubs runs every Saturday and sessions are for 4-19 year olds. Each session is 3 hours long with the morning session from 10am-1pm and the afternoons from 1.30-4.30pm.

We offer Holiday Activity Clubs:
Children over the age of 4 are offered recreational activities that best suit their individual needs, a one to one playworker is assigned to all children who require a minimum of one to one support for either complex medical or behavioural needs.

Our Holiday Clubs run from Monday to Friday throughout the school holidays and run from 10 - 3pm.

We offer Friday Youth Club:
Young people aged 14 - 25 years decide what they want to do in these sessions, a space where they can relax, have fun, and connect with friends. Whether they want to chill, play games, or try something new.

Our Youth Club runs from 5 - 8pm, Friday, term time.

We offer Sunday Stay and Play:
Families come along for a fun-filled morning of play, quality time, and connection.

Our Sunday Stay and Play sessions for children and young people with SEND, up to 19 years old, runs from 10.30 - 12.30pm, every Sunday, term time.

There are also venue-based activities, including a dark sensory tent, arts and crafts, bouncy castle, books, toys, and soft play. We encourage all children to venture outside to explore the local parks and woodland walks.

Relationships with related parties

Working in Partnership

Happy Hill Essex CIO is proud to be a delivery partner within SEND Sensation, a collaborative partnership of local organisations commissioned by Essex County Council to deliver the Short Breaks Community Clubs and Activities Programme across Mid and North Essex.

SEND Sensation was established in 2023 following the award of the Essex County Council Short Breaks Community Clubs and Activities Contract (2023–2026). The partnership brings together specialist organisations with a shared commitment to improving opportunities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We are delighted that this contract has now been extended for a further two years, recognising the success and impact of the partnership model.

The partnership currently consists of Happy Hill Essex CIO, SEND Sensation CIC, InterAct, Mistley Kids Club and the Independence Project, working together to provide a diverse range of venue-based clubs, community activities, outreach opportunities and specialist support for children and young people with SEND across Essex.

Through this collaborative approach, families are able to access a wider range of opportunities than any one organisation could provide independently. Services support children and young people with autism, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, communication needs and complex additional needs, including those who require higher levels of supervision and support.

The SEND Sensation model combines professional expertise with lived experience and is underpinned by the principles of co-production, collaboration and continuous improvement. By working together, partners are able to share knowledge, resources and specialist skills, helping to create more inclusive opportunities and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

In addition to our work within SEND Sensation, Happy Hill Essex CIO continues to work closely with professionals across health, education and social care, including schools, therapists, social workers, family support teams and voluntary sector organisations. These partnerships help ensure that families receive joined-up support and are able to access the services, information and opportunities they need.

Whilst many of our beneficiaries access services through the Essex County Council Short Breaks Programme, Happy Hill Essex CIO remains committed to supporting families beyond commissioned provision. Families who do not meet the eligibility criteria for Short Breaks funding are still able to access many of the charity's services, ensuring that support remains available to as many children, young people and families as possible.

The Trustees believe that partnership working remains fundamental to achieving the charity's objectives and will continue to play a key role in expanding opportunities, reducing inequalities and improving the lives of children and young people with SEND throughout Essex.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the charity's activities are carried out exclusively for the public benefit in furtherance of its charitable objectives. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Happy Hill Essex CIO exists to improve the lives of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and to support their families and carers. Through the provision of inclusive clubs, activities, community opportunities, short breaks, information, advice and practical support, the charity helps reduce social isolation, improve wellbeing, promote independence and increase participation within the local community.

All of the charity's services are designed around the individual needs, aspirations and outcomes of the children and young people we support. We place the child or young person at the centre of decision-making and work closely with families, carers and professionals to ensure that support is meaningful, accessible and responsive to need.

The Trustees believe that the charity provides significant public benefit by enabling children and young people with SEND to access opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable to them, whilst also providing valuable respite, support and improved quality of life for families and carers. The charity's work contributes to greater inclusion, equality of opportunity and community participation for some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Use of volunteers

The Charity has used the services of 96 volunteers during the period - the Trustees are extremely grateful for the assistance provided by the volunteers who make a big difference to the Charity.

Financial review

Policy on reserves

At the Balance Sheet date, the Charity has £212,066 of available reserves (total reserves, less restricted and designated funds and fixed assets).

Note that the financial statements include grant income from the Postcode Lottery amounting to £50,000 which has been recognised in full as a result of meeting the criteria for revenue recognition. We only received £16,667 of this amount in the year with the remainder being recognised as accrued income in the Balance Sheet.

The Trustees aim to hold funds amounting to six months' of expenditure to ensure that it can continue to operate should there be an unexpected reduction in income levels.

The Trustees continue to monitor the Charity's available reserves to ensure that the amount held is reasonable and will allow them to operate effectively for the benefit of those attending the sessions.

Principal funding sources

We have an on-going programme of fundraising to help meet the funding requirements of the charity. This includes applications to grant making trusts, businesses (and in kind), as well as individual donations and fundraising events to generate unrestricted income for the charity.

The Charity has received funds from several sources in the period, including grants and session fees. The Charity aims to seek grant funding to help cover the running costs of the sessions and trips that it arranges, specifically looking at support for key workers and on-going projects/repairs to our new building.

We are also part of a Consortium of 6 partner charities delivering Short Breaks Community Clubs and Activities in Mid Essex, this is a contract awarded by Essex County Council.

We are extremely grateful to all of our funders, and in particularly the fundraisers who have been generous in raising funds on our behalf. We also want to thank the businesses and individuals who have supported us through this year.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	H L Hill
	K L Leggett
	A J Denny (resigned 19 November 2025)
	K Alliston
	J A Waite
	D M Hart (appointed 14 August 2025)

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was registered with a Foundation Model constitution on 18 March 2021.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The first Charity Trustees were appointed for the following terms:

- 4 years - H Hill and K Alliston
- 3 years - A Denny and J Waite
- 2 years - K Leggett

The recruitment and appointment of any further trustees is considered as the need arises. Following the constitution, 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 Trustees, the Charity Trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Induction and training of trustees

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

Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration

Upon formally registering with the Charity Commission, it was agreed within the constitution that both H L Hill and K Alliston would be able to be remunerated through the Charity.

- H L Hill is paid a salary for her involvement in operational management and running the sessions.

- K Alliston is paid a salary for her involvement in financial and operational management.

H L Hill and K Alliston, together with the Operations Manager, are deemed to be Key Management Personnel and disclosed as such within these financial statements.

The level of remuneration is set by the Board of Trustees, but the individuals concerned are not included in these discussions nor the decision-making process.

Operational Management

The Trustees work closely with the Operational Manager in the charity’s management, including safeguarding, and risk management, policies, our aims, vision, missions and organisational values, good practice and governance.

Trustees meet at least 8 times per annum to discuss general charity issues with additional meetings held to discuss more in-depth matters e.g., strategic plans, risk and finance.

The Operational Manager, who reports to the Trustees, is responsible for the day to day operations of the charity.

We have a rolling programme to regularly review policies and procedures. During the year, Trustees have reviewed policies on business continuity, confidentiality, internet and email, investment, safeguarding, supervision and support, and whistleblowing.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Organisational structure

The Charity is managed by the Charity trustees who meet on a quarterly basis to discuss the Charity's activities and ensure that it continues to fulfil its objects.

The Charity Trustees are mindful of the fact that the Board of Trustees needs to include individuals covering a range of skills and is continually looking to enhance its skill set by looking to appoint additional Trustees where possible.

Major risks and management of those risks

Safeguarding and child/adult safety
The main priority of the Charity is to ensure that the children and young adults feel safe and are well looked after whilst in the care of the team.

All staff and volunteers are:

- DBS checked and trained in safeguarding for children and adults;
- First aid trained, specifically in paediatrics, emergency first aid, epilepsy and anaphylactic shock;
- Trained in 'Working with SEND' and 'Working with Parents'.

Financial stability
The Trustees need to ensure that the charity is financially stable and has sufficient resources to allow it to continue to operate effectively without any interruption to its activities and operations.

The Trustees are aware that they need to consider and assess the wages that are paid to their key workers that they employ and ensure that these remain competitive. The Trustees feel that it may not be possible to increase sessions fees significantly to cover an increase in wage costs.

The Trustees regularly review the Charity's financial position and consider the amount of fees earned from the sessions undertaken.

The Trustees are also mindful of the need for additional funding to assist in meeting the costs incurred and they regularly apply for grants and donations to contribute income other than that earned by the sessions held.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 20 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
H L Hill
Trustee

.....
K Alliston
Trustee

Happy Hill Essex CIO

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities 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 of the charity for that period. 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;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 20 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
H L Hill
Trustee

.....
K Alliston
Trustee

Happy Hill Essex CIO

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Happy Hill Essex CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Happy Hill Essex CIO for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Happy Hill Essex 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 Happy Hill Essex CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 Happy Hill Essex CIO'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 Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

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 in respect of Happy Hill Essex CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

.....
Mark Pearson BFP FCA
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

3 Warners Mill
Silks Way
Braintree
Essex
CM7 3GB

24 September 2026

Happy Hill Essex CIO

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	77,250	53,533	130,783	78,170
Charitable activities	3	215,939	-	215,939	197,312
Other trading activities	4	20,527	-	20,527	10,896
Investment income	5	850	-	850	105
Other income	6	10,500	-	10,500	5,000
Total income		325,066	53,533	378,599	291,483
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	(224,293)	(40,536)	(264,829)	(217,587)
Other expenditure	8	(6,532)	-	(6,532)	(7,799)
Total expenditure		(230,825)	(40,536)	(271,361)	(225,386)
Net income		94,241	12,997	107,238	66,097
Net movement in funds		94,241	12,997	107,238	66,097
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		198,017	29,639	227,656	161,559
Total funds carried forward	20	292,258	42,636	334,894	227,656

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2025 is shown in note 20.

Happy Hill Essex CIO

(Registration number: 1193856)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	20,091	22,106
Current assets			
Debtors	16	58,501	11,142
Cash at bank and in hand	17	264,478	200,763
		322,979	211,905
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(8,176)	(6,355)
Net current assets		314,803	205,550
Net assets		334,894	227,656
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	20	42,636	29,639
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		292,258	198,017
Total funds	20	334,894	227,656

The financial statements on pages 16 to 30 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on

20 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
H L Hill
Trustee

.....
K Alliston
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

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

Basis of preparation
Happy Hill Essex CIO 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 notes to these accounts.

The accounts are presented in GBP.

Going concern
The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Judgements
Apart from those judgements involving estimations, the management team have not made any judgements in the process of applying the entity’s accounting policies that have significant effect on the amounts recognised in the accounts.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty
There are no key assumptions concerning the future or other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the Charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Donated services and facilities

Where services or facilities are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this benefit is included in the financial statements at it's fair value unless it's fair value cannot be reliably measured, then at the cost to the donor or the resale value of goods that are to be sold.

Other trading activities

Income from fundraising is recognised once receivable.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Charitable activities

Income from charitable activities includes:

- fees paid by parents and guardians of children and young adults attending sessions;
- contractual payments for services provided.

This income is recognised once the appropriate recognition criteria has been met.

Other income

Other income refers to employment allowance recognised in the period it relates to.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Other expenditure

Other expenditure refers to depreciation charges for tangible assets in the year.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the Charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including the preparation and independent examination of the statutory accounts, payroll costs and other legal and professional fees.

Taxation

The Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £100 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer and office equipment	33% straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance basis
Equipment	25% reducing balance basis

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers in respect of session fees.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those which have been provided to the Charity for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the Charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants	60,000	53,533	113,533	60,920
Donated services and facilities	17,250	-	17,250	17,250
	77,250	53,533	130,783	78,170

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Session Fees	106,967	-	106,967	84,072
Contractual income from government or public authorities	108,972	-	108,972	113,240
	215,939	-	215,939	197,312

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total 2025 £
Events income;				
Other events income	20,527	-	20,527	10,896
	20,527	-	20,527	10,896

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	850	-	850	105

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Employment allowance	10,500	-	10,500	5,000

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Cost of activities		4,477	3,465	7,942	5,389
Hire of minibus store		2,044	-	2,044	1,465
Rent of premises		17,263	-	17,263	22,482
Hall hire (inc. light, heat and power)		764	-	764	999
Insurance		2,213	-	2,213	2,118
Sundry expenses		7,902	-	7,902	5,036
Motor expenses		3,393	-	3,393	3,228
Motor insurance		2,405	-	2,405	1,778
Wages and salaries		144,584	37,071	181,655	147,757
Social security costs		11,536	-	11,536	5,630
Pension costs		1,443	-	1,443	1,086
Repairs and maintenance		12,719	-	12,719	10,645
Telephone and fax		932	-	932	718
Computer software and maintenance costs		255	-	255	501
Printing, postage and stationery		946	-	946	384
Trade subscriptions		847	-	847	268
Advertising and marketing		2,192	-	2,192	2,440
Bank charges		159	-	159	185
Bank interest payable		62	-	62	-
Staff training		1,365	-	1,365	135
Governance costs	9	6,792	-	6,792	5,343
		224,293	40,536	264,829	217,587

8 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Depreciation charges	6,532	-	6,532	7,799
	6,532	-	6,532	7,799

9 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Independent examiner fees				
Examination of the financial statements	777	-	777	861
Accountancy fees	2,762	-	2,762	2,595
Other services	427	-	427	987
Payroll services	2,376	-	2,376	900
Legal and professional fees	450	-	450	-
	6,792	-	6,792	5,343

10 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	6,532	7,799

11 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the Charity made the following transactions with Trustees:

H L Hill
H L Hill received remuneration of £27,471 (2025: £23,347) during the year.

Payment for management of sessions.

Remuneration agreed with Charity Commission upon registering the Charity.

K Alliston
K Alliston received remuneration of £26,101 (2025: £17,300) during the year.

Remuneration paid for work carried out on financial and operational management.

Remuneration agreed with Charity Commission upon registering the Charity.

No Trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the Charity during the year.

12 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	181,655	147,757
Social security costs	11,536	5,630
Pension costs	1,443	1,086
	194,634	154,473

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2026 No	2025 No
Trustee and Session Manager	1	1
Operations Manager	2	1
Play Workers	24	22
	27	24

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity, including commission payments, were £88,047 (2025 - £67,531).

13 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2026 £	2025 £
Examination of the financial statements	777	861
Other fees to examiners		
All other services	3,189	3,582
Independent Examiner’s remuneration	3,966	4,443

14 Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation, any surplus is retained to help with the achievement of its charitable purposes.

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Computer and office equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2025	-	47,344	2,078	49,422
Additions	1,930	-	2,587	4,517
At 31 March 2026	1,930	47,344	4,665	53,939
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2025	-	25,701	1,615	27,316
Charge for the year	-	5,411	1,121	6,532
At 31 March 2026	-	31,112	2,736	33,848
Net book value				
At 31 March 2026	1,930	16,232	1,929	20,091
At 31 March 2025	-	21,643	463	22,106

16 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	20,445	8,838
Prepayments	2,456	2,254
Accrued income	33,333	-
Other debtors	2,267	50
	58,501	11,142

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2026	2025
	£	£
Cash at bank	264,478	200,763

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	2,351	3,236
Other creditors	296	22
Accruals	5,529	3,097
	8,176	6,355

19 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the Charity to the scheme and amounted to £1,443 (2025 - £1,086).

20 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2026 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
Unrestricted Funds	198,017	325,066	(230,825)	(60,100)	232,158
Designated					
Contingency Fund	-	-	-	60,100	60,100
Total unrestricted funds	198,017	325,066	(230,825)	-	292,258
Restricted funds					
Essex Community Foundation	833	-	(833)	-	-
Comic Relief	1,094	-	(1,094)	-	-
Braintree District Council Grants	2,202	-	(2,202)	-	-
National Lottery Awards	17,686	-	(9,227)	-	8,459
Essex Community Foundation	5,949	-	(5,949)	-	-
Charles French Charitable Trust	1,250	-	(1,250)	-	-
Tudwick Foundation	625	-	(625)	-	-
Happy Days	-	1,263	(1,263)	-	-
Bailey Thomas Charitable Foundation	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
BBC Children in Need	-	14,713	(11,035)	-	3,678
Fowler Smith and Jones Trust	-	2,000	(1,167)	-	833
Groundwork IK Tesco	-	500	-	-	500
Essex Community Foundation	-	8,923	(2,974)	-	5,949
Charles S French Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(1,250)	-	3,750
McAlpine Foundation	-	5,000	(1,250)	-	3,750
Frank Litchfield Trust	-	2,500	(417)	-	2,083
True Colours	-	8,634	-	-	8,634
Total restricted funds	29,639	53,533	(40,536)	-	42,636
Total funds	227,656	378,599	(271,361)	-	334,894

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
General				
Unrestricted Funds	148,748	238,152	(188,883)	198,017
Restricted				
Nineveh Trust	292	-	(292)	-
Essex Community Foundation	-	10,000	(9,167)	833
Tula Trust	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Eastlight	-	875	(875)	-
National Lottery	8,143	-	(8,143)	-
Comic Relief	4,376	4,376	(7,658)	1,094
Braintree District Council Grants	-	2,202	-	2,202
National Lottery Awards	-	18,455	(769)	17,686
Essex Community Foundation	-	8,923	(2,974)	5,949
Charles French Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(3,750)	1,250
Tudwick Foundation	-	1,500	(875)	625
Total restricted funds	12,811	53,331	(36,503)	29,639
Total funds	161,559	291,483	(225,386)	227,656

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Happy Days - grants were awarded to help contribute to trips and activities.

Bailey Thomas Charitable Foundation - grants were awarded to help contribute to trips and activities.

BBC Children in Need - grants were awarded to contribute to key workers' salaries and administration funding.

Fowler Smith and Jones Trust - grants were awarded to help contribute to staffing costs.

Groundwork IK Tesco - grants were awarded to help contribute to trips and activities.

Essex Community Foundation - grants were given to contribute to the Operations Manager's and key workers' salaries.

Charles French Charitable Trust - grants were awarded to contribute to key workers' salaries and Speech and Language.

McAlpine Foundation - grants were awarded to help contribute to Speech and Language.

Frank Litchfield Trust - grants were awarded to contribute to key workers' salaries.

True Colours - grants were awarded to contribute to a sensory projector (purchased in May 2026).

Comic Relief (2025 grant) - a grant was received to be spent on key workers' salaries.

Braintree District Council Grants (2025 grant) - grants were received to buy sheds and astroturf.

National Lottery Awards (2025 grants) - grants were awarded to be used on key workers' salaries. This grant has been awarded to cover a two year period, however, as the money was received in late February 2025, only one month of expenditure has been allocated against this fund during the previous year.

Tudwick Foundation (2025 grants) - grants were awarded to contribute to key workers' salaries.

Nineveh Trust (2025 grant) - a grant was received to be spent on key workers' salaries.

Tula Trust (2025 grant) - grants were received to be used on key workers' salaries.

Eastlight (2025 grant) - grants were received to be used on key workers' salaries.

National Lottery (2025 grant) - a grant was received to be spent on trips and activities.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2026
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	20,091	-	-	20,091
Current assets	203,576	60,100	59,303	322,979
Current liabilities	(8,176)	-	-	(8,176)
Total net assets	215,491	60,100	59,303	334,894

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	22,106	-	-	22,106
Current assets	182,266	-	29,639	211,905
Current liabilities	(6,355)	-	-	(6,355)
Total net assets	198,017	-	29,639	227,656

22 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

H Hill

As outlined further in the Trustees' Report, the Charity was involved in setting up a consortium, SEND Sensation CIC, with a number of other similar organisations in order to seek funding from Essex County Council.

Mrs H Hill represent Happy Hill Essex CIO on the board of directors of the CIC.

Happy Hill Essex CIO has received £108,972 (2025: £113,240) of funding during the year.