The Littlest Lives Rescue

# Report of the Trustees

For the period ending 31 January 2026

The trustees present their report along with financial statements of the charity for the period ending 31 January 2026.

The charity has been running since January 2020 and was registered as a CIO in October 2021.

## Reference and administration details

### Registered charity number

1196322 (England and Wales)

### Registered address

35 Tarragon Place, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 8TP

### Board of trustees

Miss Joanne Bray - Chairman

Miss Charlotte McDonald - Secretary (joined 11 September 2025)

Mrs Melissa Lee - Treasurer

Miss Jacelyn Hawkey

## Structure, governance and management

### Governing document

Constitution

### Charity constitution

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

### Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Appointed by existing trustees at trustees' meetings

### Organisational structure

The charity is managed by 4 trustees. All volunteers report directly to the trustees. The charity works hard to connect with other rabbit rescues across the country thus enabling a greater number of rabbits in need to be helped.

### Induction and training of new trustees

During the year the trustees endeavour to keep up to date with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, new trustees are required to read the guidance given by the Charity Commission relating to trustee duties and responsibilities.

# Objectives and activities

## Objectives and aims

The purpose of our charity is to relieve the suffering of animals in need of care and attention, in particular rabbits, and to provide and maintain rescue homes or other facilities for the reception, care and treatment of such animals, medical treatment, including vaccinations and neutering where appropriate and to educate the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare in general and the prevention of cruelty and suffering among animals.

## Our activities

We support our community by taking in, free of charge, mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away.

Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, are vaccinated and neutered as part of our on-going programme and are then assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the spread of disease and population growth.

We offer free animal care advice and education by giving appropriate information to adopters and responding to enquiries from the public. The public benefits through the promotion of responsible pet ownership.

We offer a range of volunteering opportunities for people who want to support our work, including becoming a trustee, fostering, rescue volunteers and fundraising. These opportunities benefit local people and businesses by giving them the chance to get involved in meaningful, compassionate and rewarding work.

Some of our volunteer placements also support South Gloucestershire Council's Preparing for Adulthood Team and Step Together. These placements give young people, including those with learning difficulties or who are neurodivergent, the opportunity to gain valuable work experience, build confidence and develop new skills.

## Public benefit

The direct benefits that flow from our objects, are to support our community by taking in, free of charge, mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away. To promote humane behaviour towards animals by offering free animal care, and to provide advice and education by giving appropriate information to adopters and responding to general enquiries. Also providing volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, benefiting the local community and companies by completing work which is compassionate and rewarding.

These benefits are evidenced through the increasing numbers of animals that need rescuing and the number of people who are using our service.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

## Review of year – achievements and performance

We've had an extremely busy year and have managed to achieve even more even though the management team are stretched.

Now settled at our new centre, we have managed to expand and add another 2 aviaries in November. This has now filled the remaining space. We also have new volunteers in place, to help every day with cleaning, feeding and looking after the welfare of the rabbits in our care. We were hoping to use some of the units for boarding but the demand for our service has increased year on year and so the aviaries have all been used to house rabbits that been surrendered.

We have continued to take on Duke of Edinburgh students at the weekend, expanding to help young people who have special needs to complete the volunteering part of their certificate.

Our volunteer team has expanded and we now have a faithful fundraising team who attend many events throughout the year, which has helped boost the fundraising income.

Every year we see a huge increase in rabbits that needed rehoming but because we only have a limited number of spaces, our intake has remained steady. Our veterinary costs have significantly increased compared to the previous year because unfortunately quite a few of the rabbits surrendered have been found to have health issues and also veterinary fees have increased.

Day to day costs for the main rescue centre and our group of permanent residents remain minimal because of the hard work from our exceptional team of volunteers, who help at the rescue on a daily basis and from all the food and supplies that are donated from our dedicated supporters.

Our regular supporters have remained faithful to us and we have managed to keep our donation income steady.

### Financial review

This year the net funds raised from the public to fund the rescue came to £54,000. Most of the funds have come in via donations, adoption fees, fundraising and grants. For the third year in a row, adoption fees have dipped due to a decrease in rabbits being adopted.

The cash held at the end of the year is £17,771.

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 January 2026.

### Charitable activities

Each year, we continue to see an increase in the number of surrender requests, and this year has been no exception. With over 300 requests received, it is simply impossible for us to assist everyone, as we do not have the capacity or space to accommodate them all.

This rise is due to several factors, the most significant being individuals moving home and unable to take their pets with them. This has not only affected the number of foster families we require but has also impacted the number of adoption enquiries.

Another major reason for surrender is the inability to meet rabbits' welfare needs; whether due to lack of time, financial constraints, or unsuitable living arrangements. As a result, our surrender list is, regrettably, longer than ever before.

Despite these challenges, we successfully rehomed 45 rabbits during the last financial year. Unfortunately, the number of our permanent residents has declined again due to age and health issues, and now stands at five. We also have several rabbits in permanent foster care, some receiving palliative care due to the poor condition in which they arrived. Many of these cases involve respiratory illnesses or cancer.

All our rabbits are neutered, vaccinated, and receive any necessary veterinary treatment. We are proud to maintain strong partnerships with Highcroft Veterinary Hospital, Vets4Pets Emersons Green, and Watkins and Tasker Vets in Portishead.

At The Littlest Lives Rescue, we never discriminate based on breed, age, or medical condition. If a rabbit cannot be rehomed for any reason, we ensure they are cared for either at our rescue centre, within permanent foster homes or we now have a good relationship with a sanctuary in Wales who are able to take our respiratory rabbits. Importantly, no adoptable rabbit is ever euthanised due to lack of space or time.

We currently have no plans to add to our group of permanent residents, as they are all elderly and require significant ongoing care.

Our rescue is managed daily by four dedicated trustees who work tirelessly to ensure that all operations run smoothly, efficiently, and safely.

Once again, our team of volunteers has gone above and beyond this year. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment, hard work, and unwavering support. Every person involved plays a vital role in the success and growth of The Littlest Lives Rescue and we could not have achieved all that we have without their dedication.

## Activities for generating funds

Local events have been very successful for raising money, gaining new supporters and raising awareness.

As in previous years online events, such as raffles and auctions have been repeated as they have remained popular with our dedicated followers.

Our bonding service has helped in rehoming the rabbits in our care much quicker than before. Now with 3 fully trained volunteers on the team it has made the adoption process much more streamlined and has increased funds at the same time.

We have focused some of our efforts on corporate relationships and grants this year and were able to work with a team at Fraser Nash (who offered their time for free) to help us implement new systems. This will help to simplify the process and track all the data, which we will develop further in 2026.

We also have a small amount of merchandise for sale, a yearly tea towel that is created by our followers and a calendar which boosts our income around Christmas.

## Plans for future periods

After discussion our plans for future periods include concentrating on different revenue schemes, grant funding and connectivity with our donors. Some thoughts are to:

- Create a new monthly fundraising scheme, which will provide continuous funding for our permanent residents. This would include a sponsorship pack with a leaflet of who the permanent residents are, what their money will be used for, a thank you card/letter and promotional items (car sticker)
- Increase donors from the corporate sector. The majority of our fundraising at present is from individuals.
- Concentrate on applying for grant funding, so we can keep the rescue running.

## Reserves policy

The charity aims to retain reserves to cover at least one month's running for the rescue centre, as donations are heavily relied upon in order to fund the ongoing expenditure. As it stands at the year end, free reserves of £17,771 were held, which is 4x the monthly expenditure. This is in excess of the reserve policy minimum.

Currently there are insufficient reserves with the Charity to be able to sustain a further 12 months of activity without reliance on further donations.

## Investment policy and objectives

The Charity does not hold long term investments as its purpose is to use the annual donations and income received for the ongoing charitable activities.

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

**Signature:** 

**Full name:** Joanne Bray **Position:** Chairperson **Date:** 16-10-2026

**Independent Examiners Report**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Littlest Lives Rescue**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Littlest Lives Rescue for the year ended 31 January 2026.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements 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**

I have completed my examination. I can 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Vicky Newham
CPAA
Solutions Accountancy & Bookkeeping Ltd
Independence House
Holly Bank Road, Edgerton
Huddersfield

HD3 3HN
16 October 2026

# Charitable Accounts

**For period ending 31 January 2026**

## Section A - Receipts & Payments

| A1 RECEIPTS | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2026 | Total 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Donations | 20,446 | | **20,446** | 12,330 |
| Adoption Fees | 3,455 | | **3,455** | 4,400 |
| Fundraising Initiatives | 16,358 | | **16,358** | 15,275 |
| Sales | 1,116 | | **1,116** | 1,597 |
| Bonding and boarding | 5,974 | | **5,974** | 2,541 |
| Grants | - | 2,500 | **2,500** | 18,285 |
| Gift Aid | 4,151 | - | **4,151** | - |
| **TOTAL RECEIPTS** | 51,500 | 2,500 | **54,000** | 54,428 |

| A3 PAYMENTS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Veterinary Costs | 39,448 | 5,140 | **44,588** | 35,063 |
| Rescue Set up Costs | - | - | **-** | 641 |
| Cost of Sales | 309 | - | **309** | 597 |
| Waste Removal | 571 | - | **571** | 230 |
| Marketing & IT | 984 | - | **984** | 1,131 |
| Food and Animal Supplies | 1,660 | - | **1,660** | 1,737 |
| Professional Fees | - | - | **-** | 420 |
| Plant Maintenance | 1,376 | - | **1,376** | 852 |
| Insurance | 643 | - | **643** | 953 |
| Adoption Costs | 237 | - | **237** | - |
| Direct Costs | 457 | - | **457** | 356 |
| Payment Fees | 540 | - | **540** | 423 |
| Professional Partnerships | - | - | **-** | 161 |
| Subscriptions | 101 | - | **101** | 99 |
| Fundraising Costs | 583 | - | **583** | 247 |
| Training and Entertainment | 270 | - | **270** | - |
| Storage | 1,310 | - | **1,310** | 1,074 |
| **SUBTOTAL A3 PAYMENTS** | 48,489 | 5,140 | **53,629** | 43,984 |

| A4 ASSET AND INVESTMENT PURCHASES | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Enclosures | - | | | 2,945 |
| **SUBTOTAL A4 PAYMENTS** | - | | | 2,945 |
| **TOTAL PAYMENTS** | **48,489** | **5,140** | **53,629** | 46,929 |
| **NET INCREASE FOR YEAR** | **3,011** | **-2,640** | **371** | 7,499 |

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

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2026 | Total 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cash held in bank** | 17,771 | | 17,771 | 17,400 |

| Assets retained for the charity's own use | Current Value |
|---|---|
| Plant & Machinery | 4,070 |
| Computers | 121 |
| Marketing Equipment | 154 |

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

**Signature:** 

**Full name:** Joanne Bray

**Position:** Chairperson

**Date:** 16-10-2026