Charity registration number 1207246 (England and Wales)

CHARLIE'S PROMISE

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

CHARLIE'S PROMISE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	M Goodridge LLB MBE T Bartle A Pike S Cornell K Hoare	 (Appointed 2 February 2026)
Charity number	1207246	
Registered office	Ashcombe Court Woolsack Way Godalming England GU7 1LQ	
Independent examiner	Azets Audit Services Ashcombe Court Woolsack Way Godalming England GU7 1LQ	

CHARLIE'S PROMISE

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 12
Independent examiner's report	13
Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Notes to the financial statements	16 - 24

CHARLIE'S PROMISE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Introduction

Charlie's Promise was created in memory of Charlie Cosser, a bright, kind and funny young man whose life was tragically taken by knife violence in July 2023, aged just 17 years old. As Charlie lay fighting for his life, his dad Martin made him a promise – that he would spend the rest of his life educating young people about the dangers and immeasurable impacts of knife crime.

That promise became our purpose.

Charlie's Promise is driven by love, loss and determination to make change. We work to educate, inspire and support young people, helping them understand the impact of knife crime and empowering them to make safer, more positive choices.

Our mission is to keep Charlie's promise alive by preventing knife crime and creating hope for young people.

Our vision is simple yet powerful: a UK free from knife crime, where every young person feels safe, valued and inspired, free from the fear and pain of knife crime – and where Charlie's Promise continues to make a lasting difference.

At Charlie's Promise, everything we do is inspired by the promise made to Charlie – a promise to make change, save lives and help young people find safer, more hopeful paths.

We focus on education, empowerment and opportunity, working with schools, youth groups and communities to prevent knife crime before it happens. Through a series of presentations, we share Charlie's story and the profound impact his death has had on his family, friends and the wider community. Drawing on real lived experience, these presentations highlight how one choice can have life-changing consequences and help young people understand both the immediate dangers and the long-lasting effects of knife crime.

By equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and support to make positive choices, we aim to prevent knife crime before it starts and create a safer UK where every young person can thrive.

2025 was a year of considerable growth and development for Charlie's Promise. Having established the charity and begun delivering our educational programme in 2024, our second year saw a significant increase in our reach, recognition and partnerships. During 2025 alone, Charlie's Promise spoke to approximately 52,000 people, bringing the total number reached through our presentations to more than 64,000 by the end of the year.

Demand for our education continued to grow throughout the year, with presentations delivered in schools, colleges and other settings across the UK. We also strengthened relationships with police forces, Government, educational organisations and other charities working to prevent knife crime.

Alongside this growth in delivery, the trustees recognised the importance of strengthening the charity's foundations. During 2025, we developed our strategic direction, reviewed our staffing and governance arrangements, strengthened our systems and infrastructure and began planning how Charlie's Promise can extend its educational reach without losing the authenticity and impact of Charlie's story.

The trustees remain immensely proud of what has been achieved in a relatively short period of time and are grateful to the many schools, organisations, volunteers, fundraisers, donors and supporters who continue to stand alongside Charlie's Promise.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO are the prevention of knife crime and the protection of people from knife crime, in particular:

- To educate and raise awareness among children, young people and others within the community about knife crime and the devastating impact knife crime has on victims, families and communities;
- To engage with schools, parents and communities to encourage positive choices and prevent violence;
- To promote the prevention of crime and serious youth violence; and
- To provide support for victims of knife crime and their families and friends.

During 2025, the charity furthered these objects principally through:

- delivering educational presentations in schools, colleges, youth and community settings;
- engaging with parents, teachers, professionals, police and the wider community;
- signposting young people to trusted sources of help and anonymous reporting;
- developing partnerships with schools, police forces, charities, Government and other organisations working to prevent serious youth violence;
- developing plans for additional educational resources and youth engagement;
- raising awareness through community events, campaigns, traditional and social media; and
- fundraising and community activities to support the charity's current and future work.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Charlie's Promise benefits the public by working directly with young people, families, educational establishments and communities to prevent knife crime and its devastating consequences.

Our educational work aims not only to raise awareness but to encourage positive behavioural choices. Young people are encouraged to understand the real consequences of carrying and using a knife, to make a personal commitment not to carry a knife for the wrong reasons and to speak to a trusted adult or report concerns if they know somebody is carrying one.

The trustees are satisfied that the activities undertaken during 2025 furthered the charity's objects and provided clear public benefit.

Development and Strategic Direction of the Charity

Following Charlie's Promise's first year of operation and the rapid growth experienced during 2024, the trustees recognised in late 2024 and early 2025 that the charity had reached an important stage in its development. Demand for its educational work was increasing significantly and, alongside this, the charity was beginning to consider how Charlie's Promise could develop its reach and impact in a sustainable way.

The trustees therefore recognised the need to move from the initial establishment and growth of the charity towards a clearer strategic framework for its future development. Almond Tree Consulting was appointed to support this process and, in March 2025, facilitated a dedicated strategy session with the trustees. This work resulted in the development and adoption of Charlie's Promise's Strategic Plan 2025–2028, setting out the charity's priorities, objectives and ambitions for the following three years.

The Strategic Plan became an important framework for the charity's work during the remainder of 2025, informing decisions around educational delivery, digital development, staffing and operational capacity, governance, youth engagement, partnerships, systems and future programme development.

One of the key priorities identified through the strategic review was the need to extend the charity's reach. While sharing Charlie's story directly with young people remained at the heart of the charity's work, the trustees recognised that there was a limit to the number of people who could be reached through presentations delivered personally by the CEO. Developing the charity's digital communications and educational resources therefore became an important part of the strategy, providing an opportunity to reach significantly more young people, parents, teachers and communities while maintaining the strength and integrity of Charlie's story.

Staffing and Operational Capacity

As part of this organisational development, the trustees also formalised the CEO role during 2025. Martin Cosser, founder of Charlie's Promise and Charlie's dad, had led Charlie's Promise since its establishment and became the charity's formally employed full-time Chief Executive Officer, joining the charity's PAYE payroll in June 2025. External HR advice was obtained from Pink Fluff HR Consultancy in relation to the role, including the appropriate terms and conditions of employment, salary and job description. A formal employment contract and job description were put in place as part of this process, providing greater clarity around the leadership and management of the charity as it continued to grow.

As part of the charity's strategic development during 2025, the trustees considered its future staffing and operational requirements. With demand for Charlie's Promise's educational work continuing to grow, the trustees recognised the need for additional operational capacity to support the CEO and the charity's wider development.

As part of this process, the trustees considered the potential appointment of Tara Cosser, Charlie's mother and the wife of the charity's CEO, Martin Cosser, as Programmes and Operations Manager. Given the relationship between Tara and the CEO, the trustees sought professional legal advice to ensure that the proposed appointment was permitted under the charity's Constitution and that the appropriate governance requirements were understood and followed.

During this review, the charity's legal adviser identified what they considered to be a drafting error within the definition of a "connected person" in the Constitution, originating from the Charity Commission's model constitution. The legal advice confirmed that the wording incorrectly referred to section 118 of the Charities Act 2011 and should instead refer to sections 350–352.

Following this advice, the charity's Constitution was amended on 9 September 2025 to correct the cross-reference. The amendment corrected the wording of the Constitution and did not introduce a new power to provide benefits to trustees or connected persons.

The trustees subsequently considered Tara's proposed appointment, taking into account her relationship with the CEO alongside her existing knowledge and experience of Charlie's Promise, its work and operations, the significant contribution she had already made to the charity in a voluntary capacity and the charity's increasing need for additional operational capacity. In doing so, the trustees exercised the provision available to them in exceptional circumstances. Appropriate conflict-of-interest procedures were followed, with Martin Cosser excluded from the trustees' consideration and decision regarding the appointment. External HR advice was also obtained in relation to the appropriate salary, terms and conditions and job description for the role.

The trustees concluded that the appointment was in the best interests of Charlie's Promise and agreed that Tara would commence employment as Programmes and Operations Manager on 1 January 2026. The role would provide increased operational capacity and enable the CEO to balance the continued delivery of the charity's educational presentations with the wider strategic development and growth of Charlie's Promise.

Achievements and performance
Education and Awareness

Education remained at the heart of Charlie's Promise throughout 2025.

During 2025, Charlie's Promise delivered over 170 educational and community presentations, reaching young people and adults across more than 100 educational settings and around 130 different venues overall. This included secondary schools, primary schools, colleges, sixth forms, specialist SEND and SEMH provisions, alternative provision, universities, youth organisations, cadet groups, sports clubs and wider community settings.

Through this work, the charity engaged not only with young people but also with teachers, parents, police officers, emergency services, community groups and other adults.

By the end of 2025, Charlie's Promise had spoken directly to more than 64,000 people, including approximately 52,000 during 2025 alone.

Demand for presentations continued to grow throughout the year. Since Charlie's Promise began delivering its educational presentations, every booking has come to the charity without Charlie's Promise having approached a school or actively marketed its presentations to schools. Growth has instead developed organically through word of mouth, recommendations and referrals, with new enquiries received regularly and bookings being made several months in advance. During 2025, the charity also began to see schools requesting return visits.

The trustees are particularly encouraged by this organic growth. We recognise the considerable pressures faced by schools and the many competing demands on curriculum and teaching time and therefore do not take for granted the decision by schools to invite Charlie's Promise to speak to their young people. The continued demand, recommendations, repeat bookings and overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, teachers and parents provide an important indication of the trust being placed in Charlie's Promise and the value schools believe its education brings to their young people.

Many schools have also subsequently chosen to fundraise for Charlie's Promise following a presentation, often at the instigation of the students themselves. The trustees consider this particularly meaningful, demonstrating the extent to which young people have connected with Charlie's story and want to play their own part in supporting the charity's work.

The charity's education is centred around Charlie's story and the devastating ripple effect that one act of knife violence can have. Through real lived experience, young people are encouraged to consider not simply the legal consequences of carrying a knife, but the impact their decisions can have on themselves, their families, friends and entire communities.

Importantly, the presentations are intended not simply to raise awareness but to encourage young people to make positive choices. Young people are encouraged to make a personal commitment never to carry a knife for the wrong reasons and to understand that carrying a knife does not make them safer.

During the year, the charity also continued to emphasise the importance of speaking up and reporting concerns. Young people are encouraged to speak to a trusted adult or use appropriate reporting mechanisms if they know somebody is carrying a knife. This remains a central message of Charlie's Promise: speaking up is not simply about getting somebody into trouble; it could prevent serious harm and ultimately save a life.

Partnerships & Collaboration

The trustees recognise that knife crime is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by one organisation alone. Building meaningful partnerships remained an important area of development throughout 2025.

Government and National Engagement

During 2025, Charlie's Promise was invited to join the Government's Knife Crime Coalition, working alongside the Home Office, other anti-knife crime charities and organisations as part of the Government's commitment to reducing knife crime.

The charity continued to advocate for early intervention and education and for effective knife crime education to form an important part of young people's learning.

In July, Charlie's Promise was honoured to attend the Youth Opportunity Summit at St James's Palace. The event brought together the King, Prime Minister, other national leaders, campaigners, organisations and families committed to preventing knife crime and serious youth violence. It reinforced the charity's belief in the importance of early education, positive opportunities, safe spaces and trusted relationships for young people.

Charlie's Promise also contributed during the year to the Accelerated Capability Environment initiative, bringing lived experience into discussions between Government, industry and academia around knife crime and intervention.

Kent Police

Charlie's Promise continued to develop a particularly strong relationship with Kent Police during 2025. Building on work undertaken during 2024, Kent Police committed a further £5,000 during the year to support the delivery of Charlie's Promise presentations in schools across Kent.

The programme enabled Charlie's Promise to reach young people in schools across the county, with Kent Police officers attending and supporting the presentations. This collaborative approach has helped reinforce the messages delivered through Charlie's story and provided an important link between education, prevention and policing.

The trustees are extremely grateful for the continued support and confidence Kent Police has shown in the work of Charlie's Promise.

Fearless

Our relationship with Fearless, the youth service of Crimestoppers, strengthened significantly during 2025.

Fearless provides young people aged 11–25 with a safe and 100% anonymous means of reporting crime. Charlie's Promise actively promotes the service through its presentations, social media and conversations with young people, parents and teachers.

In December 2025, in recognition of this commitment, Charlie's Promise was invited to become Ambassadors of Fearless, an honour which we were delighted to accept.

This relationship supports one of the key messages within our educational programme: that reporting concerns about somebody carrying a knife is not simply about getting somebody into trouble; it may prevent serious harm and ultimately save a life.

Activate Learning

Our relationship with Activate Learning also continued to develop during the year.

Plans progressed for Charlie's Promise to establish a small office base at Merrist Wood College in Guildford during 2026, providing the charity with a physical base from which to operate and grow.

The partnership also created opportunities to work with students and staff across the Activate Learning group and to explore youth advisory panels, educational resources and interactive workshops, helping ensure young people's voices are reflected in the future development of Charlie's Promise.

The charity also continued to build relationships with police forces, schools, colleges, prisons, other anti-knife crime charities and community organisations throughout the year.

Youth Engagement

Ensuring that young people's voices are represented in the work of Charlie's Promise remains an important commitment for the charity.

During 2025, we began exploring opportunities for young people to become more formally involved as advisors and ambassadors, including initial discussions with educational partners such as Activate Learning, Godalming College and the Bohunt Trust. However, due to the considerable growth in demand for our educational work and the time and resources required to support the charity's wider development, this work remained at an early stage during the year.

Despite this, young people are already playing an important role in advocating for Charlie's Promise in their own way. Many young people who have heard Charlie's story have chosen to support the charity through their own fundraising, awareness activities and individual campaigns. Some have written poetry, drawn pictures of Charlie and written letters of support. Schools have also increasingly chosen to fundraise following a Charlie's Promise presentation, often driven by the enthusiasm of the students themselves.

The trustees remain committed to developing more structured opportunities for young people to contribute their ideas and perspectives and to help shape the charity's future educational resources and campaigns. This will be progressed as the charity's capacity and resources allow.

Digital Development and Educational Resources

During 2025, the charity began to explore how digital communications and educational resources could complement its face-to-face education and enable Charlie's Promise to reach a wider audience.

During the year, Charlie's Promise worked with creative agency Chaos to refresh and further develop its website. This included improved information about the charity's work, events and fundraising, together with testimonials, statistics, videos, photographs and signposting to relevant support and resources. The work was provided free of charge through the Chaos with a Cause scheme.

The charity also began exploring dedicated digital resources for schools to complement and reinforce its face-to-face presentations. This work represented an important first step in delivering the ambitions identified within the Strategic Plan and established digital and educational development as a significant priority for 2026.

Community Engagement and Fundraising

The support received from communities, schools, businesses and individuals throughout 2025 was once again extraordinary.

More than 60 fundraising pages were established across various platforms during the year, alongside numerous other fundraising events and activities across the UK. These included running events, cycling and swimming challenges, quizzes, concerts, pantomimes, school fundraisers, sporting challenges, community events and individual sponsored activities.

Among the many fundraising highlights of the year were:

- One Winter's Night at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, which raised £10,000 and was subsequently match-funded by an anonymous donor;
- Charlie's Festival, held on 12 July, which attracted hundreds of people and raised more than £10,000;
- Charlie's Promise's first Charity Golf Day, bringing together supporters for a new community fundraising event and raising valuable funds for the charity;
- the charity's first London Landmarks Half Marathon entry, with five runners taking part and fundraising on behalf of Charlie's Promise;
- a solo English Channel swim by Helen Jenkins, raising £4,800 plus Gift Aid for Charlie's Promise; and
- Trustee Sean Cornell's 100km Thames Path Ultra Marathon, which raised £6,254 including Gift Aid, with a further £1,559.97 raised by his fellow runner.

The trustees extend their sincere thanks to everyone who fundraised, donated, volunteered, attended an event or otherwise supported Charlie's Promise during the year.

Every contribution, large or small, enables the charity to continue sharing Charlie's story and working towards the prevention of knife crime.

Recognition and Awareness

As the reach of Charlie's Promise increased during 2025, so too did recognition of its work.

In July, Charlie's Promise was honoured to receive a North Kent Police Divisional Commander's Award, recognising its contribution to education and its work with young people. The award was particularly meaningful given the strong relationship that had developed between Charlie's Promise and Kent Police through the delivery of educational presentations across the county. The award was presented by the High Sheriff of Kent, who subsequently asked to attend a Charlie's Promise presentation to learn more about the charity's work and its approach to knife crime education.

In September, the charity's CEO, Martin Cosser, was selected by the Rob Knox Foundation to receive its Legacy Award, recognising the educational work being undertaken to prevent knife crime. The trustees were particularly touched by this recognition from another organisation founded following the loss of a young person to knife crime.

In November, Charlie's Promise was also delighted to receive Leigh UTC's Community Award for Charity of the Year. Martin had previously delivered a Charlie's Promise presentation at the school and the charity was subsequently chosen for the award by the students themselves. The trustees were particularly touched by this recognition, as it reflected the connection the students had made with Charlie's story and the charity's work following the presentation.

Provision of Support for Victims of Knife Crime and their Families and Friends

The charity's governing objects include the provision of support for victims of knife crime and their families and friends.

As stated in the previous Trustees' Report, the trustees recognise that this is an area requiring specialist expertise, appropriate safeguarding arrangements and careful consideration.

During 2025, Charlie's Promise continued primarily to focus its resources on prevention and education, while signposting individuals to appropriate specialist organisations and services where necessary.

The trustees remain committed to considering how this charitable objective may appropriately be developed in the future, while ensuring that any services provided by Charlie's Promise are safe, properly resourced and within the charity's competence and capacity.

Financial review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's constitution dated 28 February 2024, as amended on 9 September 2025, 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Income

During the year, the charity received total income of £274,410.

Income was principally generated through:

- community fundraising and events;
- donations from individuals, schools, businesses and organisations;
- school and organisational contributions towards presentations;
- grants and other charitable support; and
- merchandise and other fundraising activities.

The trustees are extremely grateful for the continued generosity of the charity's supporters and particularly encouraged by the breadth of support received from schools and young people following Charlie's Promise presentations.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £151,642.

Funds were directed towards the delivery and development of the charity's educational work, community engagement and events, awareness activities, fundraising, governance, administration and the development of the infrastructure required to support the charity's continued growth.

The charity recorded a surplus of £122,768 for the year.

At 31 December 2025, the charity held total funds of £290,730, of which £290,730 were unrestricted and £Nil were restricted.

The trustees consider the charity to remain in a sound financial position and continue to review expenditure and future commitments carefully to ensure funds are used effectively in furtherance of the charity's objectives.

The charity's strong financial performance during 2025 resulted in funds being held above the level required under its existing reserves policy. The trustees considered this position during the year and began reviewing how available resources could be appropriately applied to further the charity's objectives and support its future development.

Reserves policy

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining an appropriate level of reserves to provide financial stability, manage cash flow and ensure that the charity can continue to meet its ongoing commitments.

The charity's reserves policy provides for a minimum level of unrestricted free reserves of £60,000. At 31 December 2025, unrestricted free reserves amounted to £290,730.

The trustees were mindful during the year that holding funds substantially in excess of the level required by the reserves policy needed careful consideration. At their October 2025 meeting, the Board specifically considered how the charity could best apply its available resources to further its charitable objectives and agreed that serious consideration should be given to the appropriate use of reserves during 2026.

As a starting point, the trustees revisited the Strategic Plan 2025–2028 and considered areas in which additional investment could increase the charity's impact and support its longer-term development. A number of potential initiatives were discussed and the trustees agreed that more detailed proposals and budgets should be developed before significant expenditure was committed.

The trustees therefore consider the level of funds held at 31 December 2025 in the context of the charity's planned development and anticipated future investment. The Board will continue to review both the reserves policy and the appropriate application of funds during 2026, with the aim of ensuring that resources are used responsibly and effectively to further Charlie's Promise's charitable objectives.

Structure, Governance and Management
Charlie's Promise is governed by its Constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (No. 1207246) on 28 February 2024.

The charity was established to educate young people on the dangers of knife crime and to support safer communities in memory of Charlie Cosser.

Constitution
During 2025, the charity's Constitution was reviewed following professional legal advice obtained in connection with the charity's future staffing arrangements. On 9 September 2025, an amendment was made to correct a cross-reference within the definition of a "connected person", replacing the reference to section 118 of the Charities Act 2011 with sections 350–352.

Trustee Recruitment, Appointment and Development

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the charity's Constitution.

The Board seeks to maintain an appropriate balance of skills, knowledge and experience to provide effective oversight of the charity's work.

During 2025, the trustees reviewed the skills and experience represented on the Board and identified areas where additional expertise would strengthen the charity's governance as Charlie's Promise continued to grow. The trustees agreed that, where gaps were identified, the charity would actively seek to recruit additional trustees with the relevant skills and experience to complement those already represented on the Board.

All trustees receive appropriate induction and are expected to understand the charity's governing document, policies, safeguarding responsibilities and regulatory obligations.

Trustees Meetings and Oversight

The Board of Trustees met regularly throughout 2025 to provide strategic oversight and scrutinise the charity's activities, finances and future plans.

Trustees received regular reports from the CEO covering educational delivery, partnerships, fundraising, operations and strategic developments, together with financial information to enable the Board to monitor the charity's position and commitments.

The trustees continued to review and develop policies and procedures during the year to ensure governance arrangements remained appropriate for a growing charity.

Structure, governance and management

Risk Management
The trustees regularly considered the principal risks facing the charity as part of their oversight of its activities and development. During 2025, particular consideration was given to safeguarding, financial sustainability, governance, operational capacity and the need to ensure that the charity's growth remained manageable and consistent with its charitable objectives.

Appropriate policies, procedures and controls continued to be reviewed and developed as the charity grew.

Charlie's Promise is governed by its **Constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**, registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (No. 1207246) on 28th February 2024. The charity was established to educate young people on the dangers of knife crime and to support safer communities in memory of Charlie Cosser.

Constitution

As a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**, the charity has a legal personality, allowing it to enter into contracts and hold assets in its own name. The CIO structure provides the trustees with a clear legal framework and limits their personal liability, ensuring effective governance and compliance with charity law.

The Board of Trustees meets regularly (at least quarterly) to provide strategic oversight and ensure the charity operates in line with its mission, governing document, and legal obligations.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the charity's Constitution. We strive to have a Board of Trustees that has the skills, experience and diversity to ensure our work reaches everyone affected by knife crime. New trustees will be recruited based on the skills, experience, and expertise required to further the charity's mission. Appointments are made by resolution of the existing Board of Trustees following a transparent recruitment and selection process and conducted in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines.

All trustees receive an induction, ensuring they understand the charity's governing document, policies, safeguarding responsibilities, and regulatory obligations.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

M Goodridge LLB MBE
T Bartle
A Pike
S Cornell
K Hoare (Appointed 2 February 2026)

Looking Ahead: 2026 Priorities

Following a year of considerable growth, the trustees' priority for 2026 is to build upon the strong foundations established during Charlie's Promise's first two years while ensuring growth remains sustainable and focused on impact.

Key priorities include:

Educational Delivery and Reach

Continue delivering high-quality presentations in schools, colleges, youth groups and other settings while developing ways of extending the charity's reach beyond presentations delivered directly by the CEO.

Educational and Digital Development

Make digital development a significant area of focus during 2026, building upon the work commenced during 2025. The charity plans to develop new ways of extending Charlie's Promise education beyond face-to-face presentations, including digital content and additional educational resources for young people, schools, teachers and parents.

Plans include further exploration and development of a digital education hub and, importantly, the development of a documentary-style educational film telling Charlie's story for use in schools. This work will support the charity's longer-term ambition to reach significantly more young people while ensuring that its education remains impactful, consistent and accessible.

Youth Voice and Engagement

Continue to explore opportunities for young people to have a greater voice in Charlie's Promise, including the future development of young ambassador and advisor roles as the charity's capacity allows.

Impact Measurement

Continue improving the way the charity collects and evaluates feedback and data so that it can better demonstrate the reach, effectiveness and behavioural impact of its educational work.

Strengthen Partnerships

Continue working collaboratively with schools, colleges, police forces, Government, Fearless, other charities and organisations involved in violence prevention and youth support.

Organisational Capacity

Establish the charity's operational base at Merrist Wood College, embed the new Programmes and Operations Manager role and continue to review the charity's staffing and administrative requirements as its work and reach grow.

Sustainable Growth

Continue to develop fundraising and income streams capable of supporting the charity's ambitions while ensuring funds are used responsibly and in accordance with the charity's objectives.

Explore the Charlie's Promise Youth Hub

The charity will continue to explore the longer-term feasibility of creating a Charlie's Promise Youth Hub and educational space: somewhere young people can feel safe, access positive activities and trusted support, and learn about the real-life consequences of knife crime.

The concept is based around a simple principle identified through our engagement with young people and those working with them: somewhere to go, something to do and someone to listen.

Any development of this concept will be carefully researched and considered by the trustees before significant financial commitments are made.

Our Promise to Charlie

Everything Charlie's Promise does stems from a single promise – a father's promise to his son.

During 2025, Charlie's story reached tens of thousands more young people and opened conversations in schools, homes and communities across the country. Young people have told us they will never carry a knife. Others have said they will speak up if they know somebody who does. Schools, parents, police officers and organisations continue to tell us of the impact Charlie's story has had.

We recognise that the growth of Charlie's Promise brings both opportunity and responsibility. As trustees, our role is to ensure that the charity grows responsibly, remains true to the purpose for which it was created and uses the extraordinary support it receives to achieve the greatest possible impact.

As we move into 2026, we remain committed to educating and empowering young people, developing sustainable ways to extend our reach and working alongside others who share our determination to prevent knife crime.

Above all, we remain committed to keeping the promise to Charlie and helping to create safer futures for young people.

For Charlie. For every young life. For a safer future.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

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T Bartle
Trustee

Date: 16/10/2026

CHARLIE'S PROMISE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHARLIE'S PROMISE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Charlie's Promise (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Debra Saunders FCA

Azets Audit Services
Ashcombe Court
Woolsack Way
Godalming
GU7 1LQ
England

Dated: 19 October 2026

CHARLIE'S PROMISE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	**2**	117,059	159,793
Charitable activities	**3**	45,682	23,630
Other trading activities	**4**	111,198	57,278
Investments	**5**	471	100
Total income		274,410	240,801
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	**6**	52,398	21,429
Charitable activities	**7**	99,244	51,410
Total expenditure		151,642	72,839
Net income and movement in funds		122,768	167,962
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		167,962	-
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		290,730	167,962

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

CHARLIE'S PROMISE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		1,166		857
Current assets					
Stocks	**15**	5,235		4,286	
Debtors	**16**	5,642		24,297	
Cash at bank and in hand		285,340		146,928	
		296,217		175,511	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(6,653)		(8,406)	
Net current assets			289,564		167,105
Total assets less current liabilities			290,730		167,962
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	**18**		290,730		167,962
			290,730		167,962

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 16/10/26

T Bartle
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Charlie's Promise is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Details of the correspondence address can be found on the charity information page.

1.1 **Reporting period**

The Charity was incorporated on 28 February 2024 and the first period of account was to 31 December 2024. Therefore the prior year comparatives are not entirely comparable.

1.2 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

1.5 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Grants offered which are subject to performance related conditions that have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Costs of raising funds includes of fundraising events and production of goods for resale.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes delivery of projects including the provision of educational work around knife crime.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Premises and other overheads have been allocated on the same basis.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	Straight-line basis over 3 years
Computers	Straight-line basis over 3 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Donations and gifts	104,359	137,793
Corporate donations	12,700	22,000

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
School and educational talks	24,498	2,261
Charlie's Games	-	21,369
Charlie's Festival	21,184	-
	45,682	23,630

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising events	106,127	50,351
Merchandise sales	5,071	6,927
Other trading activities	111,198	57,278

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	471	100

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Fundraising event costs	3,175	2,517
Governance costs	1,050	900
Support costs	36,057	6,382
Fundraising and publicity	40,282	9,799

6 Raising funds **(Continued)**

Trading costs		
Merchandise costs	12,116	11,630
	52,398	21,429

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Knife crime education	17,375	25,137
Charlie's Games	-	12,253
Launch event	-	4,738
Charlie's Festival	15,990	-
	33,365	42,128
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	-	2,000
Share of support costs (see note 9)	64,829	6,382
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	1,050	900
	99,244	51,410

8 Grants payable

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Grants to individuals	2,000
	2,000

The grant was paid to the Cosser family as a contribution towards their travel and accommodation costs during the murder trial.

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	Total	Support costs	Governance costs	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	47,954	-	47,954	-	-	-
IT software and consumables	630	-	630	178	-	178
Postage	1,361	-	1,361	284	-	284
Depreciation	566	-	566	330	-	330
Travel and subsistence	17,288	-	17,288	3,875	-	3,875
Branding and advertising	10,182	-	10,182	1,806	-	1,806
Bank charges	135	-	135	1,222	-	1,222
Sundry expenses	3,083	-	3,083	1,317	-	1,317
Legal and professional fees	8,808	-	8,808	1,553	-	1,553
Insurance	739	-	739	135	-	135
Accountancy	10,140	-	10,140	2,064	-	2,064
Independent examination fees	-	2,100	2,100	-	1,800	1,800
	100,886	2,100	102,986	12,764	1,800	14,564
Analysed between						
Fundraising	36,057	1,050	37,107	6,382	900	7,282
Charitable activities	64,829	1,050	65,879	6,382	900	7,282
	100,886	2,100	102,986	12,764	1,800	14,564

Support and governance costs are allocated between fundraising and charitable activities based on time spent.

10 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,100	1,800
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	566	330

11 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

12 Employees

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Management	1	-

Employment costs	**2025** **£**	**2024** **£**
Wages and salaries	41,684	-
Social security costs	5,500	-
Other pension costs	770	-
	47,954	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2025	1,187	-	1,187
Additions	-	875	875
At 31 December 2025	1,187	875	2,062
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2025	330	-	330
Depreciation charged in the year	396	170	566
At 31 December 2025	726	170	896
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2025	461	705	1,166
At 31 December 2024	857	-	857

15 Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
Goods for resale	5,235	4,286

Stock relates to charity branded merchandise for resale.

16 Debtors

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	5,642	24,297

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,236	-
Other creditors	257	-
Accruals and deferred income	5,160	8,406
	6,653	8,406

18 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£
General funds	167,962	274,410	(151,642)	290,730

Previous period:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	-	240,801	(72,839)	167,962

19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions with the trustees during the year.

Key management transactions
During the period, M Cosser received £17,333 (2024: £25,137) for delivery of his educational talks and promotion of the charitable activities.

During 2024, a £2,000 grant was paid to the Cosser family as a contribution towards travel and accommodation costs during the murder trial.