Bringing the missing home

Sussex Search and Rescue
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Trustee Annual Report and Accounts
Year Ended 31 December 2025

(Charity Registration No. 1204106)

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity number	1204106
Trustees	The trustees who served during the year of this report were as follows:
Daniel Wood	Chair (Elected 9th May 2024)
Paul Wilman	Secretary (Elected 9th May 2024)
Sarah McCarthy	Treasurer (Elected 9th May 2024)
Alastair Hornby	Trustee (Elected 27th February 2025)
Jackie Deacon	Trustee (Elected 27th February 2025)
Bank	Lloyds Bank plc
Registered Office	C/o Haywards Heath Police Station Bolnore Road Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 4BA

Structure, governance and management

After a consultation and following a motion approved by its members at a special general meeting held in 2023, Sussex Search and Rescue changed its legal structure and was registered with the Charities commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 26th July 2023.

It was agreed that moving from an unincorporated charity to a CIO was more appropriate given the organisation's growth in size and complexity.

With reference to the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS 102), as the charity's purposes and beneficiary class remain unchanged this restructure will be treated as a merger of the two organisations.

Unincorporated Charity – Sussex Search and Rescue, 1097190
and the
CIO – Sussex Search and Rescue, 1204106

The financial accounts have been prepared to reflect this requirement of the SORP.

The restructured charity is governed by a constitution, which has been adopted by the voting members. The board of Trustees are elected by the members at the AGM with overall management for the charity. They will hold office for two years, with the provision to be reappointed for a second term.

In 2025 the process to recruit an external Trustee has been initiated, in line with the provisions within the constitution and with the agreement of the membership.

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the trustees appoint, in consultation with the membership a Management Committee who aid with the day-to-day management of the charity. Delegation to the Management Committee is defined by a term of reference document for the Management Committee.

The charity works in partnership with Sussex Police, and all members are police vetted before being accepted as operational within the team. This vetting is renewable every three years.

The charity remains a full member of the wider national network of the Association Lowland Search and Rescue.

Objectives and activities

- To preserve life and relieve suffering and distress among persons who are missing or endangered through misadventure, accident or natural hazard by the provision of a trained search and rescue capability to assist Sussex Police and other agencies.

- To raise awareness of the plight of vulnerable missing people so that the causes and behaviours associated with missing person cases may be better understood and recognised for the benefit and protection of those who may be at risk.

- To promote research into the science and practice of search and rescue and to disseminate the knowledge gained.

The trustees have continued with their duty having due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and performance during the year

2025 Statistics



Operational achievements

The Chief Constable Jo Shiner continues as our Patron. The trustees and team fully appreciate the confidence and support of the Chief Constable and her recognition of the importance of the team in supporting her force's work to locate vulnerable missing people.

Total number of suitable call outs reduced in year on year from 37 to 31, these were primarily in Sussex but also, as usual, included assists with other neighbouring counties as requested.

Several of these were multiple day deployments which adds a level of complexity for search planning and physical and mental demand on our volunteers. However, the commitment and turn out levels by the members remained to be high throughout these deployments.

Fortunately, in some cases the use of our LocateMe system, helped avoid the necessity of a team deployment, allowing Sussex police to locate and assist those identified as missing and vulnerable.

We remain an active member of the Sussex Resilience Forum, which held regular meetings throughout the year and we were recognised as one of the key resources which could be deployed should the need arise.

As a member of the Association of Lowland Rescue, we annually provide them and to the police, statistics on all incidents attended, these are built up nationally with the intention of improving search planning for future incidents.

Membership

The member volunteers continued to commit to several thousand of registered hours in 2025, with unquantified unregistered hours, highlighting that their commitment and dedication continue to be the greatest asset of the organisation.

The team membership numbers at the end of year were at 70 which included

- 48 operational members
- 13 non–operational members
- 9 support members

During the year the Inflow included eleven new members under training, 10 of whom have all now qualified and are operational as licenced search technicians.

Sadly, the team saw eight further retirements during the year, fortunately several will remain as support members.

Training

The training team ensured the invaluable training sessions continued and we were able to put on regular training exercises in various disciplines required to keep the team competent.

Alongside the main search training nights, our specialised capabilities also had their monthly trainings sessions.
Sonar, Water, and Advanced Medical trainings.

The team were also invited to take part in an multi agency exercise with the aim of practicing large scale deployments, which ran over a 36-hr period.

Qualifications and training during 2025 included:

- 10 new search technicians recruited and qualified
- 5 new team leaders currently following the new Lowland Rescue Team leader pathway.
- 18 team members attended and qualified in a Lowland Rescue national online course on Missing Person Behaviour.
- 23 members qualified or requalified in 3 bank search courses held throughout the year.
- 11 members attended and qualified in an Outdoor first aid course.

As a recognised and licenced outreach water training centre we were also able to offer 2 water and flood first responder (DEFRA MOD2) courses to other lowland rescue teams.

Financial review

Following the change of status of the organisation and the setup of the new CIO, all physical assets of the previous unincorporated organisation were transferred as per the approval of the members and the charities commission. This included an initial cash transfer into the CIO bank account; some funds have remained in the unincorporated organisation while it is closed down, and all remaining payments and receipts are moved to the CIO. The final transfer will be completed in the early part of 2026.

The charity finished the year in a healthy financial position with £11k of unrestricted reserves which are held to fulfil future charitable aims and objectives, build a designated fund towards future replacement of the control vehicles and to be sufficient to cover a minimum of 12 months operational expenditure.

Regardless of the challenging conditions for securing fundraising in 2025. The organisation was successful in securing £8.5k in grant funding.

Three restricted grants were received from Sussex Resilience Forum, Mid Sussex District Community development grant and The Hendy Foundation for various equipment and essential trainings for the team and one unrestricted grant from a local charitable trust.

Fundraising activities, community talks and events were the largest source of income for the team in 2025 and raised £11.0k. The team was designated as the charity of the year with a local Woman's Institute group, who very generously raised and donated over £4.5k. Several members of the team also when above and beyond by taking part in personal fundraising challenges supporting the team.

Team members excelled themselves yet again with the extra time and effort put in to attend and organise these activities which are critical for raising funds for the team.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....

Paul Wilman
Secretary
Date: 22nd February 2026

SUSSEX SEARCH AND RESCUE -1204106

Bringing the missing home

Receipts and payments account for the period January 2025 to December 2025

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Receipts				
Donations	17,626	8,050	25,676	26,754
Training Courses	1,700	-	1,700	-
Transfer of Funds - SuSAR 1097190	-	-	-	5,000
VAT Refund	-	-	-	-
Asset and investment sales				
Sale of assets	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	**19,326**	**8,050**	**27,376**	**31,754**
Total Income	**19,326**	**8,050**	**27,376**	**31,754**
Payments				
Operational equipment	5,664	4,136	9,800	3,228
Vehicle repairs, maintenance and fuel	4,762	-	4,762	3,063
Member training	1,949	1,674	3,623	1,532
Fundraising equipment & Marketing	0	-	0	96
Insurance	4,963	-	4,963	3,217
Other expenditure	5,098	-	5,098	377
	22,436	5,810	28,246	11,513
Asset and investment sales				
Purchases of assets	-	3,118	3,118	-
Total payments	**22,436**	**8,928**	**31,364**	**11,513**
Net of receipts (payments) for the year	**(3,110)**	**(878)**	**(3,988)**	**20,241**
Reconciliation of funds in the year				
Cash funds at previous year end	14,241	6,000	20,241	-
Net income (expenditure) for the year	(3,110)	(878)	(3,988)	20,241
Cash funds at year end	**11,131**	**5,122**	**16,253**	**20,241**

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2025

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Cash funds				
Operations account	11,131	5,122	16,253	20,241
	-	-	-	
	11,131	5,122	16,253	20,241
Net assets and liabilities	11,131	5,122	16,253	20,241

Assets retained for the Charity's own use.	Fund to which Asset Belongs	Cost 2025 £	Cost 2024 £
Vehicles	Unrestricted	56,651	56,651
Computer Equipment	Unrestricted	11,864	11,864
Radio Equipment	Unrestricted	2,729	2,729
Radio Equipment	Restricted	27,165	25,736
Medical Equipment	Unrestricted	3,643	3,643
Medical Equipment	Restricted	1,555	1,555
SAR Equipment	Unrestricted	4,985	4,985
SAR Equipment	Restricted	333	-
Water Equipment	Restricted	19,921	18,565
Water Equipment	Unrestricted	4,820	4,820
Sonar Equipment	Restricted	7,566	7,566
Other Equipment	Unrestricted	1,180	1,180
		142,412	**139,294**

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Date: 22nd February 2026



.....

Daniel Wood
Chairman



.....

Paul Wilman
Secretary



.....

Sarah McCarthy
Treasurer

Sussex Search and Rescue
Financial Statements for the period
1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Sussex Search and Rescue.

This report on the financial statements of the Sussex Search and Rescue for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on the following pages is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with s145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and the examiner

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; and consider that the audit requirement of s144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibilty to examine the accounts under s145 of the Act, state on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners under s145(5)(b) the Act, and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions under s145(5)(b) of the Act .
The proceedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners' statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
    to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act; and
    to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and
    to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and regulations
have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Bytheway and Co.

Bytheway & Co Chartered Certified Accountants
Heame House
23 Bilston Street
Sedgley
Dudley
DY3 1JA