OUTSIDE THE BOX

Registered CIO: 1197431

Annual Report and Accounts

January - December 2025

Chair's Report

We are pleased to present this year's Chair's Report for Outside the Box CIO. It has been another important year for the charity and, in particular, for Orange Box Choir, with opportunities for young people and young adults to come together, develop their confidence and share their love of singing.

During 2025, we welcomed 16 participants and delivered 35 sessions, alongside 8 individual performances. These performances have given our participants the opportunity to share their talents with wider audiences, build confidence and celebrate what they can achieve together.

One of the things we are most proud of is the supportive and welcoming atmosphere within Orange Box Choir. It is about so much more than singing. It is about friendships, belonging, having something positive to look forward to and having a space where people can feel comfortable being themselves. Creative activities can make a real difference to people's wellbeing, and it is wonderful to see our participants supporting one another, growing in confidence and enjoying new experiences.

As a charity, we are grateful to everyone who helps make our work possible. Thank you to our participants, volunteers, supporters, funders and everyone who has given their time, encouragement or resources throughout the year. Your support helps us continue to create opportunities for people to connect, develop and thrive.

Looking ahead, we want to build on what we have achieved, continue to offer meaningful opportunities and make sure that Outside the Box CIO remains a welcoming and supportive place for the people we work with.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has been part of our journey this year. We are proud of what has been achieved and, most of all, of the people at the heart of our charity. Long may the singing, friendships and opportunities continue!

Jodie Eagleton and Cathy Ray
Co-Chairs, Outside the Box CIO

Project Manager's Report

What a brilliant year it has been for Orange Box Choir. We have continued to bring people together through singing, build confidence and enjoy opportunities to perform in our community.

One highlight was being invited to perform at the Community Foundation for Calderdale AGM. We are very grateful for the support they give us and were pleased to share what the choir does with their members and guests.

We also had a lovely time at the Next Step Trust Christmas party. There is a real crossover between Next Step Trust participants and Orange Box Choir, so it was especially nice to come together and enjoy the occasion.

Lloyds Banking Group invited us to perform at its Christmas fair and spread some festive cheer among the staff. We also enjoyed performing at the Piece Hall, Halifax Market, Hop Yard and Ring of Bells. These were wonderful chances to show the community what a fantastic choir we have and how much our participants' confidence has grown over the year.

A very different highlight was our tour of local train stations, organised in collaboration with Northern Rail and the local authority. We visited several locations in one day, singing to passengers on the platforms. It was a long day and the weather was not at its best, but we had a great time sharing some cheer and showing passengers how fantastic Orange Box Choir is. It was a lovely way to get into the festive spirit.

I am so proud of our choir members and our team of trustees, staff and volunteers for everything they have achieved this year. Thank you all for the time, care and encouragement you give to the choir.

The future is bright. The future is Orange Box Choir!

Jamie Eagleton
Project Manager, Orange Box Choir

Our Purpose and Values

Outside The Box CIO develops participatory and wellbeing activities with, by and for people in Calderdale. We use creativity to enhance wellbeing, particularly for young people who are neurodiverse and have learning differences.

We do this by:

- delivering creative, participatory activities and events with, by and for participants
- enabling and supporting people to take part in opportunities that enhance wellbeing and encourage friendship
- providing or signposting to information, advice and support
- creating and promoting volunteering opportunities

We currently deliver Orange Box Choir on a weekly basis during term-time. Our group meets in the evening at Orange Box Young People's Centre.



Governance and Delivery

Our Trustees:

Cathy Ray – Acting Co-Chair
Jodie Eagleton – Acting Co-Chair
Emma Ruhkala - Treasurer
Tilz Ray
Tom Kendall – Safeguarding

Trustees oversee the management of the charity and our activities

Our Freelance Delivery Team:

Jamie Eagleton – Project Manager & Safeguarding Lead
Amy-Rose Atkinson – Choir Facilitator
Jonny Keegan – Choir Facilitator

Our Policies and Procedures:

Safeguarding
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers
Conflicts of Interest
Managing Grievances
Managing Finances and Reserves
Data Protection (GDPR)
Health and Safety
Risk Management

Our Participants

In 2025:

16 different participants took part in 35 sessions, including the Christmas party

5 volunteers gave 75 hours of their time
3 staff gave 115 hours
Parents and carers gave 137 hours

The choir gave 8 individual performances

"I am Vinnie and I like coming to Orange Box Choir because we sing good songs. We do good concerts and good gigs."
– Vinnie, Participant

"We're one big happy family. We come to choir and we've all got different needs, but we just come to choir and we enjoy ourselves."
– Jess, Participant



Our Participants





"I think Orange Box Choir is good because it's a community that's brought together, and we come and sing and we go out and sing and we go out and do performances. And I think it's a really good place to be at. And we try and raise money for charities sometimes as well. But I think it's a really good place, Orange Box Choir."
– Finlay, Participant

"I come to Orange Box Choir because I love singing and I've made so many new friends. It's really relaxing for me and I find it really therapeutic."
– Leanne, Participant





Achievements in 2025



During 2025 We were grateful for the opportunity to perform at the Community Foundation for Calderdale AGM. Their support means a great deal to the choir and the charity.



Throughout 2025 We enjoyed performing at The Piece Hall, Halifax Market, Hop Yard, Ring of Bells. These opportunities let us share the choir's progress with local audiences and celebrate how our participants' confidence has grown.



Christmas 2025 We had a lovely time at the Next Step Trust Christmas party, bringing together people with connections to both groups. Lloyds Banking Group also invited us to its Christmas fair to spread some festive cheer among staff.





December 2025 In collaboration with Northern Rail and the local authority, we toured local train stations, singing for passengers at several platforms in one day. It was a long day and the weather was poor, but we enjoyed sharing cheer and getting into the festive spirit.

Finances and Reserves

Finances for 2025 are presented on a cash accounting basis, and reflect income and expenditure as it's received and paid.

Our Reserves Policy

Trustees agreed to a target level of Reserves of between 3 and 6 months' running costs, outlining a minimum of £2,000.

The purpose of reserves is:

1) Continuity – bridging gaps, such as delays or shortfalls in income
2) Cyclical maintenance – such as repairing needed equipment
3) Dissolution – costs that need to be covered should we dissolve

At the end of 2025 we maintained unrestricted reserves of just under £11,000, and £2,100 in restricted reserves which are used to fund the costs of delivering the choir.

This means our 2026 programme is funded and as the last of the restricted grant funding is due to be spent by Spring, we will be looking for further funding opportunities to carry the Choir activity into 2027 and beyond.

Finances and Reserves

Receipts and Payments Accounts

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For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/1/2025		31/12/2025

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					
Brought Forward	*8,332*	*14,024*	-	*22,356*	-
Sales	500		-	500	*150*
Suma			-	-	-
CFFC General			-	-	-
CFFC Emotional Health & Wellbeing			-	-	-
SWYP NHS Creative Minds			-	-	-
KACCL	5,000		-	5,000	*3,667*
Halifax Opportunity Staying Well			-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund			-	-	*19,972*
Donations	282		-	282	*271*
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	5,782	-	-	5,782	24,060
A2 Asset and investment sales					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,782	-	-	5,782	24,060
A3 Payments					
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Choir Tutors	1,479	10,523		12,002	8,355
Choir Expenses	616	162		779	261
Other direct expenses				-	-
Staff training and welfare	430			430	-
Travel and subsistence				-	-
Entertaining				-	-
Rates				-	-
Room Hire		1,050		1,050	720
Service charges				-	-
Cleaning				-	-
Use of home				-	-
Telephone/Internet		122		122	8
Postage & Courier				-	-
Stationery and printing				-	-
IT	206	66		272	173
Subscriptions				-	-
Bank charges				-	-
Insurance	351			351	323
Accountancy fees				-	-
Marketing	78			78	261
Legal and Professional				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
Sub total	3,161	11,924	-	15,084	10,102

Finances and Reserves

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,161	11,924	-	15,084	10,102
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,622	- 11,924	-	- 9,302	13,958
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,332	14,024	-	22,356	-
Cash funds this year end	10,953	2,101	-	13,054	13,958

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	*Brought Forward*	*8,332*	*14,024*	-
	Sales	500		-
	Suma			-
	CFFC General			-
	CFFC Emotional Health & Wellbeing			-
	SWYP NHS Creative Minds			-
	KACCL	5,000		-
	Halifax Opportunity Staying Well		- 162	-
	National Lottery Community Fund		- 11,761	-
	Reserves	- 2,878		-
	Total cash funds	10,953	2,101	-
	(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
	[redacted]	Emma Ruhkala	10/7/2026
	[redacted]	Jodie Eagleton	10/7/2026

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all our donors, and everyone who has supported us in 2025.

But, as usual, the biggest thank you has to go to all the choir participants and their amazing families, carers and support staff. You are what makes our little gang so special.

Keep using your voices, the world needs to hear you! We look forward to another year of singing with you.

Trustees for Outside the Box CIO
October 2026

Outside the Box CIO, Orange Box, 1 Blackledge, Halifax HX1 1AF
Registered charity number: 1197431