TOUCH OF SPARKLE

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 12 November 2024 to 31 December 2025

Registered charity number 1210909 | Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation CIO)

First annual report

1. About this report

Touch of Sparkle was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 12 November 2024. This is the charity's first Trustees' Annual Report and covers the period from registration to 31 December 2025.

The CIO had no financial transactions during November and December 2024. During that transitional period, activity continued under the pre-existing Touch of Sparkle organisation. The registered charity commenced its operational and financial activity from January 2025. Accordingly, the charity's accounts record no CIO income or expenditure for November and December 2024.

2. Reference and administrative details

Registered name	Touch of Sparkle
Charity number	1210909
Legal structure	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation CIO)
Registration date	12 November 2024
Financial period	12 November 2024 to 31 December 2025
Principal / head office	34 Falmouth Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 0UF
Email	touchofsparkle@outlook.com

Trustees

- Melanie Suzanne Hersey - Trustee (appointed 12 November 2024)
- Graham Robert Steed - Trustee (appointed 12 November 2024)
- Sarah Jane Swire - Trustee (appointed 12 November 2024)
- Dr Elisabeth Anne Silver - Trustee (appointed 24 February 2025)

3. Structure, governance and management

Governing document. Touch of Sparkle is a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its constitution dated 7 October 2024. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 12 November 2024.

Trustee appointment and governance. The charity must have at least three and no more than twelve trustees. Apart from the first trustees, new trustees are appointed for a term of three years by resolution at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment, the trustees have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.
The trustees collectively manage the affairs of the CIO and may exercise all the powers of the charity in furtherance of its objects. Melanie Hersey serves as Chair and Graham Steed serves as Treasurer, with responsibility for overseeing the charity's financial records and accounts.

4. Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes. Touch of Sparkle exists for the benefit of the public to provide mental and physical support to cancer patients in the United Kingdom, principally through the provision of cancer care packs. The packs contain a mixture of practical items, distractions and treats intended to provide comfort, ease some of the side effects of cancer treatment and reduce some of the practical, emotional and financial pressures associated with a cancer diagnosis. The charity may also provide items to relieve ill-health in people with other medical conditions, including reward toys for children undergoing tests and procedures in hospital.

Main activities. During 2025, Touch of Sparkle's principal activity was the preparation and donation of cancer care packs for patients undergoing surgery, chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiotherapy. The majority of packs were provided for adult cancer patients, but during the year the charity was also approached by teenage cancer services at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Peterborough Hospital and agreed to provide a small number of care packs for teenage cancer patients.

The packs were supplied to hospital oncology departments, breast units, cancer wellbeing services and teenage cancer services, where nurses, patient navigators and other healthcare staff distributed them directly to patients. Hospital staff used their professional discretion to identify patients who would particularly benefit from receiving a pack.

The charity also donated small reward toys, books, crafts and games to hospital health play specialist teams for children undergoing tests or procedures. These were distributed by hospital staff with the aim of reducing anxiety and helping to make the hospital experience less daunting.

Public benefit. The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that the charity's activities provide a clear public benefit by offering practical and emotional support to people undergoing cancer treatment and by supporting children undergoing medical procedures. The trustees consider that the charity's activities during the reporting period furthered its charitable purposes by providing practical and emotional support, comfort and encouragement to people undergoing cancer treatment and by supporting children undergoing medical procedures.

5. Achievements and performance

Care packs delivered. During 2025, Touch of Sparkle donated a total of 1,692 cancer care packs to patients receiving treatment across hospitals and cancer support services in the East of England. This included 660 packs to Oncology at Addenbrooke's Hospital, 260 to the Breast Unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital, 332 to the Woodlands Centre at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, 305 to Oncology at Peterborough City Hospital, 75 to Peterborough Cancer Wellbeing Service and 60 packs for teenage cancer patients.

During the year, the charity also reached its 9,000th care pack milestone, marking a significant point in its long-term support for cancer patients. March 2025 also marked the 10th anniversary of Touch of Sparkle, which was first established in 2015.

The charity marked World Cancer Day on 4 February 2025 with a donation of care packs to Addenbrooke's Oncology. Seasonal support also included Easter care packs for Addenbrooke's Oncology and Christmas care packs for Addenbrooke's Breast Unit, Addenbrooke's Oncology and Peterborough Oncology.

Hospitals and services supported. Touch of Sparkle continued to support established hospital partners across Cambridge, Huntingdon and Peterborough. Packs were distributed through oncology teams, breast services and cancer wellbeing services.

During 2025, the charity also expanded its provision to include teenage cancer patients following approaches from services at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Peterborough Hospital. A total of 60 care packs were donated for teenage cancer patients during the year.

Support for children. In November 2025, more than 2,300 reward toys were donated to the Health Play Specialist team at Addenbrooke's Hospital. These were used by hospital staff as small rewards for children undergoing tests and procedures, helping to reduce anxiety and make the hospital experience more positive.

Grants and financial support. Touch of Sparkle received significant grant support during 2025, with 19 grants totalling £35,734. Major awards included £10,809 from the National Lottery Community Fund, £5,000 from the Albert Hunt Trust, £5,000 from the Childwick Trust, £2,000 from McLaughlin & Harvey and £1,800 from Huntingdon Freemen's Trust.

The charity also received generous support from a range of Cambridge colleges, trusts, community organisations and businesses, including Rotary Club of Cambridge South, Nene & Welland District Lodge of Oddfellows, Newnham College, Malcolm Whales Foundation, Trinity College, Queens' College, PEM Charitable Trust, Warburtons via Charities Aid Foundation, King's College, Corpus Christi College, Magdalene College, Bell Charitable Trust via Buckles Law, Mills & Reeve via Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and Tesco Stronger Starts.

In December 2025, Touch of Sparkle came first of the three local charities selected for the Tesco Stronger Starts customer vote in Cambridge, resulting in an award of £1,500.

Donated goods and in-kind support. The charity also benefited from donations of goods during the year. The Butterfly Legacy Project donated eye masks, wash bags, lavender bags and tissue holders for inclusion in care packs, while Popcorn Kitchen donated popcorn. Donations of toiletries, teas, coffees and confectionery were also received from supporters.

Volunteers and corporate support. In July 2025, PEM hosted a corporate packing day, providing practical volunteer support with the preparation of Touch of Sparkle care packs.

Recognition. In May 2025, founder and Chair Melanie Hersey was invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in recognition of her volunteering work.
In December 2025, she was also notified that she had been selected to receive a British Citizen Award in recognition of her services to charitable giving and volunteering. The award was formally presented in January 2026.

6. Our impact

Touch of Sparkle aims to make treatment days a little easier by providing patients with a thoughtfully selected mixture of practical items, refreshments, distractions and small treats. Packs are provided to hospital teams, who distribute them to patients without the charity needing to collect routine patient data.

Feedback received during 2025 showed that Touch of Sparkle care packs provided both emotional comfort and practical support during treatment, surgery and recovery. Patients frequently described the packs as an unexpected source of kindness at an anxious or difficult time, while also highlighting the usefulness of individual items included in them.

One patient who received a care pack before a double mastectomy said:

“It really made such a difference giving me something to distract me and I loved the whole contents. It added some light to a very dark day for me.”

Another patient described how the pack helped create a brief sense of normality during a hospital stay:

“Me and my husband sat playing cards and felt semi-normal for half an hour!”

The benefit was also reflected in feedback from hospital staff. A member of the Peterborough Hospital Oncology Day Unit contacted the charity after giving a pack to a returning patient who was feeling low:

“She was so delighted with it…It really lifted her and [she] was so grateful.”

Other feedback received during the year referred to care packs as “a ray of sunshine in an otherwise challenging moment”, “a real pick me up”, and something that arrived “at just the right time to lift my spirits”.

7. Fundraising and support

Touch of Sparkle’s work during 2025 was funded primarily through grants from charitable trusts, community organisations, businesses and Cambridge colleges. These grants provided the main source of income used to purchase care-pack contents and support the charity’s wider activities.

The charity also raised funds through public donations via JustGiving. In addition to general crowdfunding, specific campaigns were run during the year to support Easter care packs, Christmas care packs and the donation of reward toys for children undergoing tests and procedures in hospital.

Supporters also undertook their own fundraising activities on behalf of the charity, including a sponsored walk and a sponsored haircut.

Further support was received through donations of goods for inclusion in care packs. During 2025, the Butterfly Legacy Project donated items including eye masks, lavender bags, wash bags and tissue holders, while Popcorn Kitchen donated popcorn. Supporters also donated toiletries, teas, coffees and confectionery items they had collected.

Corporate and community support also contributed to the charity’s work. PEM hosted a corporate packing day in July 2025, providing practical volunteer support with the preparation of care packs.

The charity did not use professional fundraisers during the reporting period.

8. Financial review

The accounts accompanying this report set out the charity’s income, expenditure and funds for the period ended 31 December 2025.

During the reporting period, Touch of Sparkle received total income of £38,628 and incurred total expenditure of £21,600, resulting in a surplus of £17,028 for the period.

The charity's income was derived primarily from grants awarded by charitable trusts, community organisations, businesses and Cambridge colleges, together with public donations and crowdfunding through JustGiving.
The charity's expenditure was principally associated with delivering its charitable activities, including the purchase of care-pack contents and other items provided to beneficiaries. Other costs remained low and included advertising and financial charges.

At 31 December 2025, the charity held net assets of £22,833.

Reserves

During this first reporting period, the trustees had not yet adopted a formal reserves policy. The trustees nevertheless considered it prudent to retain sufficient funds to support the charity's ongoing activities and to help ensure continuity in the provision of care packs and other charitable support.

At 31 December 2025, the charity held net assets of £22,833. Some funding received by the charity was subject to restrictions imposed by funders and could only be used for the purposes for which it was awarded.
The trustees will keep the level and composition of reserves under review as the charity develops.

Restricted or designated funds

The charity held restricted funds at 31 December 2025, including funding awarded or raised for specific hospitals, patient groups or activities. This included funding restricted to Hinchingbrooke patients, breast cancer patients and reward toys for children undergoing tests and procedures in hospital.

Restricted grant and appeal expenditure was tracked through invoices allocated to the relevant fund.
The charity did not operate any designated funds during the reporting period.

Independent examination

As the charity's income exceeded £25,000 during the reporting period, the accounts were independently examined by Iain Rickerby.

The independent examiner completed his examination of the accounts for the period 12 November 2024 to 31 December 2025 and signed his report on 19 May 2026. No material matters of concern were identified and there were no items requiring disclosure.

The independent examiner's report accompanies the charity's annual accounts.

9. Looking ahead

Following the charity's first full calendar year of operation as a registered CIO, Touch of Sparkle's priorities are to maintain a reliable supply of care packs to existing hospital partners while continuing to respond to requests from new services where capacity allows.

The charity will continue to seek grant funding, public donations and corporate support to fund care pack provision and reward toys for children undergoing hospital procedures.
Touch of Sparkle also aims to strengthen relationships with existing hospital teams, develop further opportunities for corporate and volunteer packing support, and continue improving the efficiency of stock purchasing, storage and delivery.

The trustees will continue to review the charity's governance and financial procedures as the organisation develops, ensuring that administrative systems remain proportionate to the charity's size and volunteer-led structure.

10. Policies, safeguarding and responsible operation

Touch of Sparkle distributes care packs and children's items through hospital staff and does not routinely have direct contact with patients in the course of delivering its charitable activities. However, occasional direct contact may occur with beneficiaries or former beneficiaries through donation drop-offs, fundraising, volunteering, correspondence and other charity-related activities.

During the reporting period, the charity operated on a volunteer-led basis with safeguarding, privacy and governance responsibilities overseen by the trustees.

Following the end of the reporting period, the trustees formalised a number of policies in 2026 covering safeguarding, data protection, equal opportunities, conflicts of interest and complaints. The charity also introduced a complaints log and a register of trustee interests.

11. Statement of trustees' responsibilities and approval

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the charity's accounts in accordance with applicable law and Charity Commission requirements.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the trustees on 25.9.26 and signed on their behalf by:

Name: MELANIE HERSEY

Trustee: CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Signature: M. Hersey

Date: 27.9.26

Touch of Sparkle
Care Packs

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Touch of Sparkle	1210909

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 12/11/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants		35,759	-	35,759	-
Other donations	2,619	-	-	2,619	-
Toys fund raiser		250	-	250	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	2,619	36,009	-	38,628	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,619	36,009	-	38,628	-
A3 Payments					
Reward toys		1,233	-	1,233	-
Bank charges	9	-	-	9	-
Advertising		313	-	313	-
Cost of packs	-	19,628	-	19,628	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	9	21,174	-	21,183	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9	21,174	-	21,183	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,610	14,835	-	17,445	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,375	4,430	-	5,805	-
Cash funds this year end	3,985	19,265	-	23,250	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	3,985	19,265	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,985	19,265	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Creditors		417	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A	**Independent Examiner's Report**
Report to the trustees	Touch of Sparkle
On accounts for the period ended	12 November 2024 to 31 December 2025
Charity no (if any)	1210909
Set out on pages	
Responsibilities and basis of report	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 December 2025 As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: • the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or • the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or • the accounts did 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.
	Date: 19/5/2026
Name:	Iain Rickerby
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	
Address:	6 Nursery Gardens St Ives Cambridgeshire PE27 3NL

Section B	**Disclosure**
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the	No items to disclose.