Trustees' Report & Accounts

for the year 01/01/25 to 31/12/25

"Pilots are drawn to flying because it's a perfect combination of science, romance and adventure."

Charles Lindbergh



Registered charity no. 1199059 **© Skyward 2026**

Introducing Skyward

Skyward was registered as a charity in May 2022; this is the trustees' fourth report. The charity was created to advance the education of the public – in particular our young people – in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and to create a resource for young people across the UK that will deliver innovative educational activities and experiences, thus stimulating interest in our aerospace industries.

The project is ambitious, and we worked throughout 2025 to garner the support we need. Our plans to provide an immersive educational experience centred on the aerospace industry did progress albeit, once again, more slowly than we anticipated.

Our plans remain unchanged: to take young visitors on a journey of discovery providing immersive, educational, and even emotive experiences, highlighting the magical world of flight and the wide array of careers available.

We will provide sessions to ignite a passion for aerospace by creating exciting, inspiring, and thought-provoking activities such as outreach workshops both in-person and remotely, aircraft visits, and events in a setting that is cutting edge and utilises the latest technologies and an advanced learning platform.

Our vision is to create a community that is anchored around our experiences and facilities and connected by a sophisticated and engaging learning platform that users can use to expand their knowledge and engage further.

The bedrock of each centre will be a world-class interactive learning space built inside a retired but complete commercial airliner, where student visitors can explore, discover and investigate in a 'hands-on' immersive way.



Artist's impression

Registered charity no. 1199059 © Skyward 2026

Charity details

Charity Trustees:

Capt. Richard Griffin
Mrs Dawn Stokes
Mr Sam Davies

There were no changes to the board in this reporting period

Charity Address:

SKYWARD
c/o Bliss Aviation
444 Bournemouth Airport
Aviation Business Park
Christchurch BH23 6NW

info@skyward.org.uk

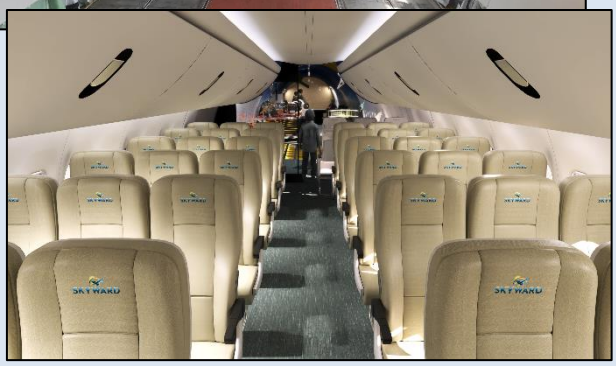
Website

www.skyward.org.uk

Governance

The charity is constituted as a CIO with charity number 1199059. The trustees affirm that they have applied due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Expenditure this year was financed entirely by donations from a trustee.





Report for the period

Progress during 2025 has continued, with the charity maintaining its focus on developing the proposed STEM Aerospace Discovery Centre at Bournemouth Airport.

While overall progress remains gradual, the year has seen continued development of the project, alongside positive engagement with industry and local stakeholders.

An important step forward during the period was the identification of a suitable location for the proposed centre. Initial discussions have begun with Bournemouth Airport regarding the possibility of securing a lease for the site. In parallel, conversations have also taken place with a second potential partner who has classroom space available, offering the possibility of supporting the educational element of the project. These discussions represent constructive steps towards establishing a practical base for the centre and exploring how available facilities could support its future operation.

Although progress towards securing a permanent location and the necessary facilities takes time, the trustees remain encouraged by these developments. Establishing the right combination of aircraft accommodation, classroom space and supporting facilities will be an important milestone in enabling the project to move into its next phase.

A further highlight was the successful ‘STEM Inspiration’ networking event held at the offices of SmartBase UK, Bournemouth Airport, in September. Organised by Skyward in collaboration with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council, the event was well attended and brought together representatives from business and industry, education, local government and the wider STEM community. It provided a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of the proposed centre, explore potential collaborations and discuss how the project could contribute to STEM education and skills development across the region.

The reception to the networking event was extremely positive, with considerable interest expressed by attendees and a number of

organisations indicating that they would be keen to participate and support the initiative when the project is ready to progress to its next stage. This response was encouraging and provided further reassurance that there is a genuine appetite within the local business, engineering and education communities to become involved.

While practical commitments will depend on the centre's location, funding and development timetable, the level of interest represents a positive foundation on which to build future partnerships.

The trustees would like to express their sincere thanks to BCP Council, and particularly Duncan Newman, for his interest in and support for the project. We are also very grateful to SmartBase for providing the venue and facilities for the September event. Their support was instrumental in bringing stakeholders together and creating an opportunity to share the charity's vision, strengthen relationships and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

The event reinforced the potential for the centre to inspire young people, promote engineering and aerospace career pathways, and help address future skills needs. Continued engagement with the local engineering community remains an important part of building the partnerships and support required to bring the project to fruition.

Alongside these developments, the trustees have continued to work towards securing the resources needed to progress the project. Progress remains measured, reflecting the time required to develop discussions with potential site providers and partners, as well as the significant funding needed to relocate and convert the pledged Boeing 737. Nevertheless, identifying a potential location, opening lease discussions with Bournemouth Airport, exploring access to classroom facilities and receiving such positive feedback from industry represent encouraging steps forward.

Looking ahead, the charity's priorities remain focused on progressing discussions around the aircraft's permanent location, exploring arrangements for classroom facilities, securing the necessary funding, and strengthening relationships with industry, educational organisations, local authorities and prospective supporters.

The trustees remain realistic about the time and resources required to deliver the project but are encouraged by the progress made and the positive response from potential partners.

We remain committed to realising the project's long-term potential as a valuable educational resource for the region.

Richard Griffin

Founder & Trustee



Artist's impression

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 Unrestricted	2025 Restricted	**2025 total**	2024 total
	£	£	**£**	£
RECEIPTS				
Donations (notes 1 and 10)	2,454	0	**2,454**	993
PAYMENTS				
Charitable activities (note 1)	*1,784*	*0*	***1,784***	*43*
Cost of generating funds (note 1)	*595*	*0*	***595***	*0*
Governance	*75*	*0*	***75***	*950*
Total Payments	2,454	0	**2,454**	993
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	0	0	**0**	0
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	0	0	**0**	0
Total funds carried forward	0	0	**0**	0

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2025

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash at bank and in hand	£ 0
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities	£ 0
NET ASSETS	**£ 0**
Represented by:	
Unrestricted funds	£ 0
Restricted funds	£ 0

These financial statements are approved by the board on 26 October 2026

Richard Griffin

Trustee

 © Skyward 2026

Notes to the financial statements

1. Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity are prepared on a cash basis for this period. The only cash flows this year were funded by donations from a trustee, as follows:

Event costs	£ 2,379
Preparation of annual report	£ 75
Total	**£ 2,454**

Event costs are allocated in the Receipts and Payments Account as 75% progressing Skyward's charitable activity, and 25% for fundraising, given the event's dual purpose.

2. Receipts and Payments

Receipts are recognised when received and payments are recognised when made (cash basis).

3. Aircraft

The pledged aircraft will not be formally transferred to the charity until the required site is secured and a lease is signed. As the aircraft had not been transferred at 31 December 2025, it is not included in the statement of assets and liabilities.

4. Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

5. 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 purposes.

6. Hire purchase and leasing commitments

None in this period.

7. Salary and pension costs

None in this period.

8. Trustees' remuneration and benefits

None in this period.

9. Trustees' expenses

None claimed in this period.

10. Related party disclosures

Trustee R Griffin donated £2,454 in aggregate to fund the charity's expenditure (2024: £993).

11. Reserves policy

The charity has not yet accumulated reserves.