The Lampstand Group

Trustees' Annual Report

For the accounting period 6 April 2025 to 5 April 2026

Charitable Incorporated Organisation • Charity number 1210162

The trustees present their annual report for the period ending 5 April 2026. The report describes the charity's purposes, activities, public benefit, achievements, governance, financial position and plans for the next period.

Reference and administrative details

Detail	Information
Registered charity name	The Lampstand Group
Charity number	1210162
Legal structure	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Principal address	PO Box 1049, East Yorkshire, Hull, HU7 9EN
Trustees serving during the period	Lisa Russell, Chair; Jennifer Hebert; Sophie Louise Bumphrey

Objects of the charity

The charity is governed by its constitution. Its principal object is the relief of women and their children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to being victims of domestic abuse by providing safe accommodation, advice, counselling, education and other support as the trustees see fit.

The charity works with people with lived experience of domestic abuse across Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire. Its approach is trauma informed and shaped by dignity, safety, practical support and its Christian ethos.

During this reporting period, the charity did not provide or manage housing or accommodation. Where housing assistance was needed, it signposted people to and worked alongside appropriate agencies and specialist services. Providing safe accommodation remains part of the charity's longer-term vision, but any future service will depend on identified need, suitable funding and premises, legal and regulatory requirements, robust safeguarding arrangements and sufficient organisational capacity.

Activities and public benefit

During this period, the charity provided post crisis recovery, wellbeing, advocacy and community connection. Its principal activities included:

- Grace and Glitter creative wellbeing sessions, using arts, crafts, food and peer connection to reduce isolation and rebuild confidence.
- Individual listening, advocacy, practical support, signposting and accompaniment to court, hospital and other services.
- Food and refreshments during group activities reduce barriers to participation and create a welcoming environment.
- Talks and engagement with churches and community organisations to improve understanding of domestic abuse and appropriate support.
- Training and development in safeguarding, trauma informed practice, domestic abuse advocacy and faith-sensitive responses to spiritual abuse.
- Partnership working with local organisations, professionals and community networks to strengthen referral routes and access to support.

In planning and reviewing the charity's activities, the trustees have applied the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The Lampstand Group supported 18 people during the reporting period. It provided safe opportunities for people to reconnect with others, take part at their own pace and begin rebuilding confidence after domestic abuse. Grace and Glitter placed creativity, hospitality and trusted relationships at the centre of engagement.

The charity also provided one-on-one advocacy and practical support, including accompaniment connected with court, health and other services. This support helped people understand their options, communicate with professionals and access appropriate specialist services. The charity worked within its competence and used referral and safeguarding procedures when needs required statutory or specialist intervention.

Training and partnership development strengthened the charity's ability to respond safely. The board undertook focused learning to strengthen its understanding of spiritual abuse and the ways it can arise within some faith settings. This included recognising when Scripture, religious language or spiritual and pastoral authority is misused to excuse abusive behaviour, exert control, silence disclosure or discourage someone from seeking safety and support. This learning supports a trauma-informed and faith-sensitive response that respects a person's beliefs while keeping safeguarding, dignity, choice and recovery central. A therapy dog was used as an emotional wellbeing resource where appropriate, subject to safeguarding, suitability, welfare and risk considerations.

The charity continued public awareness and outreach through its website, printed information, church and community engagement and its call-to-action film. It also maintained links with wider work addressing violence against women and girls, including White Ribbon-related awareness activity.

Financial review

Gross charity income for the period was £21,554.26 and charitable expenditure was £36,670.64. Expenditure exceeded income by £15,116.38 because activities were also

supported by funds held at the beginning of the period. The bank balance on 5 April 2026 was £235.20. Of this, £143.70 represented charity funds and £91.50 was agency money held on behalf of a third party and excluded from the charity's income and expenditure.

Income

Income source	Amount
Donations	£3,028.52
Grants	£18,500.00
Charitable activities	£25.74
Total charity income	£21,554.26

Expenditure

Expenditure category	Amount
Training and development	£8,294.81
Room hire	£185.00
Therapy dog costs	£2,149.75
Equipment and maintenance	£2,222.00
Grace and Glitter	£2,981.37
Meetings and refreshments	£1,965.61
Administration, storage, insurance and compliance	£6,600.51
Travel	£2,514.68
Exhibitions, shows and other expenditure	£9,756.91
Total charity expenditure	£36,670.64

Refunds and reimbursements have been offset against the related expenditure. Agency receipts and payments have been excluded from charity income and expenditure.

The summarised headings above include expenditure on exhibitions, storage, public-liability insurance, safeguarding membership and DBS checks. These items are separately identifiable in the charity's underlying cashbook and supporting records; the accompanying accounts provide the formal financial presentation.

Reserves and financial sustainability

The trustees aim to build unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover approximately three months of essential operating expenditure. On 5 April 2026, charity cash of £143.70 was below this aim. The low balance reflected the timing of expenditure and grant income during a period of developing services. The trustees continued fundraising, monitored cash flow and kept activities under review.

After the year end, the charity secured or received approval for further grant funding. At the date this report was approved, some funding had been received while other approved funding had not yet been released to the charity. None of this post-year-end funding is included in the income or closing funds reported for the period ended 5 April 2026. These developments strengthened the charity's ability to plan continued delivery, while the trustees continued to monitor cash flow and the conditions of each award carefully.

After the year end, the Founder completed SafeLives Service Management training and began accredited ISVA training, building on the charity's domestic abuse advocacy knowledge and experience. In August 2026, the charity also contributed to awareness and engagement work at the House of Lords concerning domestic abuse and the support needs of women and families affected by it. These are reported as post-year-end developments and not as activities delivered during the year ended 5 April 2026.

Restricted funds

Where grants were awarded for specified purposes, the trustees treated those funds as restricted and monitored their use against the relevant award conditions. Any unspent restricted balances are carried forward for the purposes for which they were given.

Structure governance and management

Responsibility for setting policy, safeguarding the charity's assets and making operating decisions rests with the trustees. The trustees meet to monitor activities, finances, safeguarding, risk and compliance. Day to day coordination and delivery are led by the Founder and supported by trustees and volunteers.

New trustees and key volunteers are introduced to the charity's purposes, safeguarding expectations, financial controls, confidentiality, boundaries and trauma informed approach. The charity was volunteer led during the period and employed no paid staff. Trustees received no remuneration for acting as trustees. Legitimate expenses may be reimbursed in accordance with the charity's procedures and governing documents.

Volunteers

The charity's work depended substantially on voluntary service. Trustees and volunteers contributed time to governance, safeguarding, programme delivery, individual advocacy, administration, outreach, partnership development and training. The trustees record their gratitude for this commitment and for the support received from churches, community organisations, funders and individual donors.

Risk management and safeguarding

The trustees review significant operational, financial, safeguarding and reputational risks. Key risks during the period included safeguarding people with lived experience

of domestic abuse, maintaining appropriate boundaries and confidentiality, reliance on grants, low unrestricted reserves, volunteer capacity and accurate financial record keeping.

The charity mitigates these risks through safeguarding policies, training, referral and escalation arrangements, partnership working, financial controls, record keeping and trustee oversight. The charity does not seek to replace statutory or specialist services and refers or escalates concerns when appropriate.

Plans for the next period

- Continue and strengthen creative wellbeing and recovery activities across Hull and the East Riding.
- Develop individual advocacy, court support, talks in churches and appropriate referral pathways.
- Explore the responsible development of safe accommodation as a longer-term aim, subject to need, funding, suitable premises, regulatory requirements, safeguarding and organisational capacity.
- Improve outcome recording, restricted fund monitoring and evidence of public benefit.
- Strengthen safeguarding, trauma informed practice and training across the team.
- Develop a more sustainable mix of grants, donations and unrestricted reserves.
- Build organisational capacity so that the charity can move gradually from wholly voluntary delivery towards appropriately funded roles.
- Seek funding to introduce a secure specialist case-management system. This would enable the charity to maintain confidential case records, record consent, risk and safeguarding information, manage referrals and agreed actions, and monitor outcomes more consistently. Any system will be introduced only when affordable and suitable, with access restricted to authorised users and appropriate data-protection, safeguarding and staff-training arrangements in place.

Responsibilities of trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing compliant financial statements and keeping accounting records that accurately disclose the charity's financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

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

Signed _*L. Russell*_____ Name Lisa Russell_____

Position Chair or Trustee:- Chair Date

_02/11/2026_____
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