THRIVING THROUGH RECREATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

EVERY CHILD THRIVING THROUGH LEARNING WHAT THEY LOVE

APRIL '25-APRIL '26



Table of Contents

03 Chair's Statement

04 Letter from our CEO

05 Mission, Vision and Approach

06 Highlights & Milestones

07 Spotlight on our Community

08 The Difference We Make

09 Financial Review

10 Challenges & Solutions

11 Future Goals & Strategy

12 Governance

Foreword from Our Chair



In my foreword last year, I looked forward to the charity supporting more young people in future. In its first year of grant-making, the charity supported 6 young people. In the current reporting year, 55 have enjoyed activities ranging from piano playing to swimming, with many more pursuits in between.

We have started to receive enthusiastic feedback as a consequence of the CEO's very personal and individual interactions with families, activity providers and referring professionals. All of this is, of course, what we exist for, and to see it coming to fruition is very exciting and fulfilling. Long may the work of the charity grow, so helping young people to thrive in new ways!

I also expressed the ambition to grow the Board from its five members in 2024-25 to seven or eight in 2025-26 and nine or ten in 2026-27. I'm pleased to say that we are on course, and by the end of the reporting year 2025-26 we had eight trustees.

Growth carries its own particular challenges. As the Board learns to function increasingly effectively, and as the charity grows in capacity and size, much adjustment and learning must take place. Getting the right relationship between 'operational' and 'governance' functions is a continuing process of evolution.

Other than continuing work in these areas, the coming year must see the charity cement its fundraising strategy and continue to grow sustained income streams. Financially, we are in the business of doing what Sir Francis Bacon spoke about 400 years ago – "money is like muck [manure], not good except it be spread". As an enthusiastic allotment-farmer, I can attest to that principle. Our work is to obtain funds and do as much good as we can by spreading it to as many children and young people as possible!

This year, as well as acknowledging and thanking my fellow trustees for their support and hard work, I want to single out one particular individual for special mention and thanks. It is our CEO Imogen Loxam's vision, drive, generosity and immense hard work that have enabled the charity to reach its present position, and I remain confident that she will continue to lead and guide the charity throughout the coming year and beyond.

01 **We have grown nearly tenfold.**

We now enable 55 children and young people to participate in a rich variety of life-enriching activities.

02 **We set clear goals to strengthen Governance**

We aimed to grow our board, and we now enter the new year with eight dedicated trustees with diverse expertise that enriches our work.

Letter from Our CEO



A Year of Deepening Impact and Grounded Growth

Reflecting on the past year at Thriving Through Recreation, I am filled with immense gratitude for how much we have accomplished. In what was our first full year of operations, we navigated a complex and challenging economic landscape, yet emerged stronger and more deeply connected to the communities we serve across Cambridgeshire and Gloucestershire.

Our focus this year was clear: to build a sustainable foundation while rapidly expanding our reach to the children and families who need us most.

The fundraising climate this past year was undeniably difficult. In response, we adapted our strategy by recruiting a talented freelance fundraiser to support us. We successfully secured major donor funding and achieved a significant increase in our overall income.

With this increased income, we were able to significantly scale our core mission, awarding far more grants than in our initial launch phase. In Cambridgeshire, we focused heavily on building deep, collaborative relationships with incredible teams of targeted support professionals to ensure our funding reaches the most vulnerable children. In Gloucestershire, we actively built our presence and reach, laying down roots to ensure long-term community impact. And across both counties, we have continued to develop and refine our comprehensive activities provider map, ensuring we can connect families with the best local recreational opportunities that fit their needs and interests.

The need for what we do has been very evident, so to ensure we channel our capacity effectively, we refined our referral strategy to a closed-referral model, accepting applications only from professional teams with whom we already collaborate. By anchoring our intake within these established partnerships, we can precisely target the areas of deepest need and hone our referral success rate. Crucially, this shift allows us to responsibly manage our operational capacity, ensuring that every family we accept receives the high-quality, focused attention they deserve.

Perhaps the most beautiful development of the past year was how our relationship with our families naturally evolved. By listening closely to them, we realised that to be truly child-led, we needed to offer flexibility. This year, we empowered children to switch activities when they discovered a passion lay elsewhere.

Through this, we discovered that families needed more than just a financial transaction; they needed a partner. This insight has sparked a major strategic evolution for us. We have officially begun developing our Activities Support Programme, which shifts our focus from simply funding activities to providing holistic, wrap-around support for the entire family.

We enter the next year with a proven model, a clearer understanding of our families' needs, and a passionate network of supporters. Thank you to our donors, our partners, our brilliant governance and operational team, and the incredible families who trust us with their journeys.

Thanks, and Thrive!

Imogen Loxam, CEO

THRIVING THROUGH RECREATION

FINDING INTERESTS
FACILITATING BELONGING
FUNDING GROWTH



Vision

For many young people, life can feel like a series of assessments, interventions, and systems telling them who to be and where to go. We envision a different kind of childhood—one filled with the transformative power of play, passion, and community connection, where a young person's struggle never defines the boundaries of their potential.

Striving for a world in which every child and young person has the freedom to discover what they love, step away from life's challenges, and truly sparkle.

"Every child deserves to learn what they love. If a child or young person is hurting or struggling, that is the only reason we need to step in and help them find their people and fuel their passions." **-The Thriving Through Recreation Team**

Mission

To bridge the gap between families, support services, and the restorative power of learning through recreation.

Day in and day out, we provide consistent, long-term funding and advocacy to help children and young people in Cambridgeshire and Gloucestershire regularly access the weekly recreational and leisure-time activities they choose and love. Whether it's the rhythm of a drum kit, the focus of a gymnastics beam, or the freedom of an art canvas, we clear the financial hurdles so they can focus on joy, discovery, and self-belief.

Method

We don't believe in short-lived, one-size-fits-all fixes. Our approach is woven into the wider support networks of the children we serve, built upon three pillars:

We don't choose the learning; the child does. When a young person is given the power to choose their own recreational path, they aren't just picking up a hobby—they are taking ownership of their growth, exploring their identity, and reclaiming a vital sense of control over their lives.

Growth doesn't stop after a single lesson. Because sporadic help can leave families feeling unsettled, we walk alongside our young people through a sustained journey. We provide consistent weekly funding, regular check-ins, and ongoing advocacy to offer a steady ground to grow when the rest of their world feels turbulent.

We know that support works best when it is shared. We stand firmly alongside targeted services, specialist charities, and local schools. While they handle vital clinical or educational work, we provide the extra space for pure joy, weaving the wonder of recreation into the child's wider network so their foundation of wellbeing stands stronger.

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Highlights and Milestones

Reaching More Children and Young People

We have expanded our work across Cambridgeshire & Gloucestershire by reaching more children and young people facing adversity, providing safe spaces to step away from their struggles. Through joy-filled activities, we have helped vulnerable youth rediscover hope, experience play, and realise their potential. This anchors them in safety and builds the resilience needed to achieve, despite their current difficulties.

A Bigger Bank Balance

Despite only being in our first full year of operations, we have achieved a truly significant increase in overall income and secured major donor funding. This allowed us to grow and refine our core mission and award far more grants than during our initial launch phase.

Listening & Learning

By actively listening to families, we began to shift toward a truly child-led approach, allowing children the flexibility to switch activities. This insight sparked the development of the new Activities Support Programme, transitioning our model from purely financial transactions to providing holistic, wrap-around family support.

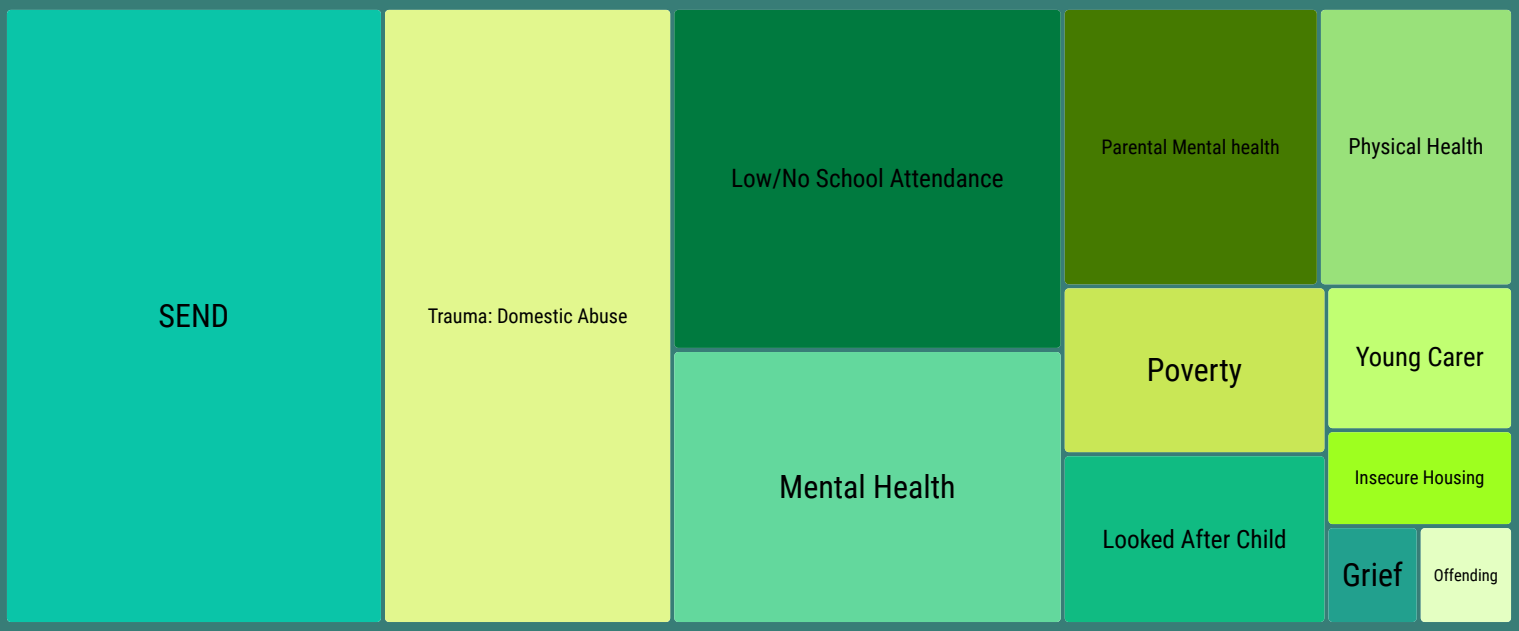
A Wider Network

We have built deeper partnerships with targeted support teams, schools and charities in Cambridgeshire, and laid firmer roots in Gloucestershire.
By developing a comprehensive map of approved Activity Providers across both regions, we have also connected our families with more local opportunities and expertise.

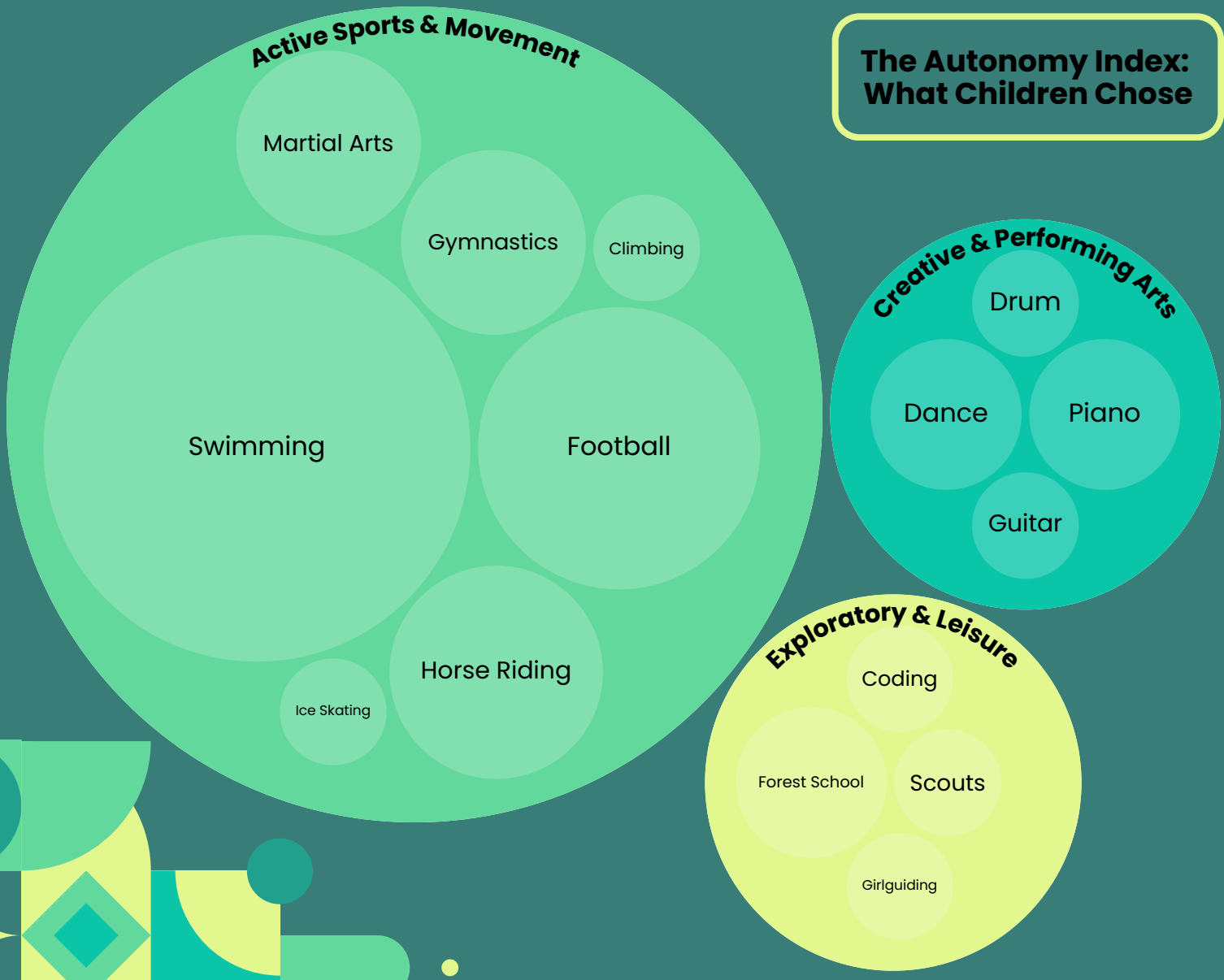
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Spotlight On Our Community

Our children and young people are navigating some truly tough times



The Autonomy Index: What Children Chose



THRIVING THROUGH RECREATION

The Difference We Make

> What Thriving Through Recreation offers is fundamental in supporting young people who may be living in poverty. It opens up opportunities they wouldn't have had and I have seen first-hand the difference it makes to their lives. One family I supported started football lessons; this then gave him the confidence to play more at school and socialise. This was an area he struggled with previously. During a 1-1, he showed off the card he had won and was really proud of himself for helping others. It matters massively for the children and takes the financial pressure off parents, which in turn has a positive impact on the whole family.
>
> **Family Worker, Cambridgeshire County Council**

> Without his activity, my grandson would become more frustrated and anxious and not meet new people.
>
> **Special Guardian, Cambridgeshire**

> Thriving Through Recreation has given my daughter something to look forward to and maintained a bit of routine while she is not attending school, whilst we wait for her EHCP to be completed.
>
> **Parent, Cambridgeshire**

> Without Thriving Through Recreation, my daughter wouldn't have access to the activities she loves. She would miss out on the confidence, joy, and routine her swimming sessions give her each week.
>
> **Parent, Cambridgeshire**

> Dancing is my life
>
> **Jacob, Age 8 Cambridgeshire**

> His activity makes him more confident, happy, and focused, enjoying a team game and making friends. It's helping with the routine of going every week and the positive environment.
>
> **Main Carer, Cambridgeshire**

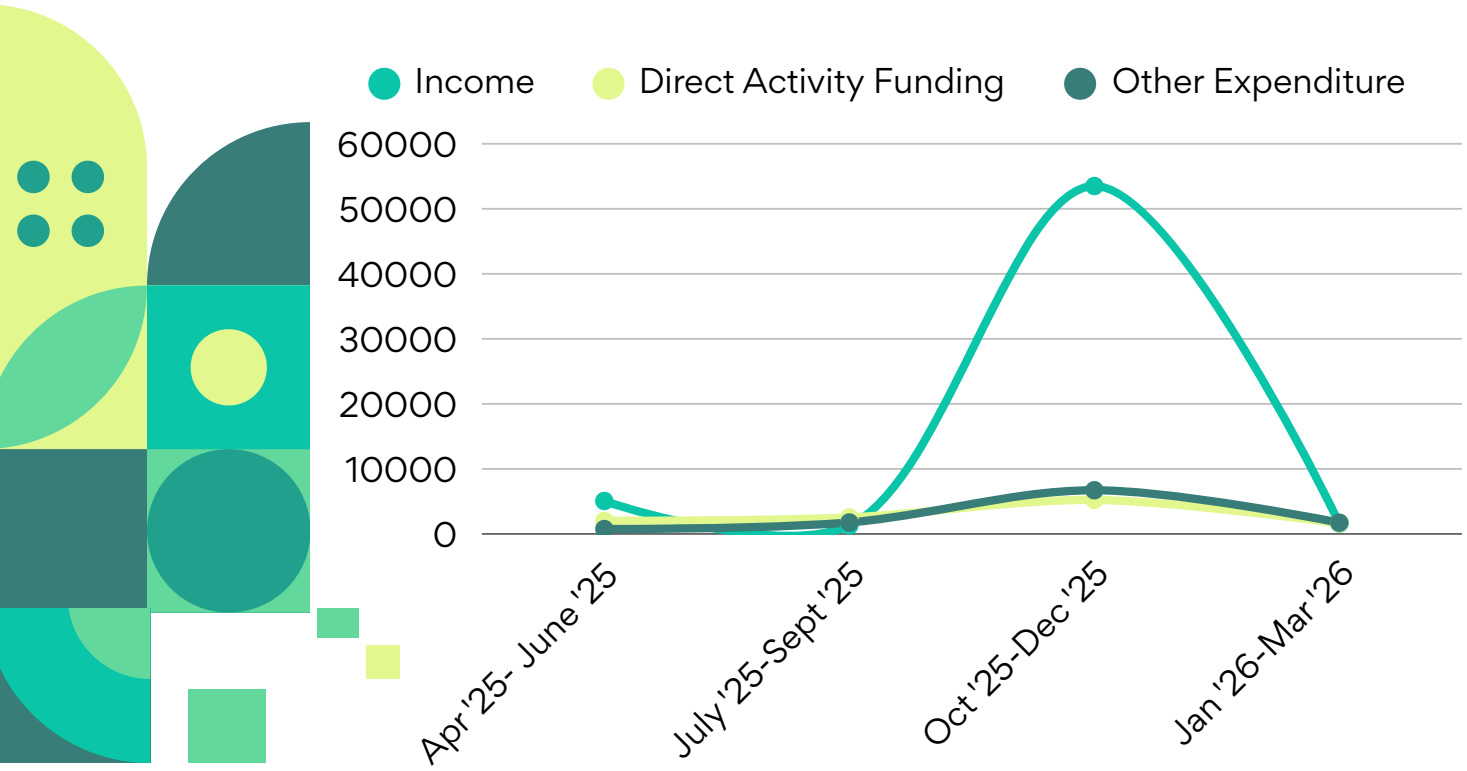
> My daughter would not have accessed her activities due to the cost, but Thriving Through Recreation have supported this, for everything, including uniforms and costumes for shows, which has encouraged my daughter to take part.
>
> **Parent, Cambridgeshire**

Applications **60**	**55** Supported Children and Young People
Activity Providers Approved **50**	**2,860** Sessions of Activities Approved

Financial Review

Financial Position at April '26

£62,238.85



Funds Brought Forward

£24,310.14

Income This Period

£62,308.39

Funds Spent on Children and Young People's Activities This Period

£13,336.51

Allocated Grants Carried Forward

£16,386.83

Reserves Policy

Thriving Through Recreation reserves the full amount for each awarded grant, plus one year of core running costs, to support these grants for the 12 months to which we have committed. While six months of staff salary costs are also reserved, the organisation had no paid employees during this financial period.

There are no funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

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Challenges and Solutions



A difficult fundraising climate during our first full year of operations.

We adapted our strategy by recruiting a talented freelance fundraiser to help us navigate the fundraising climate and expand our capacity to target new funding streams.



Managing operational capacity effectively while facing a high demand for our support.

We refined our approach to a closed-referral model, accepting applications exclusively from established professional partners. This kept workload relatively controlled while ensuring accepted families received high-quality attention.



Ensuring that funding and resources were precisely targeted to reach the most vulnerable children who were in a space to benefit from our support.

We anchored our intake in trusted collaborations with targeted support professionals, which helped improve the referral success rate and support children and young people who would benefit most.

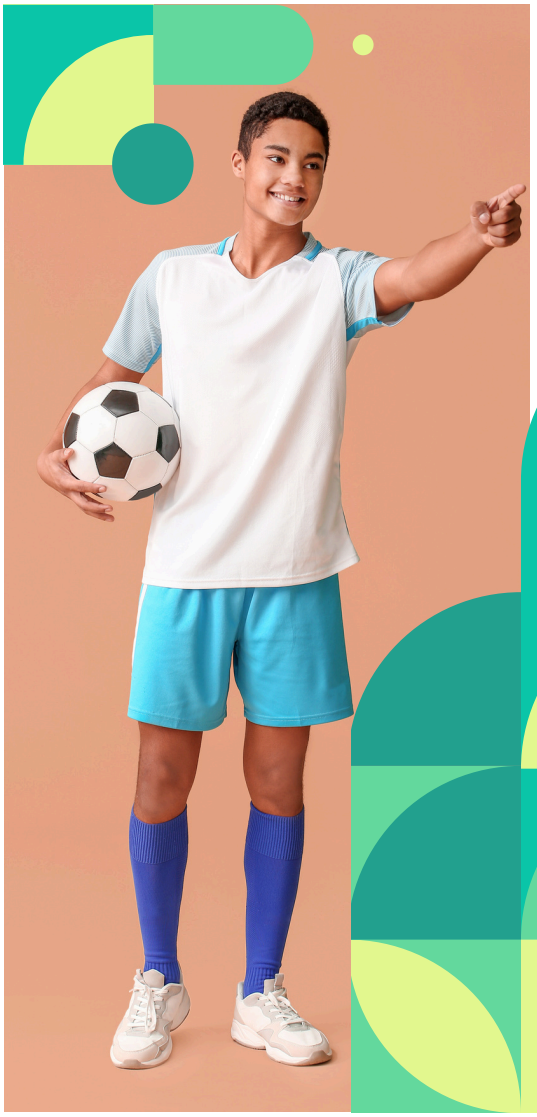


Managing the multiple tasks involved in establishing a new charity.

To increase our operational capacity, we began the process of recruiting our first frontline staff member, who will ultimately step up to lead our family work.

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Our Future



Goals

01. Holistic Family Support

We will transition our core focus from simply funding recreational activities to providing comprehensive, wraparound support to find and facilitate recreational learning over a full year.

02. Long-Term Community Impact

We will embed deeper roots in the Gloucestershire community and continue to safely expand our reach to struggling children across both Cambridgeshire and Gloucestershire.

03. A System of Sustainability

We will use our existing volunteer network to build an internal platform to manage and track the day-to-day support and funding that we offer. This tool will ensure our approach remains deeply impactful and proactive for families, while seamlessly monitoring our resources so we can grow our mission responsibly.

Approach

Activities Support Programme

We will develop this new programme to firmly establish our shift toward becoming a long-term partner for families, rather than just a financial transaction.

Staff & Tech

By combining a new staff member with our internal platform, we merge digital efficiency with vital human connection, ensuring our support remains deeply personal and data-driven. This powerful duo relieves volunteer administrative burdens, enabling us to safely scale our operations and embed community roots across Gloucestershire and Cambridgeshire.

People Not Process

We will tailor our support to the evolving, unique needs of each individual family, ensuring our expansion across Gloucestershire and Cambridgeshire remains deeply impactful.



GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE, MANAGEMENT AND DECLARATIONS

Thriving Through Recreation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose governing document is a Foundation Model Constitution. Copies are available on request.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of Thriving Through Recreation.

Trustees are selected and elected by a quorate vote by board members, and no individual person or body is entitled to appoint trustees unilaterally.

There are no corporate trustees and no trustee holds title to property belonging to the charity.

All Trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

www.thrivingthroughrecreation.co.uk

contact@thrivingthroughrecreation.co.uk

Charity Registration Number 1204822

Thank you to all our supporters and donors for your continued support.

Richard Carter, Chair

Trustees

The Trustees have approved this Annual Report.

Richard Carter - Imogen Loxam - Elizabeth Riley - Jenny McGoldrick - Jane Spencer - Penny Day - Susannah Connell - Amy Haynes

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Thriving Through Recreation CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Thriving Through Recreation (the CIO) for the year ended 5 April 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts 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 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:

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

Signed: 

Name: Bradley Seemayer (FCCA)

Address: Woodlands, Badgeworth, Cheltenham, GL51 4UL

Date: 03 July 2026

Statement of Financial Activities

Thriving Through Recreation

For the period 6 April 2025 to 5 April 2026

Account	6 Apr 2025-5 Apr 2026
Income and endowments from:	
Donations	57,245.50
Gift Aid	5,062.89
Total	**62,308.39**
Expenditure on:	
Freelance Fundraiser	9,600.00
General Expenses	65.04
Grants	13,336.51
Insurance	549.36
IT Software and Consumables	358.80
Legal Expenses	47.00
Staff Training	35.00
Subscriptions	60.00
Telephone & Internet	327.97
Total	**24,379.68**
Total Income/Loss	**37,928.71**
Reconciliation of funds:	
Total funds brought forward	24,310.14
Total funds carried forward	**62,238.85**

Balance Sheet

Thriving Through Recreation

As at 5 April 2026

Account	5 Apr 2026
Current Assets	
Cash at bank and in hand	
Thriving Through Recreation	62,238.85
Total Cash at bank and in hand	**62,238.85**
Total Current Assets	**62,238.85**