rainbows

Brightening short lives

We care for babies, children and young people in the East Midlands – wherever they are.

Hospice | Hospital | Home

Cope Children's Trust
Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2026

Company Number: 02743297
Registered Charity Number: 1014051



CQC rating

Outstanding ☆

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

in all five domains

Sections

1. Reference and Administrative Details 2

2. Introduction

- Felicity's Story 4
- Who We Are and What We Do 5
- Introduction from the Chair 6

3. Our Strategic Report

- How We Work 7
- Employee engagement 9
- Volunteers 10
- Our Priorities and Objectives 11
- Our Achievements and Performance 13
- Looking Ahead - 2026 and Beyond 16
- Principal Risks and Uncertainties 17
- Financial Review 18

4. Statement on Fundraising Activities 20

5. Structure, Governance and Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities 21

6. Independent Auditor's Report 23

7. Accounts and Notes to the Accounts 26

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 2 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association, the requirements of a directors' report as required under company law, and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

1. Reference and Administration Details

Chair Paul Stothard

Vice Chair Sue Forbes (resigned 19 September 2025)

Chandrakant Kataria OBE

Treasurer Angela Browning

Other Trustee members

Peter Barry
Ruchira Bhalla
Vipal Karavadra
Andrew Matthews (resigned 14 November 2025)
Lotte Rietveld
Vijay Sharma
Daniel Walsh
Jennifer Halse
David Scarle (appointed on 19 September 2025)
Jason Lingard (appointed on 19 September 2025)

Governance and Remuneration Committee

Chandrakant Kataria OBE (Chair)
Sue Forbes (resigned 19 September 2025)
Paul Stothard
Angela Browning
Daniel Walsh

Finance Audit and Risk Committee

Angela Browning (Chair)
Andy Matthews (resigned 14 November 2025)
Vipal Karavadra
David Scarle
Jason Lingard
Lotte Rietveld

Clinical Quality Assurance Committee

Sue Forbes (Chair) (resigned 19 September 2025)
Dr Pete Barry
Daniel Walsh (Chair)
Vijay Sharma
Jenny Halse
Ruchira Bhalla

Founder Harry Moore

President The Duchess of Rutland

Patrons

Anne Davies
Tony Jacklin CBE
Chris Cohen
Fiona Cairns
Andy Abraham
Ady Dayman
Angela Rippon OBE
William Roache MBE
Nina Conti
Rakhee Thakrar
Sam Bailey
Lydia Bewley
Kwoklyn Wan
Shaun Murphy
Matthew Hoggard

Company Secretary

Josie Lee

Senior Leadership Team

Jane Burns - Chief Executive Officer
Julie Taylor – Executive Nurse and Director of Clinical Operations
Sally Benton – Director of Income Generation and Marketing (appointed on 28 May 2025)
Josie Lee – Director of Finance
Julia Bates - Director of People
Samuel Massiah - Director of Digitally Enabled Transformation (resigned on 12 March 2026)

Contact Details

Charity number – 1014051
Company number – 02743297
Operating name – Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People
Principal and Registered Office - Lark Rise, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 2HS
Countries of Registration and Incorporation: England and Wales

Auditor Sayer Vincent LLP, London

Principal Bankers National Westminster Bank plc, Leicester

Principal Solicitors Shoosmiths, Nottingham

Principal Investment Managers Brewin Dolphin, Leicester and Rathbones, London

2. Introduction

Felicity's Story



When Felicity was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of three, her parents were told there were no options other than palliative care.

"Of course, our whole world came from beneath us at that point," said mum Tori describing the moment she and her husband, Rhys, were given the devastating news. "We were told that Felicity could have palliative radiotherapy and we would have nine to 12 months with her."

The family were in hospital when they were told about Rainbows.

Tori, who is a nurse, said: "I have worked with hospices, and I know they are incredible places and I knew we would need their support. We visited Rainbows and the first thing I thought when I walked in was, it's not clinical; it's home. We were welcomed by every single member of the team, and I could see us being here. It met all Felicity's needs and there was so much for her older sister, Bethany.

"When Rhys and I had the chat about end of life, we decided that we would like her to be at Rainbows," said Tori. "The staff loved both of our girls, and we knew there would be lots to distract Bethany and my parents could also stay, which was great."

Felicity, who was "independent and willful" would brighten the darkest days with her love of sparkles, pink and purple. A huge fan of Moana and Sleeping Beauty, Felicity loved to dazzle in her endless princess dresses. But caring for her was round the clock and Tori was exhausted.

"In August 2024, just before Felicity died we went to Rainbows for symptom management and I needed sleep. We arrived at 6pm and I had a huge box of drugs which was taken off me by the clinical team. It felt like a huge weight had been lifted off me. I knew then I could be a mum again, not a nurse.

"Everyone was amazing. They had even saved food for us ahead of our arrival and it is the little things like that, make all the difference.

"Rainbows even threw me a birthday party three days early as we didn't think Felicity would make it to the actual day as she was deteriorating. It was so lovely. Felicity met Bow Bear and the staff decorated cupcakes with Bethany to give to me. It felt amazing and something I will never forget.

"On the morning she died, Bethany came in to see her and gave her a kiss and said good morning. That was the last time she saw her sister. It was very beautiful and wasn't distressing.

"Rhys held her and cuddled her and put her in my arms while he sat holding her hand. We listened to a playlist of her favourite songs made by the Rainbows Music Therapist and the staff had the perfect balance of checking on us and giving us our own space. Rainbows just made everything feel so peaceful.

"A few hours later she took her last breath in my arms with a smile on her face as if to say, I am okay now mummy."

Felicity moved to the bereavement suite at Rainbows, which Tori and Rhys decorated with lights and teddies and Felicity could lay with her favourite toy, Mr Tumble, clutched in her arms.

"Since Felicity has died, we have been to coffee mornings and sibling days and when I come to the hospice to visit the memorial garden, everyone remembers us. It is a safe haven. It is a second home, and I know I am always welcome. There are no words to describe what an impact Rainbows has on families, especially our family.

"I couldn't fail my child and Rainbows supported that. They knew her, they knew her favourite clothes, her favourite music. Over 200 people came to her funeral. She was just four-years-old and made such an impact. She was an incredible girl.

"I hope people can support Rainbows and families like ours, it means so much."

Who We Are and What We Do

Rainbows exists to support babies, children, young people and their families in life and in death. We create lasting, precious memories and provide care and support wherever a family needs us – in the Hospice, at home or in hospital. For families facing the unimaginable, we provide compassionate and dignified support during dying and bereavement. We help families to navigate their grief while honouring the memory of their child.

Rainbows provides end-of-life, palliative and short break care to babies, children and young people, aged 0 to 18 years, with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, from across the East Midlands. Holistic support is also available for the baby, child, young person and their families.

Our Vision

We believe every baby, child, young person and their family should have the "Rainbows Experience" throughout their palliative or end-of-life care.

They should have the best possible care where choice, quality and expertise is prioritised, ensuring families can make informed decisions that are right for them. As a child nears the end of their life, they should have help and support to make treasured memories while surrounded by comfort, dignity and love. After death, they should continue to receive support and compassion as families go through bereavement and grief.

Our Mission

We provide compassionate, expert palliative and end-of-life care to babies, children, and young people across the East Midlands. The unique needs of each baby, child and family are the centre of everything we do, and our mission is to support them in their most comfortable and preferred setting. Working collaboratively with other professionals and volunteers, we provide care and support and create opportunities and meaningful memories through illness, death and bereavement.

We provide the following services to our users as part of the holistic care

- End of Life Care
- Symptom Control
- Short Breaks
- Hydrotherapy
- Music Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Neo-natal Support
- Specialist Play
- Complementary Therapy
- Family Support
- Multi-sensory
- Youth Support
- Social Support
- Bereavement Support
- Hospice@Home
- Psychological support
- Sibling Support
- Complex Care
- Rainbows Nurses in Hospitals
- Outreach Support
- Community Hubs
- 24/7 Single Point of Contact (SPOC)
- After Death Care
- Rainbows Days

Introduction from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Looking at the past year, against the continuous economic uncertainty and shifting NHS landscape, the team at Rainbows has continued to deliver strong performance both in terms of the management of its financial resources, and in delivering our services to an increased number of families in new ways. We have continued on our path to deliver the Rainbows experience to families in the East Midlands wherever they were. This has been achieved by building on the success of our nurses in hospitals and the development of Community hubs to extend our support to families nearer to where they are.

Rainbows continues to deliver excellent care underpinned by a strong balance sheet and an enviable reputation for excellence. It could be said that we are outstanding, indeed that is just what the CQC found in their recent inspection when they not only awarded Rainbows an overall "outstanding", but also outstanding in all five categories. A fantastic recognition of all the dedication and hard work of everyone involved with Rainbows.

However, the world continues to be a challenge for everyone. Economic pressures on corporates and individuals alike means that our funding needs are being met from tighter budgets. We have embarked on an ambitious income generation strategy which aims to deliver the revenue we need to continue to serve our families in the East Midlands. We recently opened our first, larger, shop at Shepshed and it has made an encouraging start.

During the year we have also started work on improving the outdoor space at the hospice premises at Lark Rise. Some areas are already complete and are a very welcome addition to the facilities we can offer our families.

I want to take a moment here to thank my fellow Trustees for all their support, encouragement and challenge over the past twelve months. During the year we said goodbye to Andy Matthews who contributed a huge amount during his time with Rainbows. We have appointed Jason Lingard and David Scarle as Trustees who are a very welcome addition to the Board. I am always excited by the input that new trustees bring to our discussions bringing, as they do, fresh perspectives and a level of expertise that can only enhance and strengthen us as a collective.

As we continue with our strategy, we will seek to continue to develop our services in the community, improve and develop our facilities at Lark Rise and seek to maximise the benefit that technology can bring to the nature and efficiency of our services. Whilst we will always be cautious in the management of our funds, we also recognise the imperative to invest the funds generously donated by private individuals and corporate bodies to ensure our services are accessible to more families throughout the East Midlands.

I have said this every year, but I genuinely regard it as a privilege to act as Chair of the Board for Rainbows, a Charity that would not exist without the generosity of all those who support us. From our volunteers who kindly give their time, through to individuals and organisations who fundraise and donate for us.

On behalf of the Board – Thank You

Paul Stothard - Chair



3. Our Strategic Report

How We Work

Organisation

The Board has seen some changes during the year with one Trustee retiring and two being appointed. In between the quarterly Board Meetings, the Clinical Quality Assurance Committee, the Governance and Remuneration Committee and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee met four times during the year. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee now incorporates Income Generation and Marketing. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee convened in August to receive the Auditor's report on the Annual Report and Accounts.

These meetings are conducted at Lark Rise.

Purpose Built Facilities

We operate the Charity and provide in patient hospice services from our Rainbows site at Lark Rise in Loughborough. The Hospice is a purpose-built facility comprising 14 bedrooms, two quiet rooms, a therapy suite, office accommodation, and extensive landscaped grounds designed to support both play and quiet reflection.

During 2025/26, we commenced a programme of significant garden redevelopment to ensure our outdoor spaces remain fit for purpose and continue to meet the needs of the babies, children, young people, and families we support.

We also completed a refurbishment of our family accommodation, creating calm, welcoming rooms for families to stay in while their child is receiving care at the Hospice.

In addition, we deliver services in Hospital, Home and Community settings.

Staff Training and Development

Rainbows is committed to continuous professional development across all care and professional teams. Our clinical workforce is highly skilled and experienced, supported by specialists in play, physiotherapy, complementary therapy and music therapy. This multidisciplinary expertise is further strengthened by the dedicated contributions of our administrative, housekeeping and catering teams.

We are a nurse-led service, overseen by our Specialist Palliative Care Team and led by Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs). When required, the team is supported by Hospital and Community Paediatricians and a Specialist Palliative Medicine Consultant, who provide additional advice and guidance remotely. We also benefit from regular GP input, with visits taking place twice each week.

Alongside our clinical teams, the Charity's Supporter Relations, Marketing and Retail Teams play a vital role in raising the funds that enable Rainbows to fulfill its charitable purpose.

The Business Resources, Digital and People Teams provide support functions to the Hospice such as Finance, Data Protection, IT, Estates, Facilities, Health and Safety, Project Management, Data Analysis, Human Resources, Volunteering and Learning and Development.



Developing the Next Generation of Hospice Professionals

Rainbows is committed to delivering high-quality learning and development opportunities for both staff and volunteers. Our programmes support statutory and mandatory training requirements, the development of role-specific skills, and individual learning needs identified through the appraisal process.

We continue to run a series of organisational development programmes involving all staff and Trustees across the Charity, and this work will remain a priority.

During the year, we provided financial support for a range of professional development activities, including:

- One nurse completing a master's degree in Paediatric Palliative Care at Cardiff.
- Two nurses undertaking training to become Advanced Clinical Practitioners.
- One Hospice Care Assistant (HCA) completing nurse training.
- One HCA progressing through the Nurse Associate programme.

For the first time, we also hosted and part-funded (in partnership with Health Education England) a Medical Trainee Fellowship. This initiative has strengthened local interest in paediatric palliative medicine and contributes to addressing the regional and national shortage of specialist medical expertise. We are confident that a second fellowship, in collaboration with University Hospitals of Leicester, will commence in 2026/27.

Looking ahead, we will continue to expand our Advanced Clinical Practitioner workforce, including the planned introduction of a Nurse Consultant role in 2026.

We work closely with local universities to support the education and training of nursing, medical, and allied health professional students. We provide student placements at Rainbows and deliver clinical teaching, expertise and training in palliative care across the region and beyond. Our Executive Nurse and several senior nurses hold honorary university appointments across the East Midlands, enabling them to contribute actively to student learning.

Rainbows staff regularly present at regional, national and international conferences, sharing our work and contributing to the wider development of children's palliative care.

We provide regular learning and development opportunities to our clinical teams to maintain competence and enhance knowledge and skills in line with best practice and emerging research.

The charity remains committed to being a learning and development organisation. We are focused on strengthening our research and education functions, with the ambition of being recognised as a Centre of Excellence in Children's Palliative Care.

To support this, we continue to deliver a comprehensive training programme that includes soft-skills development and specialist skills training, ensuring that our workforce remains equipped to meet the needs of the future. We are also continuing to embed and enhance the skills of our nursing workforce through close partnership working with the NHS.



Employee engagement (including employment of disabled persons)

Strategic Enablers

Our People and Culture strategic enablers are focused on three key areas. First, we are committed to ensuring Rainbows is inclusive and psychologically safe for all. Second, we prioritise the development and support of a highly skilled and adaptable workforce, equipped to meet changing needs. Third, we emphasise innovation and best practice in our work with people. These enablers are designed to drive the achievement of our strategic priorities and promote continuous improvement, fostering a culture and workforce that are fit for purpose.

Inclusion Strategy

Integral to our approach is a robust inclusion strategy that positions Rainbows as an inclusive employer of choice. Our strategy is structured around four distinct areas: Leadership & Commitment, Promoting Inclusion, Data, Insight & Delivery, and Learning, Development & Psychological Safety. The values of our organisation are central to realising this strategy.

Inclusion Vision Statement

At Rainbows, we are committed to building a community where everyone feels seen and valued. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment that embraces diverse backgrounds and perspectives. We want every person, no matter their background, to feel empowered to share their stories and ideas. By fostering respect and equity, we aim to drive innovation and make a positive impact for everyone involved. Let's collaborate, celebrate our differences, and make a lasting impact!

Commitment to Disability Inclusion

As part of our commitment to inclusion, we are proud to participate in the Disability Confident scheme. We are currently committed and have ambitions to become a Disability Confident Employer within the next 12 months. Several measures have been implemented to foster an inclusive culture, including the establishment of a Values, Culture, and Inclusion Champions group. This group has delivered sessions and newsletters covering various EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) topics, as well as initiatives focused on menopause and men's mental health.

Accessible Recruitment and Inclusive Leadership

Our recruitment practices are designed to be accessible. Interview questions are shared ahead of time and pre-screening processes are utilised, along with anonymised application forms. Investments have been made across the organisation, from floor to Board, in Psychological Safety, Allyship, and the six traits of inclusive leadership, all of which have been positively received.

Support for Disabled Colleagues

We have established robust processes to support colleagues who become disabled during their employment. Support mechanisms include Occupational Health services, well-being initiatives, and access to a health cash plan.

Communication and Engagement

Organisational updates are shared every six weeks to keep everyone informed about developments across the business. We also provide a weekly newsletter and a quarterly inclusion newsletter to ensure regular communication.

Volunteer Engagement

Recently, a volunteer management system was launched to enhance the connection between volunteers and Rainbows. Volunteer teams are celebrated throughout the year in recognition of their valuable contributions.

Measuring Engagement and Achievements

Staff and volunteer engagement is measured regularly. Our staff engagement score has increased from 71% in 2023 to 88% in 2025, and volunteer engagement has also shown an upward trend since measurement began.

Outstanding Achievement

To underscore the progress made during the 2025/2026 period, our greatest organisational achievement was receiving "outstanding" across all five domains in our latest CQC inspection in June 2025. This recognition is unprecedented among Children's Hospices in England.

Volunteers

Without the support of people and organisations across the East Midlands, Rainbows could not deliver our work in the way we do today. Our volunteers embody this generosity and come from all walks of life, bringing a wide range of experiences, backgrounds and skills.

With almost 400 dedicated individuals contributing their time, talents and enthusiasm across a diverse range of roles, our team of volunteers is truly extraordinary. While their roles may differ, everyone who volunteers with Rainbows has one thing in common: they are vital to our work.

Through their commitment, volunteers help make a meaningful difference to the lives of babies, children, young people and their families across the East Midlands.

Volunteer activity has continued to increase, and during the last year our volunteers collectively donated 46,765 hours of their time – equivalent to approximately 24 full-time employees. At an average annual salary, including costs, this contribution represents a value of £818,304.





Our Priorities and Objectives

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Purpose

Rainbows exists to support babies, children, young people and their families in life and in death. We create lasting, precious memories and provide care and support wherever a family needs us – in the hospice, at home or in hospital. For families facing the unimaginable, we provide compassionate and dignified support during dying and bereavement and help families to navigate their grief while honouring the memory of their child.

Aims

Families of children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions often face significant challenges in their day-to-day lives. They must navigate complex care systems, coordinate multiple professionals, services and appointments, and balance the demands of maintaining family life, siblings' needs and employment. Many also experience isolation within their communities.

Accessing hospice care at Rainbows provides vital relief from these pressures. We offer expert clinical care for their baby, child or young person, alongside emotional and practical support for the whole family. This support helps families feel more confident, resilient and able to continue caring for their child at home.

Each family's needs are assessed and regularly reviewed by a specialist multi-disciplinary team with expertise in children's palliative care, ensuring that support is tailored, responsive and holistic.

Significant Activities for Public Benefit

In Hospice Care

Care at our Hospice in Lark Rise is available to all babies, children and young people aged 0–18 who meet the admission criteria set by the Charity. Upon referral, each child receives a comprehensive Holistic Needs Assessment to determine which Rainbows services will best support their individual needs.

Every baby, child and young person has an individualised care plan that outlines their full range of care requirements and preferences. This includes how they wish to communicate with their care team, as well as their choices regarding preferred place of care. These plans ensure that support is personalised, respectful and centred on the needs and wishes of the child and their family.

Outreach Service

We have now completed the expansion of our community and outreach services. Our Hospice at Home service, which provides care and support to babies, children and young people who are unstable, deteriorating and/or dying at home, has been operational for two years. As caseloads continue to grow, we plan to expand this team in 2026/27 to enable us to support even more babies, children and young people to die at home when this is their and their family's wish.

Our Community Hubs are designed to bring Rainbows services closer to home. During 2025/26, we delivered 12 hubs across all five counties, including two Cultural Hubs aimed at reaching and supporting more diverse communities. Attendance continues to be strong, and families consistently provide positive feedback through our evaluation processes.

Our Family Support Teams are now locality-based, holding county-specific caseloads. This structure enables our staff to be more accessible and to maintain more regular, meaningful contact with families within their local area.

Rainbows in Hospital

We have Rainbows Palliative Care Specialist Nurses based in hospitals across all five counties of the East Midlands, supporting babies, children and young people in both Neonatal and Paediatric Units. Our nurses provide expert clinical advice to hospital staff, alongside emotional and practical support for families and colleagues during some of the most challenging moments in care.

Activity within our hospital-based teams continues to grow, particularly within neonatal units, where we are seeing a sustained and significant increase in the number of babies requiring palliative care support. The support offered ranges from signposting families to appropriate services, to delivering end-of-life care within the hospital setting when required.

Engagement and partnership working with hospitals across the region have strengthened considerably, resulting in a marked increase in referrals of babies, children and young people to Rainbows. In 2025, Rainbows supported over 50% of all babies, children and young people who were expected to die in the East Midlands—compared with less than 10% in 2018—demonstrating the significant growth, reach and impact of our specialist service

Family Support

Families of children with life-limited and life-threatening conditions often face considerable challenges. They must coordinate multiple professionals, services and appointments while trying to maintain family life, employment and emotional stability. Many also experience isolation within their communities. Accessing hospice care from Rainbows provides vital relief from these pressures, offering expert clinical care for their baby, child or young person and holistic support for the whole family, including siblings.

When a baby, child or young person is referred to Rainbows, a member of our Family Support Team contacts the family to understand their needs and discuss how we can best support them. The team works closely with Hospital and Community Teams and Social Care providers to ensure families receive seamless support at home, in the community and during stays at the Hospice.

The Family Support Team delivers a wide range of services, including spiritual and cultural support. Our Bereavement Support Lead provides guidance with end-of-life care planning and offers specialist bereavement support and counselling to families at every stage of their journey.



Our achievements and performance

The Charity's core activities, and the children, young people and families we exist to support, are outlined below. Everything we do is centred on providing expert palliative care and holistic family support for babies, children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. All of our services are delivered to further Cope Children's Trust's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Our work encompasses specialist clinical care, emotional and psychological support, bereavement care, and a wide range of therapeutic and wellbeing services. We support families across the East Midlands from diagnosis, throughout their child's life, and into bereavement, ensuring that care is personalised, compassionate and responsive to their individual needs.

In 2025, we were inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and were extremely proud to be rated Outstanding in all five domains - Safe, Caring, Responsive, Effective and Well-Led. Rainbows is the only children's hospice in the country to achieve this level of excellence across every domain, reflecting the dedication, skill and compassion of our staff and volunteers, as well as our commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in children's palliative care.

This achievement is not only a testament to the quality of our services but also to the strength of our partnerships, the generosity of our supporters, and the resilience of the families we serve. It reinforces our position as a leader within the children's hospice sector and motivates us to continue driving up standards of care locally, regionally and nationally.

Getting Full Use of our Facilities

We enable families to access our Hospice facilities throughout the week and on a number of weekends each year, ensuring that support is available when it is most needed. Emergency admissions are accepted 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing rapid and responsive care for babies, children and young people during times of crisis or sudden deterioration.

Alongside the care provided at the Hospice, we deliver nursing care, therapies and family support in the home and in hospital settings. This ensures continuity of care wherever families choose or need to be, and helps us respond flexibly to the individual circumstances and preferences of each baby, child and young person.

Our Role in the Regional Network

Rainbows plays a central role in strengthening children's palliative care provision across the East Midlands. We are an integral member of the East Midlands Children and Young People's Palliative Care Network, which is chaired by our Executive Nurse. Through this leadership role, we bring together healthcare professionals and partner organisations from across the region, hosting regular meetings throughout the year to share best practice, coordinate care, and drive improvements in service delivery.

This collaboration ensures that families benefit from a consistent, high-quality approach to palliative and end-of-life care, no matter where they live or which professionals are involved in their child's care.

Statement on Public Benefit

The Charity provides public benefit through the operation of a hospice for babies, children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and through the provision of family, community and bereavement support. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity.

Criteria for Measuring Success

The Trustees' criterion for measuring success is to ensure the Charity continues to develop and refine its services and to reach more babies, children and young people who could benefit from the services we offer. We also seek to ensure our operating costs are well controlled whilst maintaining the quality of service delivery, and that we maintain a level of income and reserves to ensure the sustainability of the Charity.

Care

During 2025/26, we continued to embed our new services and further strengthened our approach to evaluation, ensuring that activity and impact were clearly evidenced through reliable and robust data sources.

Our clinical research and education programmes have also continued to evolve, reflecting our belief that excellence in care is fundamentally underpinned by high-quality research and strong educational practice.

There is growing evidence that research-active organisations deliver better outcomes and overall care for patients and families. Embedding research into everyday practice and ensuring our services are informed by the best available evidence is essential—not only for the quality of care we provide but also for maintaining the confidence of our stakeholders, including staff, partners, and the wider public.

Through rigorous research initiatives, we aim to drive innovation, influence best practice, and further strengthen compassionate, holistic palliative and end-of-life care. By fostering a culture of continuous learning, development, and professional curiosity, we are committed to building a highly skilled workforce capable of delivering outstanding palliative care to every child and family we support.

In April 2025, we launched our new three-year strategy, designed to position the organisation as a leading Centre of Excellence for Research and Education in Children's Palliative Care. This strategy provides a clear framework for progressing our ambitions, measuring our impact, and enhancing the quality of care for the years ahead.

In the first year of our strategy, we successfully achieved all key milestones. This included establishing formal collaborations with five universities across the East Midlands, securing a joint PhD studentship with Loughborough University, expanding our research portfolio, and strengthening our education offer.

Throughout the year, several members of staff presented Rainbows' work at major palliative care conferences and professional forums at regional, national and international levels, further raising our profile and influence within the sector.

We also formed a significant research and education partnership with LOROS Hospice. This collaboration enables the sharing of valuable expertise, resources and learning, and creates opportunities to further broaden and deepen our research portfolio in the years ahead.

Our Specialist Palliative Care service has continued to expand in response to growing demand across the hospice, hospitals and the home environment. We now operate in 11 hospitals across the East Midlands and provide a busy Hospice at Home service, working in close collaboration with children's community teams to ensure seamless, high-quality care.

Our 24/7 Single Point of Contact (SPOC) has now been operational for two years and is widely used by healthcare professionals and families across the region to access specialist advice when needed. Demand for this service has continued to rise, and its positive impact on the wider system is clearly evidenced in our data. In 2025/26, 99% of babies, children and young people known to the SPOC died in their preferred place of care—an important quality indicator that demonstrates the effectiveness of the service.





Care (continued)

We have also seen a continued and significant increase in referrals for babies under one year old, in line with national trends. This group now accounts for 55% of all referrals, highlighting both the complexity of need and the importance of specialist early-years palliative care provision.

The specialist services we provide are only possible thanks to the continued generosity and commitment of our donors, whose support enables us to meet rising demand and deliver high-quality care to every family who needs us.

In 2025-26 in partnership with Hospice UK, Rainbows was recognised as a Centre of Learning for transition- 1 of 4 in the UK and Ireland. This has enabled the team to expand and further develop the transition services across the East Midlands.

Below are some of the services we provided, always ensuring that these are in line with health and social care regulations.

- End-of-life care
- Symptom Control
- 24/7 SPOC
- Short Breaks
- Rainbows in Hospital
- Hospice at Home
- Community Hubs
- 55% of total referrals related to under 1s
- Family Support
- Therapies
- Bereavement and Counselling services



Investing in Technology

The focus over the last 12 months has been to develop our reporting systems to support our drive to be as effective and efficient as we can be. We have delivered the first stage of our digitisation project and enhanced and developed our internal infrastructure. This has included improved AV systems, a volunteer management system and a facilities management system. We have also revised and relaunched the website My Adult still My Child – a resource that we host that is for young people transitioning to adult services, their parents, carers and professionals.

In the next 12 months we will be focusing on using technology to enhance internal communication with the introduction of an intranet. We will also be completing our move to SharePoint and improving consistency and efficiency in data storage, information and document management.

Looking Ahead - 2026 and Beyond

This year has been the first year of our new strategy and our focus has been to build on all that we have achieved so far. The number of babies, children, young people and their families that we support has increased significantly over the course of the last strategy and now our focus is to ensure that the services that we offer are continually evolving, improving, innovating and adapting, particularly in response to the external environment. The next 12 months will include focusing on developing our bereavement support and evaluating our counselling service. We will be identifying areas of unmet need where we can offer support. We will also be striving to achieve our vision for Spiritual and Cultural support.

Our ambition is to be a Centre for Excellence in Research and Training, and we will continue to work with partners to deliver education and training across the region, developing our medical training offer and developing a regional education and training programme. We will continue to work in collaboration with universities across the East Midlands whilst working towards developing our own research proposals. We want our BCYP to receive the best palliative and end of life care – whoever is providing it and wherever they are.

In order to achieve our strategic priorities and to continually improve as we strive for excellence, we must ensure that the things that underpin that work are also fit for purpose. The economic climate is uncertain, and our priority in this must be maximising our income and getting the best return on investment from our income generation activities. It is essential that our culture and workforce are fit for purpose and that we are dealing with the challenges presented by the external environment. We will use technology to both enhance our service delivery and ensure that we get the best return from our fundraising. In a changing funding landscape, we will aim to be responsive to any opportunities that emerge particularly in relation to commissioned services.

Sadly, some children just don't live long enough.

Since 1994 we have opened our doors and hearts to those babies, children, young people and the people who love them most. And now, more than ever, we need your help to keep on bringing care and happiness to our babies, children, young people and their families.

Help brighten short lives



Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Through the risk management processes established for the Charity, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary. A Board Assurance Framework has been introduced, which looks to provide a process for Floor to Board assurance. Strategic risks are reviewed at full Board meetings, as those risks which could impact Rainbows' ability to achieve its strategic goals.

Major risks are identified and ranked in terms of their potential impact and likelihood; there are those which have a high likelihood of occurring and would, if they occurred, have a severe impact on the operational performance and achievement of aims and objectives, or could damage the reputation of the Charity, changing the relationship between Rainbows and our Trustees, supporters or beneficiaries.

As a Charity providing care for babies, children and young people and their families, all staff have a responsibility to ensure the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. In order to fulfill our responsibilities and mitigate risks, DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks are routinely performed on new and existing staff and volunteers where appropriate to do so. Trustees, staff and volunteers attend statutory and mandatory training, adhering to local Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards' policies and procedures and inter-agency guidance. The Charity has appropriate policies and procedures in place, employs a Safeguarding Lead and the Executive Nurse and Director of Clinical Operations has responsibility for oversight of this activity.

In the annual external safeguarding review, we were awarded "Good with Innovation", the highest level that can be awarded, and excellent safeguarding was called out in the June 2025 CQC inspection.

Apart from safeguarding risks, key organisational risks identified include risks associated with not being able to fundraise sufficiently to support the activities of the Charity, reputational risk and the impact of negative press as well as the growing risks associated with cyber security.

A key element in the management of financial risk is the setting of a risk reserves policy which is reviewed annually by the Trustees. The policy is informed by forecasts of future income levels, expenditure in future years, and an analysis of future needs, opportunities and contingencies of risk. If and when these risks arise, an assessment of the likelihood of each of those events and the potential consequences for the Charity of not being able to meet them are also considered. The Charity always seeks to maintain these risk reserves so as to be able to respond to negative scenarios as they arise.

The clinical risk register is reviewed at Good Clinical Governance and then subsequently at the Clinical Quality Assurance Committee of Trustees. Organisational risks are reviewed at the newly established Good Corporate Governance meeting and the Leadership meeting before being taken quarterly to the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee of Trustees. Departmental risk registers have also been established, which help to inform the clinical and organisational risk registers. Risk registers are stored, reported and reviewed electronically through our Datix system.



Financial Review

Results for the year ended 31 March 2026 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 25. This, together with the Balance Sheet on page 26, should be read in conjunction with the related notes which have been produced in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Trustees are pleased with the result for the year recognising the challenging conditions across the Charity sector as a whole brought about by the cost of living crisis.

Where Our Income Came From in 2025/2026

10% overall increase

Total income in the year grew by 10% from £10,569,000 to £ 11,625,000, which is a strong result for the year.

All of our supporters, donors, funders and volunteers are incredible and never fail to amaze us with their dedication and commitment to helping the babies, children and young people and families that we support at Rainbows. We cannot thank enough each and every one of them for all they do and give in support of our cause. Thank you so very much.

How We Spent Your Money in 2025/2026

7.7% overall increase

Total expenditure during the year increased by 7.7% from £10,987,000 to £11,837,000.

Expenditure on fundraising activities has increased to £3,901,000 from £3,503,000 in the previous year.

Overall charitable spending increased during the year from £7,484,000 to £7,936,000 and is 67% of the total expenditure for the year (2025 68%).

We aim to maximise the value of all donations by obtaining best value for money on all our operating costs. We exercise restraint on pay increase costs having due regard to the economic climate and other sector awards. Cost savings are never made at the expense of the quality of care we provide.

Staff employment costs were the largest item of expenditure in the year at 70% of total costs, and they represent the salaries of the care team within the hospice and the team of staff who provide support throughout the hospice and in the community.

Every pound we raise is given by you:



2p Events and Challenges

13p Retail sales

8p Lottery

7p Grants from Trusts

20p NHS support

19p Gifts in wills

30p Voluntary donations

1p Investment Growth

Every pound we spend is spent carefully:



2p Events and Challenges

4p Lottery costs

12p Retail costs

11p Hospice facilities

17p Raising the next £1

54p Care and Family Support Teams

Reserves Policy

The charity's reserves are detailed in note 17 and 18 to the accounts.

The review of current and future predicted reserves, in line with forecast management accounts performance and cashflow requirements, demonstrates robustness and reassurance in relation to the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have established the level of reserves using the methodology outlined in the Charity Commission Guidance so have considered the level of required reserves based on the assets used in the Charity and the risk to the Charity and likelihood of an event occurring. This ensures that where reserves are needed to bridge any funding gaps between running the Hospice and income being received, and events, commitments or emergency requirements, funds are available. This enables us to continue our current activities and fund short term expenditure should external funding drop significantly.

A review was carried out by the Director of Finance, the CEO and the Treasurer based on the Charity Commission Guidance on Reserves. The Trustees consider the level of required reserves to be £3,274,920 (2025 - £3,843,400) based on the report presented to them and agreed that both the policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually. The total free reserves at 31 March 2026 was £8,205,939 (2025 - £8,674,107). Free reserves are calculated from the total Charity Funds by deducting non-capital restricted funds, designated reserves (as shown in Note 18) and the net book value of fixed assets (as shown in Note 11).

In addition to the above position, the Trustees consider it appropriate to retain the surplus reserves held for prudence in an uncertain economic climate as fundraising growth works to catch up with the increased costs of delivering the new services and the increase in employer's national insurance. We are in a positive position in that our surplus reserves will enable us to build our strategic aims in a sustainable way and allow for improvements in the utilisation of technology in our work. To facilitate these strategic aims Trustees have agreed to £491,000 (2025 - £469,000) of designated reserves.

Investment Policy

The Trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the Hospice and to the reserves policy, have operated a policy of keeping a large proportion of available funds in interest bearing deposit accounts and seek to achieve a rate of deposit interest which matches or exceeds inflation. However, the Trustees have placed the security of cash deposits above possible financial return. Where monies are available that are not needed to fund immediate charitable activities, the Trustees have appointed investment managers on a discretionary basis. Regular communication is maintained between the investment managers and the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee relating to all portfolio changes. The Trustees exercise the "duty of care" described in the Trustee Act 2000 with regards to all investments.

Review of Investment Performance

Brewin Dolphin and Rathbones have acted as investment managers to the Trust during the year. Investments made by the advisors on our behalf are within the risk classification "Cautious with Risk".

This year the performance of the investment portfolio, which is benchmarked against the ARC Charity Balanced Asset Portfolio, has performed on a par with the benchmark. At the year end, the portfolio reflected a gain, on a total return basis, of 5.7% compared with the benchmark gain of 6.1%.

The Trustees carry out an annual review of the investment managers' performance and future performance is expected to continue to match the benchmark.

4. Statement on Fundraising Activities

Rainbows has a team of fundraisers which is employed by the Charity. This team of fundraisers, part of the Income Generation and Marketing Directorate, supports individuals and groups that fundraise on our behalf; alongside our retail stores. They also raise funds from individual donors, events, companies and grant making bodies to secure the funds needed to keep the Hospice and its services in operation year after year.

The department is split into four teams which reflect the different focus areas for our fundraising activities. They are:

- Relationship Fundraising – this includes our work with Corporates, in the community, with Trusts and Foundations.
- Public Fundraising – engaging with individuals who donate to us whether on a one off or regular basis as well as those who support us in memory of loved ones and those who leave a gift in their will.
- Retail – our growing chain of shops selling preloved items.
- Marketing – working with our families, digital and media to ensure people are aware of the work Rainbows provides to East Midland communities.

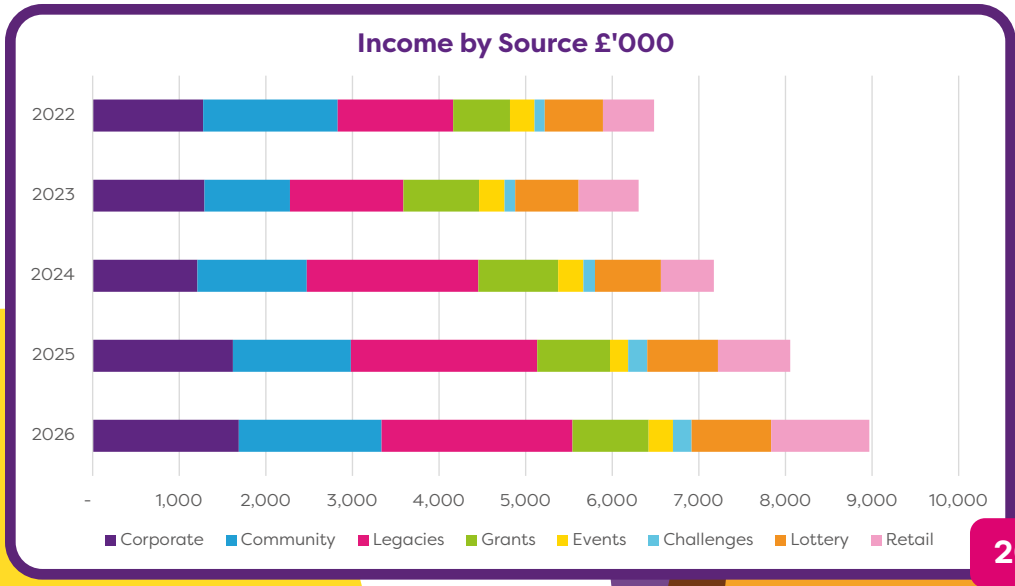
The teams work collaboratively on all aspects of funding and work hard to ensure that we offer the best support to our dedicated volunteers who help to fundraise on our behalf. Our focus is to build long term meaningful relationships with our supporters and ensure that we allocate resources effectively and efficiently, with a focus on our ROI and performance.

In addition to our in-house team, we have commercial contracts in place with Smile, and Engage and Connect for the recruitment of new lottery players, which enables us to grow the amount of money we raise from the lottery to fund our work. All Rainbows fundraising activity complies with the Code of Fundraising Practice. Where fundraising activity is taking place on our behalf (for example Engage and Connect or supporters putting their own events on for us) we ask that the Codes of Practice are followed. In some cases (as required by the Code of Fundraising Practice) we insist on a Commercial Participator Agreement being signed by all parties.

Rainbows is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. There is no occurrence of non-compliance with the Fundraising code.

In the year ended 31 March 2026 there were no significant matters of complaint that required further action.

The Charity protects vulnerable people, including its users, by having appropriate checks and balances in our promotion of the charities fundraising activities to them and ensuring staff are aware of our responsibility in this area.



5. Structure, Governance and Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Governing Document

Cope Children's Trust, operating as Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People, is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 27 August 1992 and registered as a charity on 4 September 1992.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts.

Charity Governance Code

The Charity has its own Framework for Board and Governance which is drawn up in line with the Charity Governance Code and there are no material departures there from.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of the Company and serve for an initial period of three years. An audit of the Trustees' skills and a review of available skills is completed annually and also undertaken in relation to any vacant positions. All Trustees are also directors of the Company limited by guarantee. The articles state that all trustees serve a term of three years and may stand for two further terms. Thereafter Trustees may be elected for further periods on an annual basis.

Trustees may from time to time elect a Chair and one or more Vice Chair. The Chair may be re-elected once and serve a maximum of six years, although in exceptional circumstances the Chair can be re-elected for a further period of three years.

Trustee induction and Training

New Trustees undergo an orientation day to brief them on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Articles of Association of the Company, the sub-committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the Charity. During the induction day they meet key employees and other Trustees. Training needs are discussed annually with the Chair as part of the appraisal process and Trustees can access training from a variety of sources. There are Trustee/Senior Management "away days" including training, education and strategic planning. All Trustees and senior management receive safeguarding training to enable them to monitor the charity's responsibilities in this area.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the Charity. As a registered charity, a limited Company, an employer and a provider of health services to vulnerable babies, children and young people, Cope Children's Trust faces complex legislative and inspection arrangements. The Trustees have the responsibility to ensure that all the activities comply with best practice and that reliance can be placed on well documented procedures that are consistently applied. Three sub committees exist to ensure best practice governance - Finance Audit and Risk, Governance and Remuneration and Clinical Quality Assurance. These sub committees meet quarterly throughout the year.

Related Parties

None of our Trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the Charity however some Trustees are reimbursed for expenses incurred as a Trustee. Any personal interest between a Trustee or senior manager and the charity's activities must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. There are no transactions with related parties.

Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The key management personnel are the Board of Trustees and members of the Senior Leadership Team who are detailed on page 2 and 3. The Trustees lead the strategic direction of the Charity and act as an oversight Board to the Senior Leadership Team which manages the operational aspects of the Charity on a day to day basis. The remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Leadership Team is reviewed and set annually by the Board of Trustees.

Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Cope Children's Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report including the strategic report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

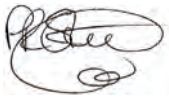
The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2026 was 12 (2025: 16). The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The trustees' annual report which includes the strategic report has been approved by the trustees on date and signed on their behalf by:



Paul Stothard (Chair of the Board of Trustees) **Date:** 17/09/2026

6. Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Cope Children's Trust (Limited by Guarantee)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cope Children's Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions Relating to Going Concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Cope Children's Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on Other Matters Prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on Which We Are Required to Report by Exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of The Audit in Detecting Irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, and the finance committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
    - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
    - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
    - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our Report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Fleur Holden (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP
Charity Accountants, Statutory Auditor
110 Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0TG
Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Date: 23 September 2026

7. Accounts and Notes to the Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2026
Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income from					
Donations and legacies	3	5,349,247	1,071,984	6,421,231	5,974,457
Charitable activities	3	263,352	2,100,865	2,364,217	2,131,063
Other trading activities	3	2,547,623	248	2,547,871	2,081,124
Investments	3	187,685	0	187,685	280,811
Other	3	104,111	0	104,111	101,803
Total		**8,452,018**	**3,173,097**	**11,625,115**	**10,569,258**
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	4	3,895,229	5,470	3,900,699	3,503,469
Charitable activities	5	5,404,124	2,531,803	7,935,927	7,483,596
Tax payable	10	0	0	0	0
Total		**9,299,353**	**2,537,273**	**11,836,626**	**10,987,065**
Net gains on investments	12	151,805	0	151,805	13,367
Net income/(expenditure)		**(695,530)**	**635,824**	**(59,706)**	**(404,440)**
Net movement in funds		**(695,530)**	**635,824**	**(59,706)**	**(404,440)**
Fund balances at 1 April 2025		**9,785,946**	**3,242,029**	**13,027,975**	**13,432,414**
Fund balances at 31 March 2026	17/18	**9,090,416**	**3,877,853**	**12,968,269**	**13,027,975**

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses arising during the year.

The detailed comparatives are all shown in Note 2.



"Rainbows is a big support to us. There is always someone who can listen to us and not judge me on my hardest days. The staff let me be mum to both my boys as there are times when I feel I am not mum to Coby as there is so much medical stuff going on."

Rainbows Mum



Balance Sheet at 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	4,219,100	3,809,022
Investments	12	4,064,544	3,865,865
Total fixed assets		**8,283,644**	**7,674,887**
Current assets			
Stock	13	8,878	6813
Debtors: including those due after one year	14	2,943,201	2,896,238
Cash at bank and in hand		2,780,279	3,637,503
Total current assets		**5,732,358**	**6,540,554**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	**1,047,733**	**1,187,466**
Net current assets		**4,684,625**	**5,353,088**
Total net assets		**12,968,269**	**13,027,975**
The funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	17	3,877,853	3,242,029
Unrestricted funds	18	8,553,737	9,331,023
Fair value reserve	18	536,679	454,923
Total Charity Funds		**12,968,269**	**13,027,975**

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on and are signed on its behalf by:



Paul Stothard - Chair of the Board of Trustees



Angela Browning - Treasurer

The notes on pages 25 to 41 form part of these accounts
Company Registration No. 02743297

Statement of Cashflows

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Net cash (used in) operating activities	20		(51,107)		(227,822)
Cash flow from investing activities					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(946,928)		(401,359)	
Receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets		0		1,500	
Payments to acquire investments		(987,527)		(477,887)	
Receipts from sale of investments		939,251		352,475	
Interest received		118,992		138,231	
Dividends received		59,063		133,400	
Rent received from investment properties		9,630		9,180	
Net cash used in investing activities			(807,519)		(244,460)
Net (decrease) in cash or cash equivalents			(858,626)		(472,282)
Cash or cash equivalents at 1 April 2025			**3,681,429**		**4,153,710**
Cash or cash equivalents at 31 March 2026			**2,822,803**		**3,681,429**
Cash and Cash equivalents consist of					
Cash at bank or in hand			2,780,279		3,637,503
Cash at investment managers			42,524		43,926
Total			**2,822,803**		**3,681,429**





1. Accounting Policies

Company Information

Cope Children's Trust (the Charity) is a Company limited by guarantee, domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the reference and administration information on page 3.

Basis of Preparation

The Charity constitutes a Public Benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with: the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities applying FRS 102, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

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

These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of fixed asset investments. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. It is felt that the Charity can demonstrate it maintains sufficient reserves for the future based on prospective financial performance, cashflow and identification of risk reserves. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are funds which the Board have approved to be designated out of unrestricted reserves and which are for the purpose of spending against budgeted strategic aims. We anticipate these designated reserves will have been utilised in their entirety by 31 March 2029.

Income Recognition

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA") when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Entitlement to donations usually arises immediately on receipt. For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the Charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled. Income Tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income Recognition (Continued)

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, the amount can be measured reliably and the Charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity. For example the amount the Charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Gifts in kind donated for resale or distribution are not recognised in the accounts until they are sold or distributed because the Trustees consider it is impractical to fair value the items due to the large volume of low value items. The Charity operates a retail Gift Aid Scheme for these goods which are sold in its shops on an agency basis.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasions, legacies will be notified to the Charity but it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from charitable activities includes income received from NHS contracts, income from local care commissioning groups and local authorities. Income from these categories is recognised at fair value when the Charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with reliability. If entitlement is not met, then the amounts are deferred.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from the retail shops, 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.

Lottery income is accounted for in respect of those draws that have taken place in the year.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as listed investments and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest is recognised on an accruals basis and dividend and rental income is recognised as the Charity's right to receive payment is established.

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Other income primarily includes hire of facilities and other sources and is recognised on an accruals basis.

Expenditure Recognition

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

- costs of raising funds includes costs incurred in seeking donations, grants and legacies, fundraising and investment management fees
- expenditure on charitable activities includes those costs providing specialist palliative care and support, community services, research and other educational activities undertaken to further the delivery of the objects of the Charity

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Support Costs Allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and costs of raising funds and include office costs, governance costs, and administrative payroll costs. Support costs are allocated to costs of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

- freehold land is not depreciated
- leasehold property – over the life of the lease
- fixtures, fittings and equipment – on cost between three and seven years
- motor vehicles - on cost over three years
- Garden project - on cost over ten years

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets

At each reporting period 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, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in the SOFA.

Fixed Asset Investments

Investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries are initially recognised at transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (and losses) on investments' in the SOFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investment property is measured at fair value at the reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SOFA.

Interests in subsidiaries are measured at cost less impairment losses.

Financial Instruments

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

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items. Stock cost is recorded at invoice price net of any discounts received. Donated items of stock for resale or distribution are not included in the accounts until they are sold or distributed because the Trustees consider it impractical to be able to assess the amount of donated stocks as there are no systems in place which record these items until they are sold and undertaking a stock take would incur undue cost for the Charity which would far outweigh the benefits.

Debtors Receivable within One Year

Debtors with no stated interest rate and receivable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the SOFA.

Cash at Bank and In Hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity ranging from three to six months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors Payable Within One Year

Creditors with no stated interest rate and payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the SOFA.

Employee Benefits

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Retirement Benefits

The Charity contributes to the NHS defined benefit pension scheme. This is a multi-employer pension scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the group. In accordance with FRS 102 therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

The Charity also contributes to defined contribution schemes for other staff that are not eligible to join the NHS pension scheme. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period or in the period, of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Trustees do not consider there to be any key sources of estimates or uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.



2. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 March 2025
Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Income from			
Donations and legacies	5,204,847	769,610	5,974,457
Charitable activities	539,667	1,591,396	2,131,063
Other trading activities	2,081,124	0	2,081,124
Investments	280,811	0	280,811
Other	101,803	0	101,803
Total	**8,208,252**	**2,361,006**	**10,569,258**
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	3,503,469	0	3,503,469
Charitable activities	5,096,869	2,386,727	7,483,596
Total	8,600,338	2,386,727	10,987,065
Net (losses)/gains on investments	**13,367**	**0**	**13,367**
Net gain on fixed assets	**0**	**0**	**0**
Net income/(expenditure)	**(378,719)**	**(25,721)**	**(404,440)**
Net movement in funds	**(378,719)**	**(25,721)**	**(404,440)**
Fund balances at 1 April 2024	**10,164,664**	**3,267,750**	**13,432,414**
Fund balances at 31 March 2025	**9,785,946**	**3,242,029**	**13,027,975**



3. Income

Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Corporate donations and gifts	1,464,347	225,548	1,689,895	1,603,623	17,645	1,621,268
Community donations and gifts	1,524,548	122,609	1,647,157	1,342,553	17,640	1,360,193
Legacies receivable	2,204,388	0	2,204,388	2,151,849	0	2,151,849
Grants – Trusts and Foundations	155,964	723,827	879,791	146,822	694,325	841,147
Total	**5,349,247**	**1,071,984**	**6,421,231**	**5,244,847**	**729,610**	**5,974,457**

The above figures include gifts in kind donated by supporters amounting to £52,239 (£65,924 in 2025).

Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Integrated Care Boards and Local Authorities	263,352	46,465	309,817	539,667	17,509	557,176
Hospice Capital Grant	0	593,400	593,400	0	147,486	147,486
Grants from NHS England	0	1,461,000	1,461,000	0	1,426,401	1,426,401
Total	**263,352**	**2,100,865**	**2,364,217**	**539,667**	**1,591,396**	**2,131,063**

The income from the Integrated Care Boards and local authorities relates to annually agreed contracts for the provision of Hospice services for the regions or individuals. The NHS England grant is our share of the block grant to children's hospices.

Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Organised events	279,680	248	279,928	209,240	0	209,240
Challenges	214,213	0	214,213	220,293	0	220,293
Lottery	919,945	0	919,945	817,790	0	817,790
Retail and business activities	1,133,785	0	1,133,785	833,801	0	833,801
Total	**2,547,623**	**248**	**2,547,871**	**2,081,124**	**0**	**2,081,124**

Investment Income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Income from						
Listed investments	59,063	0	59,063	133,400	0	133,400
Interest receivable	118,992	0	118,992	138,231	0	138,231
Investment property income	9,630	0	9,630	9,180	0	9,180
Total	**187,685**	**0**	**187,685**	**280,811**	**0**	**280,811**

3. Income (continued)
Other Income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Other sundry income	104,111	0	104,111	101,803	0	101,803
Total	**104,111**	**0**	**104,111**	**101,803**	**0**	**101,803**

4. Expenditure on Raising Funds
Year ended 31 March 2026

	Staff Costs £	Depreciation £	Other Costs £	Total 2026 £
Cost of seeking donations and legacies	885,553	0	250,485	1,136,038
Fundraising				
Events/challenges	108,884	0	91,414	200,298
Lottery	53,244	0	410,173	463,417
Retail and business activities	869,762	90,747	510,066	1,470,575
Investments management costs	0	0	11,570	11,570
Support costs allocated (note 6)	385,908	44,933	187,960	618,801
Total	**2,303,351**	**135,680**	**1,461,668**	**3,900,699**
Restricted expenditure				**5,470**
Unrestricted expenditure				**3,895,229**

Prior Year Comparative

	Staff Costs £	Depreciation £	Other Costs £	Total 2025 £
Cost of seeking donations and legacies	776,761	0	464,769	1,241,530
Fundraising				
Events/challenges	34,570	0	87,549	122,119
Lottery	23,208	0	332,289	355,497
Retail and business activities	603,371	44,777	456,484	1,104,632
Investments management costs	0	0	36,752	36,752
Support costs allocated (note 6)	389,103	47,529	206,307	642,939
Total	**1,827,013**	**92,306**	**1,584,150**	**3,503,469**
Unrestricted expenditure				3,503,469



5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities
Year ended 31 March 2026

	Staff Costs £	Depreciation £	Other Costs £	Total 2026 £
Hospice direct care costs	5,009,265	0	407,598	5,416,863
Support costs allocated (note 6)	1,031,262	399,675	1,088,127	2,519,064
Total Care Costs	**6,040,527**	**399,675**	**1,495,725**	**7,935,927**
Restricted expenditure				2,531,803
Unrestricted expenditure				5,404,124

Prior Year Comparative

	Staff Costs £	Depreciation £	Other Costs £	Total 2025 £
Hospice direct care costs	4,479,836	0	500,680	4,980,516
Support costs allocated (note 6)	883,668	431,440	1,187,972	2,503,080
Total Care Costs	**5,363,504**	**431,440**	**1,688,652**	**7,483,596**
Restricted expenditure				2,386,727
Unrestricted expenditure				5,096,869

6. Support Costs
Year ended 31 March 2026

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Expenditure £	Total 2026 £
Governance Staff costs	0	57,548	57,548
Governance Other costs	0	23,021	23,021
Support Staff costs	385,908	973,714	1,359,622
Depreciation	44,933	399,675	444,608
Establishment costs	66,917	379,194	446,111
Other administration costs	121,043	685,912	806,955
Total	**618,801**	**2,519,064**	**3,137,865**

Prior Year Comparative

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Expenditure £	Total 2025 £
Governance Staff costs	0	45,698	45,698
Governance Other costs	0	18,900	18,900
Support Staff costs	389,103	837,970	1,227,073
Depreciation	47,529	431,440	478,969
Establishment costs	83,245	471,723	554,968
Other administration costs	123,062	697,349	820,411
Total	**642,939**	**2,503,080**	**3,146,019**

Support costs have been allocated on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resources.

Governance other costs relate to the costs of the annual audit.

7. Net Income/Expenditure for the Year

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	535,355	523,746
Operating leases - land and buildings	212,421	152,612
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT) – Audit	21,550	18,900
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT) – Other	0	0

8. Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year, or the previous year. Two of the Trustees (but not any persons connected with them) received reimbursed expenses totalling £1,267 from the Charity during the year, in relation to mainly travel costs arising from activities or training as a Trustee. In the previous year, four trustees received reimbursed expenses totalling £2,149.

9. Employees

Average Head Count excluding Trustees	2026 Actual	2026 FTE	2025 Actual	2025 FTE
Care	137	101	128	105
Administration	13	9	11	9
Fundraising and Retail	71	58	54	43
Finance	6	5	6	5
Human Resources	9	9	8	8
Total	**236**	**182**	**207**	**170**

Employment costs	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Wages and salaries	6,868,163	5,969,725
Social security costs	840,509	538,131
Defined contribution pension costs	317,834	256,918
Defined benefit pension operating costs	292,510	270,019
Termination payments	60,134	96,273
Total	**8,379,150**	**7,131,066**
Key management costs - Total Remuneration	564,515	503,106
Number of volunteers	**386**	**331**
Number of employees whose annual remuneration was		
£60,000 - £69,999	4	5
£70,000 - £79,999	4	1
£80,000 - £89,999	1	2
£90,000 - £99,999	0	0
£100,000 - £109,999	1	1

10. Tax Status

The charity's charitable income is exempt from corporation tax and is applied for charitable purposes. The Charity's non-primary purpose income exceeded the charities' small trading exemption limit during the year, however these activities made an overall loss after tax adjustments. As a result, no corporation tax is due, and a nil charge is shown in the accounts. These losses cannot be carried forward for future tax relief.

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Long Leasehold Property £	Fixtures Fittings and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2025	5,198,260	2,004,224	200,777	7,403,261
Additions	0	945,981	947	946,928
Disposals	(398)	(23,064)	(17,800)	(41,262)
At 31 March 2026	**5,197,862**	**2,927,141**	**183,924**	**8,308,927**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2025	2,038,833	1,449,880	105,526	3,594,239
Charge for the year	101,821	383,627	50,851	536,299
Disposals	(165)	(22,746)	(17,800)	(40,711)
At 31 March 2026	**2,140,489**	**1,810,761**	**138,577**	**4,089,827**
NBV				
At 31 March 2026	**3,057,373**	**1,116,380**	**45,347**	**4,219,100**
At 31 March 2025	3,159,427	554,344	95,251	3,809,022

In the 2025/26 financial year, fixed assets included £593,400 funded by Hospice Capital grant given by the UK government and distributed by Hospice UK, treated as restricted capital funding due to an obligation to reinvest proceeds from any future sale of eligible assets. This funding, not discharged upon expenditure, is reported separately in the net assets by reserves and movement in funds notes (note 17). These assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method over three-year useful life for non-garden project assets and a ten-year useful life for garden project assets, consistent with our standard accounting practice, with this policy transparently disclosed as required by the funding agreement.

Freehold land adjacent to the leasehold property was acquired as a gift from JS Bloor (Measham) Limited and Fairmeadow Limited in 2008. The Trustees believe its value is not material as the land is intrinsic to the Hospice site and buildings and could not be realised whilst this remains the case.

Leasehold property is inclusive of assets donated to the Charity in previous years. Such assets are valued at the cost price that would have been paid if the assets had not been donated as gifts in kind.

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes

Prior Year Comparative

	Long Leasehold Property £	Fixtures Fittings and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	5,198,260	2,083,040	136,084	7,417,384
Additions	0	320,328	81,031	401,359
Disposals	0	(399,144)	(16,337)	(415,481)
At 31 March 2025	**5,198,260**	**2,004,224**	**200,778**	**7,403,262**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	1,937,011	1,454,401	81,920	3,473,332
Charge for the year	101,822	381,982	39,943	523,747
Disposals	0	(386,502)	(16,337)	(402,839)
At 31 March 2025	**2,038,833**	**1,449,881**	**105,526**	**3,594,240**
NBV				
At 31 March 2025	**3,159,427**	**554,343**	**95,252**	**3,809,022**
At 31 March 2024	3,261,249	628,639	54,164	3,944,052

12. Fixed Asset Investments

	Listed Investments £	Cash held for investments £	Investment Property £	Total £
Market value at 1 April 2025	3,503,939	43,926	318,000	3,865,865
Disposals at opening book value	(891,811)	0	0	(891,811)
Acquisitions at cost	987,527	0	0	987,527
Movement in cash	0	(1,402)	0	(1,402)
Change in value in year	109,365	0	(5,000)	104,365
Market value at 31 March 2026	**3,709,020**	**42,524**	**313,000**	**4,064,544**

All assets are stated at fair value. The fair value of listed investments is determined by the market price, using the bid price, at the Balance Sheet date. The fair value of the investment property was not independently valued but is determined by the Trustees by reference to the open market value for similar properties at the Balance Sheet date.

Total net gains on investments recognised in the SOFA total £151,805 which include £96,284 unrealised gains and £55,521 realised gains.

Prior Year Comparative

	Listed Investments £	Cash held for investments £	Investment Property £	Total £
Market value at 1 April 2024	3,380,160	90,764	303,000	3,773,924
Disposals at opening book value	(663,739)	0	0	(663,739)
Acquisitions at cost	802,974	0	0	802,974
Movement in cash	0	(46,838)	0	(46,838)
Change in value in year	(15,456)	0	15,000	(456)
Market value at 31 March 2025	**3,503,939**	**43,926**	**318,000**	**3,865,865**

13. Stock

	2026 £	2025 £
Goods for resale	8,878	6,813

14. Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	56,006	9,015
Prepayments	395,122	258,271
Other debtors	140,313	119,762
Accrued income	2,351,760	2,509,190
Total	**2,943,201**	**2,896,238**

Accrued income includes legacies receivable of £2,108,330 (2025 £2,396,781).

15. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade Creditors	388,599	323,141
Taxes and Social Security	177,299	129,062
Accruals	324,824	307,427
Deferred Income	157,011	427,836
Total	**1,047,733**	**1,187,466**

Deferred income represents income received in advance for grants, lottery ticket draws and entrance fees relating to events occurring in the next financial year. The movements in deferred income are shown below:

	2026 £	2025 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	427,836	446,749
Amount released to income in the year	(428,220)	(439,024)
Amount deferred in the year	157,395	420,111
Balance at the end of the year	**157,011**	**427,836**





16. Pension costs

Defined Contribution Schemes

The Charity operates a defined contribution auto-enrolment workplace pension scheme with The People's Pension. Another defined benefit contribution scheme was closed to new members from 31 March 2014 other than senior leaders. In July 2024 all remaining members of this scheme were transferred to The People's Pension workplace pension and the scheme changed to salary exchange. The charity also contributes to the personal pension of one employee who has their own private scheme.

With the introduction in July 2015 of the statutory requirements for employers to contribute to schemes and for employees to be auto-enrolled in a scheme, the Charity adopted the Government's own scheme - The People's Pension.

The Charity also contributed to the personal pension arrangements of a small number of employees who have their own private schemes.

Defined Benefit Scheme

Past and present employees are covered by the provisions of the NHS Pension Schemes. Details of the benefits payable and rules of the schemes can be found on the NHS Pensions website at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pensions. Both the 1995/2008 and 2015 schemes are accounted for, and the scheme liability valued, as a single combined scheme. Both are unfunded defined benefit schemes that cover NHS employers, GP practices and other bodies, allowed under the direction of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in England and Wales. They are not designed to be run in a way that would enable NHS bodies to identify their share of the underlying scheme assets and liabilities. Therefore, each scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme: the cost to the NHS body of participating in each scheme, is taken as equal to the contributions payable to that scheme for the accounting period.

In order that the defined benefit obligations recognised in the financial statements do not differ materially from those that would be determined at the reporting date by a formal actuarial valuation, the FReM requires that "the period between formal valuations shall be four years, with approximate assessments in intervening years".

An outline of these follows:

a) Accounting valuation

A valuation of scheme liability is carried out annually by the scheme actuary (currently the Government Actuary's Department) as at the end of the reporting period. This utilises an actuarial assessment for the previous accounting period in conjunction with updated membership and financial data for the current reporting period, and is accepted as providing suitably robust figures for financial reporting purposes. The valuation of the scheme liability as at 31 March 2026, is based on valuation data as 31 March 2025, updated to 31 March 2026 with summary global member and accounting data. In undertaking this actuarial assessment, the methodology prescribed in IAS 19, relevant FReM interpretations, and the discount rate prescribed by HM Treasury have also been used.

The latest assessment of the liabilities of the scheme is contained in the report of the scheme actuary, which forms part of the annual NHS Pension Scheme Accounts. These accounts can be viewed on the NHS Pensions website and are published annually. Copies can also be obtained from The Stationery Office.

b) Full actuarial (funding) valuation

The purpose of this valuation is to assess the level of liability in respect of the benefits due under the schemes (taking into account recent demographic experience), and to recommend contribution rates payable by employees and employers.

The latest actuarial valuation undertaken for the NHS Pension Scheme was completed as at 31 March 2020. The results of this valuation set the employer contribution rate payable from April 2024. The Department of Health and Social Care has recently laid Scheme Regulations confirming the employer contribution rate will increase to 23.7% of pensionable pay from 1 April 2024 (previously 20.6%). The core cost cap cost of the scheme was calculated to be outside of the 3% cost cap corridor as at 31 March 2020. However, when the wider economic situation was taken into account through the economic cost cap cost of the scheme, the cost cap corridor was not similarly breached. As a result, there was no impact on the member benefit structure or contribution rates.

Employer contributions	2026 £	2025 £
To defined contribution schemes	317,834	256,918
To defined benefit scheme	292,510	270,019
Total	**610,344**	**526,937**

17. Restricted Funds
Year ended 31 March 2026

The funds of the Group include restricted funds comprising the following balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

Movement in funds	Building for the future £	Hospice Funding £	Original Hospice £	Hospice Capital Grant £	Total £
Balance at 2025	2,086,118	307,897	708,361	139,653	3,242,029
Income	0	2,579,697	0	593,400	3,173,097
Expenditure	0	(2,255,977)	0	0	(2,255,977)
Depreciation	(59,876)	(95,910)	(32,073)	(93,437)	(281,296)
Balance at 2026	**2,026,242**	**535,707**	**676,288**	**639,616**	**3,877,853**

Of the total Hospice Funding balance, £51,975 is of revenue in nature and £483,732 is capital.

The 'Building for the Future' fund is for the therapy wing at the main Hospice site in Loughborough, Leicestershire.

The 'Hospice Funding' amounts were donated for the purchase of specified items on the Hospice wish expenses and equipment list and to increase services.

The 'Original Hospice' relates to the leasehold property building fund.

The 'Hospice Capital Grant' – restricted capital funding (relates to amounts provided under the hospice capital grant in 24/25 and 25/26 to enable capital purchases to benefit BCYP accessing services)

Prior Year Comparative

Movement in funds	Building for the future £	Hospice Funding £	Original Hospice £	Hospice Capital Grant £	Total £
Balance at 2024	2,146,308	381,008	740,434	0	3,267,750
Income	0	2,213,520	0	147,486	2,361,006
Expenditure	0	(2,158,901)	0	0	(2,158,901)
Depreciation	(60,190)	(127,730)	(32,073)	(7,833)	(227,826)
Balance at 2025	**2,086,118**	**307,897**	**708,361**	**139,653**	**3,242,029**

Of the total Hospice Funding balance, £75,679 is of revenue in nature and £232,218 is capital.



18. Unrestricted income Funds
Year ended 31 March 2026

The funds of the Group include unrestricted funds comprising the following balances:

Movement in funds	Balance at 2025 £	Movement in year £	Revaluation £	Balance at 2026 £
Designated funds for Strategic Aims	469,166	22,076	0	491,242
General funds	8,861,857	(813,890)	14,528	8,062,495
Unrestricted funds excluding fair value reserve	9,331,023	(791,814)	14,528	8,553,737
Fair value reserve	454,923	96,284	(14,528)	536,679
Total unrestricted income funds	**9,785,946**	**(695,530)**	**0**	**9,090,416**

Designated funds for strategic aims includes planned spend on HR and IT strategic spends, strategic inclusion works, research and education, and other care development. It is expected that £134k of designated funds will be spent during the financial year to 31 March 2027, with the balance of the designated fund expected to be spent over the following two years.

The fair value reserve represents the revaluation gains on the investment property and listed investments.

Prior Year Comparative

Movement in funds	Balance at 2024 £	Movement in year £	Revaluation £	Balance at 2025 £
Designated funds for Strategic Aims	2,379,456	(1,910,290)	0	469,166
General funds	7,259,270	1,518,342	84,245	8,861,857
Unrestricted funds excluding fair value reserve	9,638,726	(391,948)	84,245	9,331,023
Fair value reserve	525,938	13,230	(84,245)	454,923
Total unrestricted income funds	**10,164,664**	**(378,718)**	**0**	**9,785,946**

19. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds
Year ended 31 March 2026

Fund balances at 31 March 2026 are represented by:

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Balance at 2026 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,464,595	2,754,505	4,219,100
Investments	4,064,544	0	4,064,544
Current assets	4,609,010	1,123,348	5,732,358
Creditors due within one year	(1,047,733)	0	(1,047,733)
Total	**9,090,416**	**3,877,853**	**12,968,269**

Prior Year Comparative

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Balance at 2025 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	938,864	2,870,158	3,809,022
Investments	3,865,865	0	3,865,865
Current assets	6,168,683	371,871	6,540,554
Creditors due within one year	(1,187,466)	0	(1,187,466)
Total	**9,785,946**	**3,242,029**	**13,027,975**

20. Reconciliation of (Expenditure) to Net Cash provided by Operating Activities

	2026 £	2025 £
Net (deficit) for the year	(59,706)	(404,440)
Investment income	(187,685)	(280,811)
Depreciation of tangible assets	536,299	523,747
(Gains) on investments	(96,284)	(14,730)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	551	12,642
(Gains) on disposal of fixed asset investments	(55,521)	(137)
(Increase) in stocks	(2,065)	(922)
(Increase) in debtors	(46,963)	(128,934)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(139,733)	65,763
Net cash provided by operating activities	**(51,107)**	**(227,822)**

21. Operating Lease Commitments

	2026 £	2025 £
Operating leases which expire:		
Within one year	214,175	149,823
Between two and five years	296,381	425,753
In over five years	0	0
Total	**510,556**	**575,576**

22. Financial Instruments

	2026 £	2025 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Measured at fair value through income and expenditure	3,709,020	3,503,939

Financial assets measured at fair value comprise listed investments.

The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value, using the bid price.

The main risk to the Charity from financial instruments lies in the combination of uncertain investment markets and volatility in yield.

Liquidity risk is anticipated to be low as all assets are traded, and the commitment to intervention by central banks and market regulators has continued to provide for orderly trading in the markets, and so the ability to buy and sell quoted equities and stock is anticipated to continue. The Charity's investments are mainly traded in markets with good liquidity and high trading volumes. The Charity has no material investment holdings in markets subject to exchange controls or trading restrictions.

The Charity manages these investment risks by retaining expert advisors and operating an investment policy that provides for a high degree of diversification of holdings within investment asset classes that are quoted on recognised stock exchanges. Furthermore, regular communication is maintained between the advisors and the Trustees.

Thank you for making a difference and helping to brighten short lives!



“Rainbows never stopped caring for us. It is a truly remarkable place.”

Rainbows’ Mum

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

rainbows.co.uk

Rainbows is registered as Cope Children’s Trust in England and Wales. Registered Charity No. 1014051.
Registered Office: Lark Rise, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2HS.