

Esme's Umbrella

Report and Unaudited Accounts

For the period ended

31 December 2025

Registered with the Charity Commission as Esme's Umbrella
Charity No. 1197087

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

The Trustees who are also the only members of the charity, being a Charitable Incorporated Organisation present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2025.

Registered office

26 Western Gardens, LONDON, W5 3RU

Board of Trustees

Professor Dominic Hannes ffytche
Professor Mariya Fakhrudin Fidahusen Moosajee
Helen Khan
Judith Anne Potts

Bankers

Lloyds Bank**, OLDHAM BRANCH (309626) 16 Market Place, Oldham OL1 1JG**

Co Operative Bank Plc**, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6NY**

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT
AIMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Structure

Esme's Umbrella is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registration number 1197087. The constitution was created using the Charity Commission's 'Foundation model' designed for CIOs of this nature.

The charitable objects of Esme's Umbrella are:

To preserve and protect good health for the public benefit of all ages in the UK, whose loss of sight has led to the development of Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS) by

a) Raising awareness of CBS to healthcare professionals and the wider community
b) Creating support for the care and welfare of anyone who develops CBS and their families/caregivers
c) Sourcing and raising funding for CBS research and to publish all useful results arising from the research.

The board may comprise up to twelve Trustees (who are also the only members of the Charity in accordance with the constitution). They have legal responsibility for the effective use of resources, in accordance with the constitution, and for providing effective leadership and direction.

Trustees have been appointed to the Board in accordance with the trustees' selection policy. A skills audit is conducted periodically to ensure that the Board has the required range of skills to carry out its responsibilities.

All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Founder and, in accordance with the Charity's constitution, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Each new trustee is given an appropriate induction programme and training relevant to his/her responsibility.

The Board met two times during this year and controls the Charity but delegates responsibility for the day to day management of the charity to the Founder.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
c) State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
d) Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

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 the Trustees to ascertain the financial position of the Charity and ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation. They 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.

Management

The Trustees are mindful of the guidance provided by, and requirements of, the Charity Commission and HMRC, and in particular the Commission's guidance "The Essential Trustee: what you need to know (CC3)" and Nolan's seven principles of public life. They believe that where such guidance is not mandatory for the Charity, it should, as a public interest body, adopt these guidelines as best practice.

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Esme's Umbrella's principal aim is to raise awareness of Charles Bonnet Syndrome; to create support for people who develop the condition; and to source funding for research.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. Our services are open to all blind and partially sighted people regardless of their age, socio economic group, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marital or civil partnership status, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation.

We fulfil our purpose by

- Sharing knowledge, information and thought leadership based on lived experience of sight loss
- Creating connections – people, organisations and opportunities
- Encouraging participation and leadership by blind and partially sighted people
- Supporting VI communities and community infrastructure
- Innovating and piloting new approaches
- Influencing change which benefits all
- Starting a new conversation about what it means to live with Charles Bonnet Syndrome in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Our vision is to ensure everyone who lives with Charles Bonnet Syndrome is informed and supported; and research is encouraged.

Activities and financial performance for the period ending 31 December 2025

Financial Performance

The charity generated a deficit of £343 (2024: surplus £9,013) in the financial year ending 31 Dec 2025 with income of £11,611 (2024: £19,086) and expenditure of £11,954 (2024: £10,073). Reserves are £30,074 (2024: £30,417) of which £30,074 (2024: £21,183) are unrestricted and £0 (2024: £9,234) are restricted.

Activity highlights

Raising awareness of Charles Bonnet Syndrome

The main event of 2025 was the Awareness Day to mark Charles Bonnet Syndrome Day. This was hosted by Shockat Adam MP, held at The House of Commons. This attracted numerous Members of Parliament who signed a letter to the Government asking for a Diagnostic Pathway for Charles Bonnet Syndrome to be embedded in the NHS. Also present were representatives from all the charities in the sight loss sector, CBS researchers, ophthalmologists and psychologists. The feedback was very positive and, with extra encouragement, Esme's Umbrella will lead the campaign to implement this vitally needed Pathway.

Judith Potts continues to train the Nurses at the University of Manchester. The course for ophthalmic nursing is led by Dr Penelope Standford.

Judith Potts led her training course – 'Out of Sight but Not Out Of Mind' – for more organisations than ever before. These included Blind Veterans, Guide Dogs, Suffolk Sight, Spa Medica, Sight Concern Worcestershire, Sensory Services Chelmsford, Thurrock Council Social Workers, Newcastle Sight Matters, Devon Insight, Essex Sensory Services, The Deaf/Blind charity, Anchor Retirement Homes, Churchfield Care Homes, My Sight York, Cambridge Rehabilitation Officers.

Judith Potts led Webinars and in-person Presentations for organisations in the UK and abroad. These included the UKISOP Conference, The ECLO Conference in Birmingham, The UKOA Conference, The Lived Experience Academy (Professor Charles Fernyhough – University of Northumbria), St Thomas' Hospital's Low Vision Day, The Low Vision Centre of Learning in South Africa – which had online attendees – doctors, nurses, social workers, ophthalmologists, optometrists etc. from all round the world.

Esme's Umbrella contributed to the RNIB's Eye Care Support Pathway. Now we need a sub-pathway so that people can be referred to Esme's Umbrella until the NHS creates specialist services.

Josef Stringfellow – a Finals Year student at Bristol West of England University – created a video as his project. He chose CBS and gained a First Class Degree. Esme's Umbrella gave him information and checked his work was factually correct. This video is now available on social media.

Judith Potts has appeared several times on RNIB Connect Radio, explaining CBS and the work of Esme's Umbrella.
Judith Potts worked with the RNIB on a video for Care Home Staff, explaining CBS and suggesting ways to support those who develop the condition.
Esme's Umbrella joined The Carents Room and will have a joint collaboration to raise awareness of CBS.
Dr Zi Jin, working in collaboration with Professor Dominic ffytche, is creating a Q and A for Esme's Umbrella's CBS Champions, to ensure they are all up to date with information.
A special FlowChart was created by Professor Mariya Moosajee and Dr Lee Jones. This has been distributed to all eye clinics.

Essay Prize

Esme's Umbrella ran another successful Essay Prize. The prize money of £500 was donated by Mrs Christine Legge. Rather too many essays used AI, so next year we will make the work involved more difficult and ask for a personal video. We are grateful to Dr Alex Collins for setting up the prize each year.

Children and Young People

Judith Potts and Nina Chesworth have continued to highlight CBS to other paediatric charities and in every webinar or presentation. The specially written booklets for children and their caregivers/parents/guardians/teachers plus the films 'Em' and 'Aspectum', have been very positively received.
Judith Potts led several Webinars about CBS in children and young people. These were hosted by Visionary, the Guide Dogs' led CYP VI Network and Angel Eyes NI.
Nina Chesworth has worked with QTVIs about the importance of understanding CBS in children.
Nina Chesworth is looking at using music therapy and breathing techniques to assuage vivid, silent, visual hallucinations.
Nina Chesworth attended Moorfields' Grand Rounds and spoke about CBS to the assembled healthcare professionals.
Esme's Umbrella contributed to the Paediatric Eye Care Pathway devised by Guide Dogs. Now we need a sub-pathway so that parents/caregivers/guardians/teachers can refer children to the appropriate healthcare professional. The NHS needs urgently to put in place a diagnostic pathway and create CBS clinics.

Judith Potts is contributing a chapter to a book about CBS being compiled by Professor Robin Walker.
We are still waiting for the Department of Health to issue the new CVI form, on which there are two references to Charles Bonnet Syndrome – for the first time.

Support for people who develop CBS

+ Esme's Friends' groups are growing in number.
+ Esme's Umbrella now has a Membership who receive a Newsletter three times a year and can volunteer for research projects.
+ Esme's Umbrella now has a group of CBS Champions. These are healthcare professionals or sight loss charity/sensory services rehabilitation officers, who will talk to people who find living with CBS difficult.
+ The website is constantly updated, as is the Managing CBS Information pack, which is sent out to everyone who contacts Esme's Umbrella
+ Judith Potts continues to speak to an average of 10 people a week who contact Esme's Umbrella or who are referred by the charities in the sight loss sector. These include RNIB, Guide Dogs, Blind Veterans, Macular Society, Glaucoma UK, Retina UK, The Brain Charity, Deaf/Bline Charity. Others who refer patients are Sensory/Social Services, Rehabilitation Officers, charity workers, nurses, ECLOS.
+ She answers innumerable emails, replying to people who need information and support.
+ A new appearance has been made by Social Prescribers. This group of people are beginning to refer their patients to Esme's Umbrella.

Research
Esme's Umbrella inspires research but does not have the funds to pay for the work. Professor Mariya Moosajee and Dr Lee Jones have begun a Paediatric Study and are conducting a Blood Test Study.

All the CBS research was carried in one special edition of Therapeutic Advances in Ophthalmology.

Judith Potts was given a Times Sternberg Award for her work raising awareness of Charles Bonnet Syndrome – particularly the paediatric awareness.

Esme's Umbrella
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period ended 31 December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	2025			2024		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income from:							
Grants and Donations	2	11,410	-	11,410	7,730	11,233	18,963
Other		201	-	201	123	-	123
Total Income		**11,611**	**-**	**11,611**	**7,853**	**11,233**	**19,086**
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds		333	-	333	136	-	136
Charitable Activities	4	2,387	9,234	11,621	2,334	7,603	9,937
Total Expenditure		**2,720**	**9,234**	**11,954**	**2,470**	**7,603**	**10,073**
Net income/expenditure for the year		**8,891**	**(9,234)**	**(343)**	**5,383**	**3,630**	**9,013**
Reconciliation of funds							
Funds brought forward		**21,183**	**9,234**	**30,417**	**15,800**	**5,604**	**21,404**
Funds carried forward		**30,074**	**-**	**30,074**	**21,183**	**9,234**	**30,417**

Esme's Umbrella
Balance Sheet
For the period ended 31 December 2025

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Current Assets			
Debtors & prepayments	6	-	1
Cash at bank		30,074	31,027
Total		**30,074**	**31,028**
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	7	**-**	**(611)**
		-	**(611)**
Net Current Assets/ Net Assets		**30,074**	**30,417**
Funds of Charity	8		
Restricted income funds		-	9,234
Unrestricted funds		30,074	21,183
Total Funds		**30,074**	**30,417**

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of the financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by



Professor Dominic Hannes ffytche (Trustee)

Date: 5th October 2026

Esme's Umbrella
Notes of the Financial Statement
For the period ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: statement of recommended practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

The Charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102

Income recognition

Income is recognised once the charity has entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from donations, gifts and grants, including donated facilities and services, comprises income for core activities and are of a general nature. Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies it must be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions, which in themselves are not restrictions, which must be met before the Charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from charitable activities comprises income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. This income is recognised as the related services are provided. Income is deferred when the amounts received are in advance of the performance of the service or event to which they relate.

Income from investments comprises bank interest. This income is recognised when credited to the charity's bank account.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure recognition

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of non-recoverable VAT.

Allocation of costs

Charitable activities include all costs directly related to the objects of the charity.

Support costs are incurred in support of the above activities. Included in support costs are costs incurred in governance of the charity which are primarily associated with the constitutional and statutory requirements. Support costs are allocated to activities based on an estimate of staff time spent on each activity during the financial period.

Donated facilities and services

Donations received in kind and not in cash are brought into the Statement of Financial Activities at a value which the Trustees consider would represent the cost to the Charity if these items were purchased. The income is accounted for under donations and the expenditure under the appropriate expenditure.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. Grants and donations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Thomas Pocklington Trust	500	10,000
The Powell Family Foundation	-	1,233
Guide Dogs for the Blind	-	-
Fight for Sight	-	-
Gift Aid	870	744
Donations	10,040	6,986
Total	**11,410**	**18,963**

3. Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Activity Income	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**

4. Charitable expenditure

	2025	2024
	£	£
Administration costs	9,438	5,848
Service and Information costs	1,935	3,139
Trustee costs	4	221
Website costs	244	729
Total expenditure	**11,621**	**9,937**

5. Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	-	-

No staff were employed by the charity.

6. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Accrued income	-	1
Total debtors	**-**	**1**

7. Creditors: amounts due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Creditors	-	611
Total	**-**	**611**

8. Funds of the Charity- 2025

Movement of funds

	2024	Income	Expenditure	2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	9,234	-	9,234	-
Total	**9,234**	**-**	**9,234**	**-**
Unrestricted funds	21,183	11,611	2,720	30,074
Total	**21,183**	**11,611**	**2,720**	**30,074**
Total funds	**30,417**	**11,611**	**11,954**	**30,074**

Allocation of net assets by fund

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
Current assets			
Cash at bank	-	30,074	30,074
Debtors & prepayments	-	-	-
Total assets	**-**	**30,074**	**30,074**
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	-	-	-
Total creditors	**-**	**-**	**-**
Net Assets	**-**	**30,074**	**30,074**

8a . Funds of the Charity- Prior Year

Movement of funds

	2023	Income	Expenditure	2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	5,604	11,233	7,603	9,234
Total	**5,604**	**11,233**	**7,603**	**9,234**
Unrestricted funds	15,800	7,853	2,470	21,183
Total	**15,800**	**7,853**	**2,470**	**21,183**
Total funds	**21,404**	**19,086**	**10,073**	**30,417**

Allocation of net assets by fund

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Current assets			
Cash at bank	9,715	21,312	31,027
Debtors & prepayments	-	1	1
Total assets	**9,715**	**21,313**	**31,028**
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	(481)	(130)	(611)
Total creditors	**(481)**	**(130)**	**(611)**
Net Assets	**9,234**	**21,183**	**30,417**

10. Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions