

2024/25



ANNUAL REPORT

Care and Support for Vulnerable People in
the North East





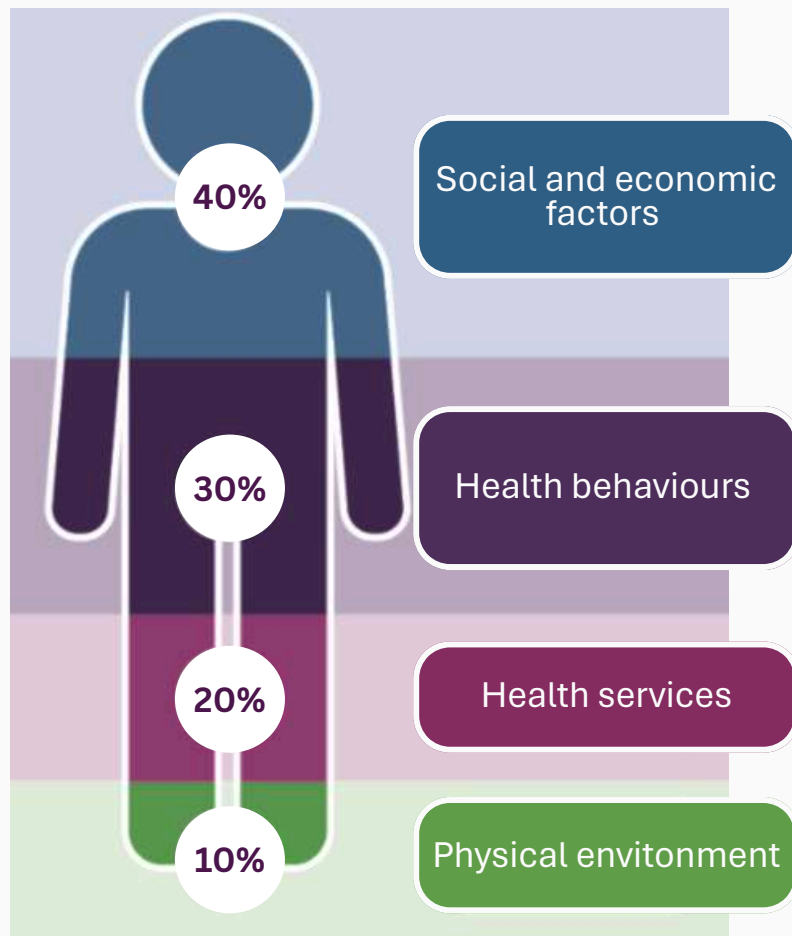
Aberdeen Cyrenians helps people in need, especially those who are struggling or left out by society.

Our mission is to:

- help people find and keep a place to live
- offer a welcoming space where people can drop in for support
- provide health and care services to improve people's wellbeing

HOW WE ARE BORN, GROW, LIVE, WORK, AND AGE AFFECTS OUR HEALTH

What shapes our health



People can struggle with many things in life.

We work in partnership with social services, health, justice, education, policymakers, charities, and the private sector, to provide a lifeline that wraps around people in need of support.

Taking a **public health approach**, and working together, we aim for homelessness to be rare, brief and non-recurring by providing **care and support** that makes lasting positive change.

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SERVICES AND PEOPLE

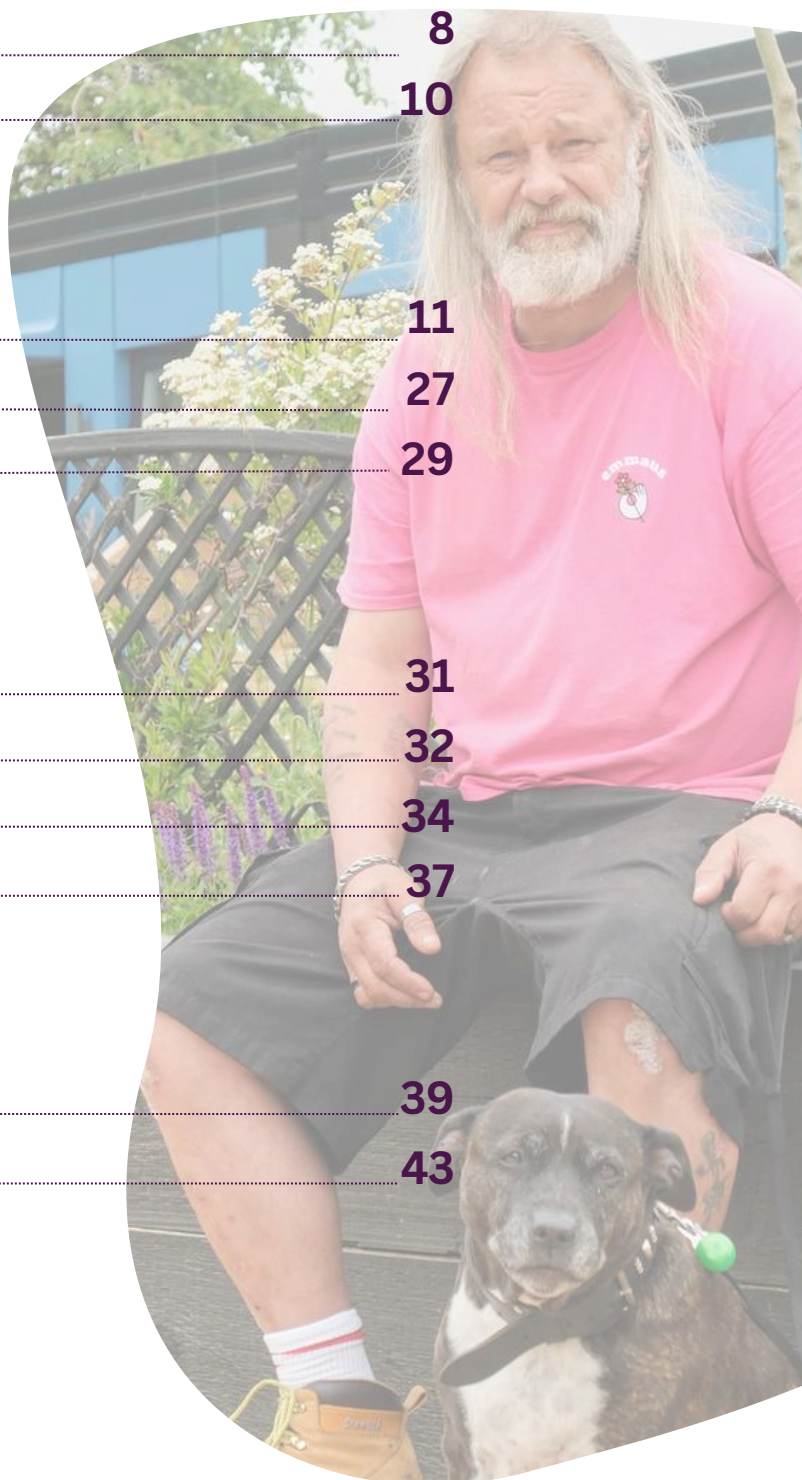
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD: GRATITUDE, GOVERNANCE, AND A STRATEGIC PATH FORWARD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As Chair of Aberdeen Cyrenians, I am honoured to reflect on a year that has tested the resilience of our sector and reaffirmed the strength of our mission and vision.

2024–25 has been a year of both transition and consolidation. We welcomed Donna Hutchison as our new Chief Executive Officer, whose leadership has brought renewed energy, clarity and a deep commitment to operational change and systemic change.

At the same time, we said farewell to two exceptional leaders Rebecca Walker and Bruce Bricknell whose combined years of service as Directors, Chairs, and Vice Chairs have left an indelible mark on our organisation. Their wisdom, compassion, and strategic insight have helped shape Aberdeen Cyrenians into the trusted, impactful charity it is today. On behalf of the Board, I extend our deepest thanks and warmest wishes to them both.

The Board has remained focused on strong governance financial sustainability, and strategic alignment.



We are pleased to report a positive financial position, with reserves now representing 68% of annual expenditure. This reflects prudent stewardship and provides a solid foundation for the future.

That future is guided by our new **Strategic Plan 2025 - 2030**, which sets out a bold ambition:

To prevent homelessness and hospital admissions by addressing the root causes of crisis - poverty, trauma, and exclusion - through a public health lens.

We are committed to:

Strengthening partnerships across sectors to deliver integrated, person-centred care.

Investing in prevention, recognising that early support reduces long-term harm and cost.

Empowering individuals to take control of their lives and participate fully in society.

Driving system change, using data, and lived experience to influence policy and funding.

Building organisational resilience, ensuring we can continue to deliver impact for years to come.

We are also proud of the organisation's continued involvement in collaborative initiatives from the Granite Care Consortium to Operation Begonia, and from Homewards to Food Poverty Action Aberdeen. These partnerships are not just strategic; they are essential. They reflect our belief that lasting change requires collective effort.

We are aligning our work with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, the Aberdeen City Local Housing Strategy, the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Market Position Statement as well as relevant Scottish Government initiatives.

We are also responding to the demographic and economic shifts in our city – an ageing population, rising in-work poverty, and increasing demand for specialist housing and support.

The challenges ahead are undoubtably significant. But so too is our resolve.

The Board would like to personally thank everyone involved in contributing to the substantial work of developing our new strategy, which we believe will help to ensure that as an organisation, we can deliver the most needed impact for the most vulnerable people in our communities.

To all our staff, volunteers, funders, partners, and supporters, a huge thank you. Your support enables us to be a lifeline for those who need it most. Together, we are not just responding to crisis; we are building a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



Alastair Bisset
Chair of Aberdeen Cyrenians 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

A YEAR OF RESILIENCE, REFLECTION, AND A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

It is with immense pride and humility that I reflect on my first year as Chief Executive Officer of Aberdeen Cyrenians. Since stepping into this role in May 2024, I have been continually inspired by the strength, compassion, and commitment of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. This year has been one of profound challenge but also of meaningful progress, transformation and renewed purpose.


We have operated in a climate of increasing complexity: rising demand, funding volatility and a shifting political and economic landscape. Trusts and foundations have paused applications, public sector budgets have tightened, and the cost-of-living crisis continues to deepen. Yet, in the face of these pressures, Aberdeen Cyrenians has not stood still. We have adapted, evolved, and deepened our impact.

Our services have grown more integrated, more person-centred, and more responsive to the complex realities people face. We have supported in the region of 2,000 households and delivered more than 72,000 support sessions.

We've seen a 28% increase in volunteer hours and we continued to receive donations of essential items, clear evidence of a community that continues to stand with us.

But behind every number is a person: someone like William, who found hope and connection after a suicide attempt; Lilly, who rebuilt her life after years of abuse; or Paul, who moved from homelessness and addiction to stability and trust. These are not just stories of survival; they are stories of transformation, made possible by the tireless work of our frontline teams and the generosity of our supporters.

We've strengthened our trauma-informed, person-centred approach, expanded our community outreach, and taken bold steps to advocate for systemic change. I've made it a priority to engage with policymakers, media, and partners to champion a prevention-first, public health approach to homelessness because we know that early intervention not only changes lives; it saves public money and builds stronger communities.



Internally, we've focused on creating a psychologically safe and supportive environment for our staff and volunteers. Their wellbeing is non-negotiable. They are the heart of this organisation, and their dedication is what makes our mission possible. Looking ahead we are guided by our new Strategic Plan 2025-2030, which sets out a bold ambition: to prevent homelessness and hospital admissions through a community based, public-health approach aimed at ending wellbeing disparities.

Because it's crucial to understand homelessness as a public health issue rather than solely a housing issue and by focusing on prevention and community support, we can potentially reduce the strain on people's lives and the emergency and statutory services that support them, improving the overall wellbeing of our city.

We are aligning our work with the priorities of Aberdeen City Council, the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, and the Scottish Government. We are also embracing our role in Aberdeen's journey as a **Marmot City** tackling the social determinants of health and addressing structural inequalities.

This is not just a strategy it is a commitment to the people we serve. A commitment to ensure that no one is left behind, and that everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity, safety, and hope.

It also gives us the opportunity to unite those who share the vision of a prosperous Aberdeen that provides equal opportunities for all, regardless of background or circumstances.

To our staff, volunteers, funders, partners and supporters - thank you for being part of this journey. Your belief in our mission fuels everything we do. Together, we are building a stronger, fairer North East, making lasting change for vulnerable people and communities.

Donna Hutchison
Chief Executive Officer

OUR PURPOSE AND AMBITION

ABERDEEN CYRENIANS IS FOR SOCIAL GOOD - PARTICULARLY HELPING THE MARGINALISED AND VULNERABLE

Aberdeen Cyrenians helps people in need, especially those who are struggling or left out by society.

We focus on:

- helping people find and keep a place to live
- offering a welcome space where people can drop in for support
- providing health and care services to improve people's wellbeing

We work closely with other organisations and use our combined skills and experience to raise aware about the issues people face, and support people in making lasting, positive changes in their lives.

HOMELESSNESS

- Housing & Tenancy Sustainment
- Poverty & Crisis
- Digital & Financial Inclusion
- Gender Based Violence
- Childhood Trauma & Abuse
- Liberation & Release

WELLBEING INEQUALITY

- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Alcohol & Drug Related Harm
- Care at Home
- Granite Care Consortium



Our services prevent homelessness and hospital admissions through a community-based, public health approach that addresses wellbeing disparities.

By focusing on prevention and community support, we can potentially reduce the strain on emergency and statutory services and improve the overall wellbeing in the city. This ambition is grounded in five strategic themes that will guide our work over the next five years:

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Council
Health &
Social care
Govt

Prevention and early intervention

We will expand upstream services to reduce crisis and improve long-term outcomes, focusing on those who are marginalised and vulnerable.



Integrated health, housing, social care & employability

We will deliver holistic, wraparound support that meets people where they are—connecting housing, health, and employment pathways.



Empowerment & inclusion

We will co-produce services with people with lived experience, fostering independence, confidence, and community belonging.



Collaboration & System Change

We will lead and participate in city-wide coalitions to influence policy, share data, and drive sustainable change.

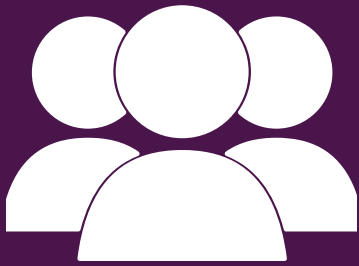


Foundations for sustainable social change

We will invest in our people, infrastructure, and partnerships to ensure long-term resilience and impact.

This strategy aligns with key priorities as identified by Aberdeen City Council, the Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership, and the Scottish Government.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



c2,000

Households supported across our services



72,000+

Support sessions delivered



3,028

Individual donations



£57,399

Worth of food, hygiene items and clothing donated

10



4,208

Hours volunteered



OUR SERVICES

People at the heart of our approach

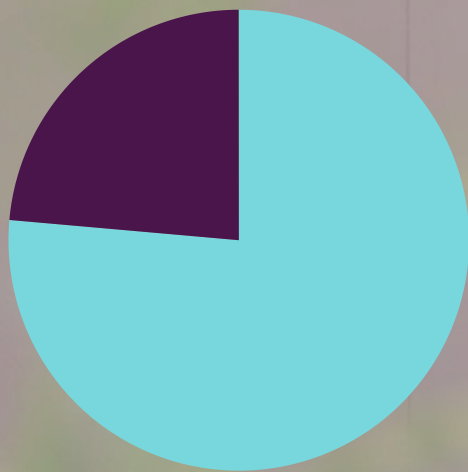
- Community
- Residential
- At Home

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our crisis and support hub offers a safe and welcoming place for anyone struggling, or in need of help including:

- Support and emergency essentials
- Housing and homelessness
- Digital and financial support

7,148
Presentations



GENDER



76%
Male

23.5%
Female

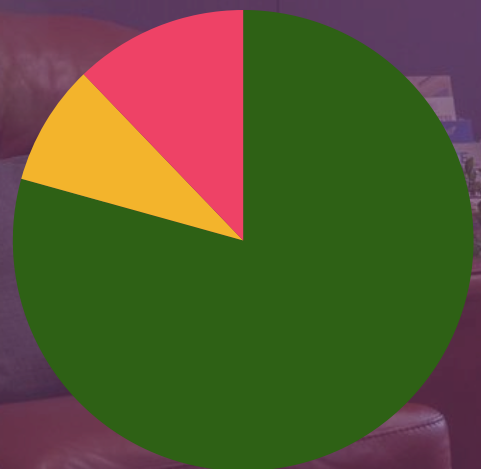
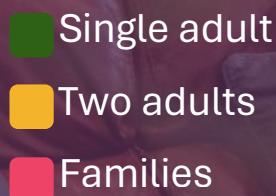
0.5%
Other

79%
Single adult

9%
Two adults

12%
Families

HOUSEHOLD



AGE



74%
Age 31-60

26%
Age 30 and under or
61 and over



DIGITAL INCLUSION & INNOVATION

We are embracing digital transformation to improve access, efficiency, and empowerment.

2024–25 Highlights:

- Increased digital literacy support for service users.
- Enhanced online referral and engagement systems.
- Use of data to inform service planning and outcome tracking.

Looking Ahead:

- Expand digital access points in community hubs.
- Develop peer-led digital skills workshops.
- Invest in secure, user-friendly platforms for service delivery.



We were also awarded the GoodThings Foundation prize for June, recognising outstanding National Digital Inclusion Network members.

"This is an amazing achievement, and we want to sincerely congratulate you and your team on your hard work and dedication to helping others through the Databank and Learn My Way programs.

Your commitment to digital inclusion is truly inspiring."



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the last year we have increased our partnership work to ensure quality outcomes across Aberdeen, and reducing barriers to support by being easier to reach out in the community. This includes:



**Cash First
Aberdeen**



**Department for
Work and Pensions**

**Food
Poverty
Action**
Aberdeen



Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
A caring partnership



WILLIAM'S HOPE FOR CONNECTION

“Cyrenians helped me not only resolve housing, energy and financial issues but literally saved my life.

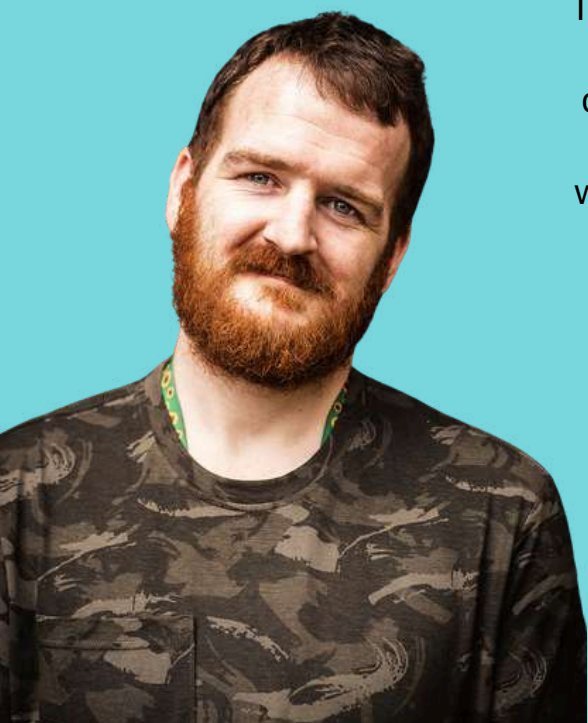
I was struggling to keep my head above water and a roof over my head. I was living alone in rented accommodation, and it got to a point that I couldn't see a way out.

I have a heart condition which means I have three stents in my heart so I struggle to walk far, and my flat was on a first floor. It meant I wasn't getting out much at all and I was sitting in alone and thinking things over – the stress just built up and up.

For a wee while I'd been saving up the tablets I take for my heart and one day everything came to a head, and I took them all at once. I don't know why but then decided to go out for messages and found myself outside Aberdeen Cyrenians to get a food parcel. The lady I spoke to was so nice I told her what I had done and the next thing I knew I was in the back of an ambulance and then off to hospital for three days.

That was 18 months ago, and Aberdeen Cyrenians have been a big part of my life since then. I try and sort things out myself but if I have a problem, I can't fix it then I know where to go - if they can't help themselves then they put me in touch with the right people. A lot of these forms you must fill in are so hard – if you can't word something right then they help you with that sort of stuff and it doesn't sound much but it's such a big thing.

They never judge you. They sit and really listen to you and make you a cup of tea. I hope that they carry on doing what they are doing and help more people like me. I know that they are always here for me and if it wasn't for them, I literally wouldn't be here to tell my story.”



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

ABUSE AND VIOLENCE



Empowering survivors to take back control of their lives and recover a positive future in which they can flourish, free from discrimination.

100%

New survivors received comprehensive risk assessments and personalised safety plans within 24 hours



167

People supported

2,403

Support sessions

The Empowerment Star results reveal meaningful journeys toward recovery, evidencing progress in safety confidence levels:

- Independent: 13% → 80%
- Feeling stuck: 47% → 0%
- Believing: 17% → 20%
- Crisis needs: 23% → 0%

94% achieved active recovery stages



“My sessions have shown me that I've made gradual progress in different areas of my life. I don't need to climb Everest, but I know that I can take steps to climb higher mountains” - Jess

“Using my plan, made me feel more than my problems and fears, it showed things I could take control of. I can see more clearly and plan ahead. That feels very good.” - Ada



0%

closed cases returned to perpetrators demonstrating our model's effectiveness in breaking cycles of abuse.



MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

During the year, our trauma based services have now become part of wider community services. This makes the service more accessible when abuse or other forms of gender-based violence, trafficking, or exploitation are disclosed. It also enhances access for survivors to our wider services, often having intersecting needs that change throughout the course of support.

Women's group has continued to run successfully, expanding the range of topics explored and supported, as directed by those we support. This has seen confidence grow in our women's group, supporting survivors to take a more active and directing role in running the sessions and developing the programme.

A key part of our work includes our role in the pioneering partnership, Operation Begonia, including chairing of case conferences and contributing to risk assessments in MARAC.

During the year, our Service Managers met with Siobhan Brown, MSP (Minister for Victims & Community Safety) to discuss and give insight into commercial and sexual exploitation (CSE) to assist Scottish Government in the nationwide roll out of Operation Begonia.



Operation Begonia, supported by the Scottish Government, tackles demand for prostitution by focussing on safety and welfare, building trust in policing and signposting to local support.

Giggles was made during our craft workshop to add some fun and relaxation to the final session. We empower survivors to make positive change, building confidence and recovery. Workshops like these help people to flourish and connect with others.

"Giggles to me is a treasure; discovered through my journey of grief and trauma. Sadly, creativity can become stifled by events and I am so grateful and proud to have committed to my recovery. Giggles is a beacon of hope that recovering lost playfulness is possible"



LILLY'S HOPE FOR CONFIDENCE AND SAFETY

When she first walked through our doors, Lilly was filled with anxiety and self-doubt, uncertain of where to begin. She was referred by her GP because of an abusive relationship.

In the safe and nurturing space created by her dedicated keyworker, she gradually found the courage to share the struggles she faced.

For years, Lilly's relationship had eroded her confidence and independence. What once felt like love had become a pattern of control, leaving her isolated from friends, family, and most painfully, her own sense of self. She no longer recognised the woman staring back at her in the mirror.

But with time, patience, and compassionate support, Lilly began to reclaim her life. She discovered she was not alone. Surrounded by others who understood her experiences, she formed deep, meaningful connections, friendships that reminded her of her own strength and worth.

As her confidence grew, so did her resolve. With the support of her keyworker, Lilly made the brave decision to leave her partner for good. Together, they worked on rebuilding her independence; crafting a CV, exploring job opportunities, and taking the first steps toward financial freedom.

When Lilly first came to us, she felt lost and disconnected. Months later she emerged transformed, reconnected with her community, engaged in activities that brought her joy, and thriving in a new job.

Having achieved every goal she set for herself, Lilly has a renewed sense of self, ready to embrace the future with resilience and hope.

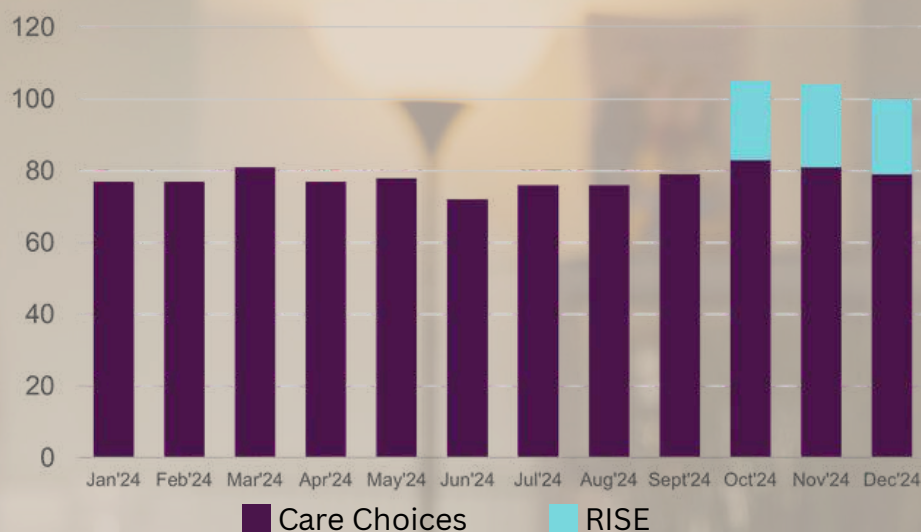
Her journey is a testament to the power of support, solidarity, and the unwavering belief that healing is possible.



CARE AT HOME SERVICES

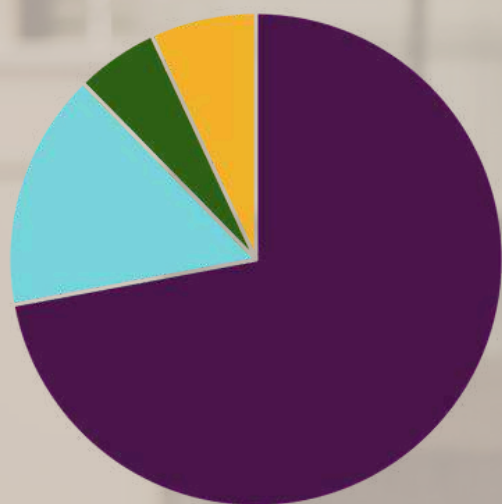
CARE CHOICES AND RISE

Our care at home services, provides choice and support that empowers adults with long-term support needs or mental health challenges to remain safely in their home and connected in their local community.



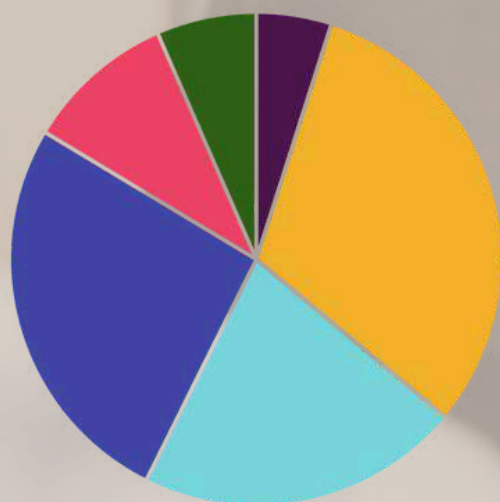
156

People supported



Support Type

- Older people
- Mental health
- Learning disability
- Physical disability



Transitions

- Now independent
- Moved to long-term care
- Moved to rehab
- Death
- Change in need
- Non engagement

“You light up the room when you arrive, your cheery personality shining through, D is totally confident. When you are helping her, your experience, kindness and compassion are always evident in everything you do.”

Family member of care recipient

BETH'S HOPE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Beth's journey toward independence began when living with a family member became strained due to a lack of personal space and autonomy. After being diagnosed with a learning disability, she joined Care Choices with two main goals: to live in her own home, and to join a gym to improve her wellbeing.

Care Choices supported Beth in finding suitable gym classes and developing essential life skills, including budgeting and managing shared expenses; key steps in preparing her for independent living. After a year of support, Beth was offered her own tenancy. The team helped her set up utilities and direct debits, and supported her as she settled in and built confidence in cooking, cleaning, and managing her own home.

Six months later, Beth had made strong progress and her support hours were reduced by half. She also rebuilt a positive relationship with her family, and they began enjoying time together again.

Beth's personal development continued. She started volunteering, established a routine, and attended the gym independently. These activities boosted both her physical health and mental wellbeing.

Now, two years after moving into her own home, Beth is living independently without support from Care Choices. She manages her home and finances on her own and is now exploring employment opportunities.

"Thank you so much for all your support. I would not have been able to live in my own home if I didn't have the support from my team. I have reached my dream."



MARY'S HOPE FOR CONNECTION

Mary experienced chronic anxiety and frequent panic attacks. She began working with our RISE team following a hospital admission. Although she wished to continue living at home, her condition made this challenging. During a panic attack, she often experienced physical symptoms that rendered her unable to stand, which significantly limited her mobility and independence. As a result, she avoided leaving her home due to the fear of experiencing an attack in public, leading to increased isolation and emotional distress.

Initially, Mary and her support worker focused on achievable tasks within the home to foster a sense of accomplishment and stability. As her confidence gradually improved, they began to explore the possibility of venturing outside. Mary was understandably hesitant and frequently found reasons to postpone leaving the house.

After 18 months of consistent support, an external appointment provided the motivation for Mary to seriously consider going out. In preparation, she and her support worker started a gradual exposure approach; with short walks in the garden progressing to the street. Within two months, Mary successfully attended the appointment and has since continued to attend later appointments with growing ease.

Today, Mary regularly visits a local coffee shop with her support worker and has recently taken the significant step of going out independently with a friend. She expresses a strong level of confidence in her own abilities, something she once thought unattainable.

What was once a "pipe dream", socializing and enjoying life, has now become her reality. Mary reports feeling far less isolated and is actively re-engaging with the world around her.



RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

SUPPORT SESSIONS

18,680



18

Male



4

Female

AGE RANGE



37-75

PREVIOUS HOUSING

- 18 Own tenancy
- 2 Rough sleeping
- 2 Homeless accomodation



51 MONTHS

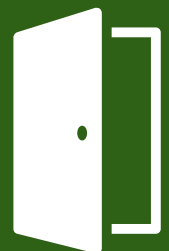
average length
of support

HARM REDUCTION

- 6 Significant reduction
- 3 Meaningful progress

TRANSITIONS

- 2 Independent living
- 1 Returned home after respite
- 1 Sheltered accomodation
- 1 Disengaged



MEET RANDALL GILLESPIE

After a career in student housing, Randall joins our Wernham House team as Activities Co-ordinator.

“Residents can get stuck in their rooms if they don’t have someone encouraging them, and helping them to get out and about.

It’s great that we have a car so we can go to lots of different places and make it really accessible for people.

We have one resident who hadn’t actually left the building for years, as she needs a walking aid and didn’t feel confident she could walk that far.

My job is to plant the seeds, and when they come up with a reason why they can’t, I’m looking for reasons why they can.

I told her we could just go for a drive, find a viewpoint and sit in the car. She liked that idea so we drove to Stonehaven and watched the sea, then I bought her an ice cream and she loved it. She had a great day.

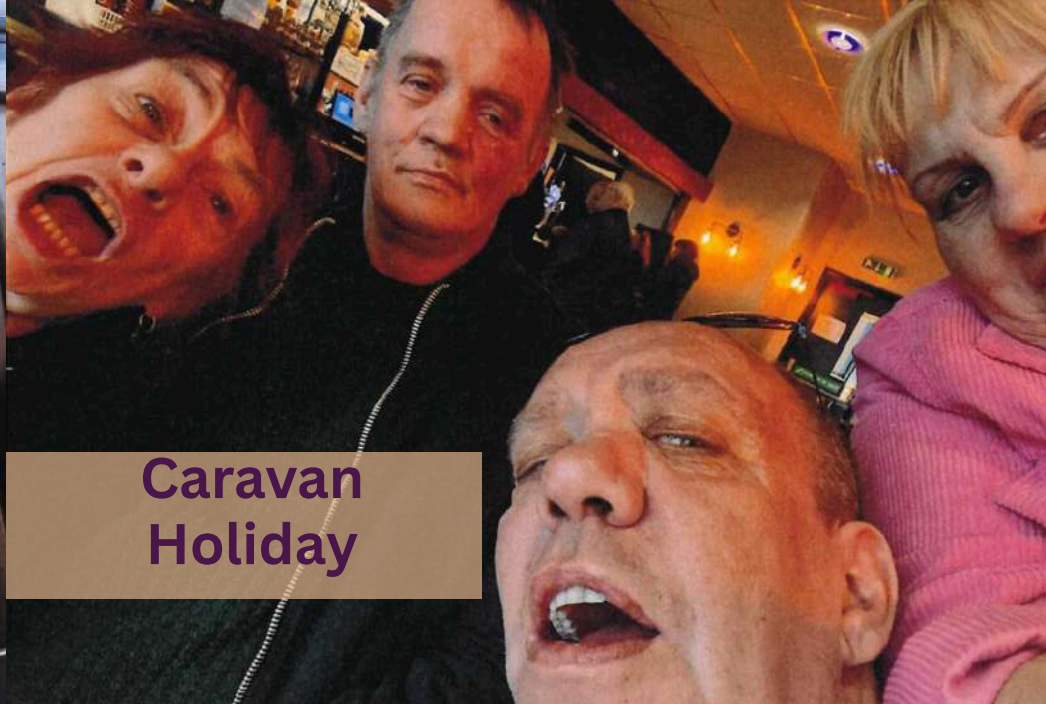
I had a karaoke evening a few weeks ago, we put on a small buffet. One of the residents, his sister was visiting and she said ‘can I come too?’ and I said of course! She was over the moon, it’s the first time she’s had a picture of the two of them in a social setting, they both had a great evening.

It’s all about inclusion and helping people regain their independence. Sometimes we just do normal things, go to the shops, or the GP. It gives residents more confidence to have someone they trust with them.”





Halloween



Caravan
Holiday



Peterhead Prison
Museum



Karaoke



Swimming



Quizes



Birthdays



PAULS HOPE FOR TRUST

When Paul arrived at Wernham House, he was in crisis. Exploited through cuckooing, left homeless, and struggling with long-term alcohol and substance misuse, his physical and mental health had sharply deteriorated.

Isolated, traumatised, and no longer engaging with previous support services, Paul had lost trust in professionals and was barely surviving on the streets.

At Wernham House, we knew that rebuilding trust had to come first. Staff focused on creating a safe, stable environment where Paul could begin to feel secure again. He was met with compassion not pressure, and offered essentials like warm food, clothing, and his own room that he could decorate. From these small beginnings, a foundation for recovery began to grow.

Using a trauma-informed, person-centred approach, we gently encouraged daily routines and reconnected Paul with health professionals to reinstate vital medication. His keyworker provided consistent, informal contact, gradually building a relationship that allowed Paul to explore his goals at his own pace.

One of the most significant steps forward has been his participation in a managed alcohol plan. With regular support and encouragement, Paul has significantly reducing his alcohol intake. This, along with ongoing health and wellbeing support, has led to visible improvements in his physical health, emotional stability, and confidence.

Today, Paul is no longer living in fear or chaos. He speaks of feeling safe; something he hadn't felt in a long time.

Wernham House has made a profound and transformative difference in his life. From a situation marked by exploitation, homelessness, and declining physical and mental health, Paul has moved into a space of safety, stability, and recovery.

The change is not just visible, it is deeply felt, and it speaks to the power of consistent, compassionate, and person-led support which has helped re-establish a sense of trust and consistency—critical foundations for any lasting change.



OUR VALUES

– WHAT WE'RE MADE OF

HONESTY

We build trust through honesty. It's at the heart of everything we do

INTEGRITY

We do what's right – fairly, honestly and with a commitment to equity.

PEOPLE FIRST

We value and support our people, recognising that fairness means meeting different needs in different ways.

UNIQUE

Our support is wide ranging and tailored to each person's unique journey and experiences.



PASSION

We care deeply about our work – every action makes a difference.

CARING

We genuinely care and believe in people's ability to change their lives for the better.

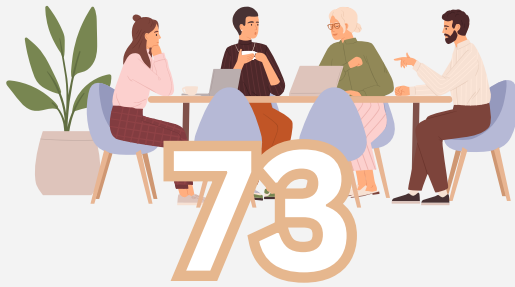
INCLUSIVE

We welcome diversity and take a trauma-informed approach to inclusion.

AGILE

We embrace change and adapt quickly to meet needs.

OUR PEOPLE



Employees

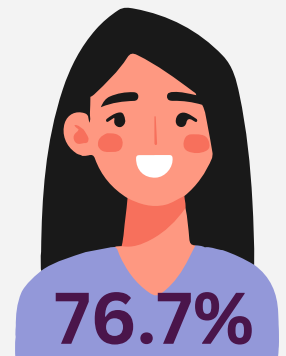
"I would like to take the time and tell you how grateful I am for my manager's support. She has been so supportive to me from the first day when I had my induction, and I must admit that most of the time I was going to her for advice regarding work as she made me feel heard. I feel that sometimes she doesn't get enough recognition, so I felt the need to let you know."

"I just wanted to thank you again for taking the time to listen to my views on various issues."

I would also like to thank you for the kind things you said after observing me in my role, I felt extremely humbled, and appreciative of your time."



Average age of employees



76.7%
Female workforce

I can honestly say I feel listened to so thank you and keep giving the sparkle. You're doing a great job as our manager. We all will have the structure and the goals needed. I am so positive."



Nationalities



Care Choices new uniform

VOLUNTEERING



“I find it such a rewarding thing to do, no two shifts are ever the same no matter what I'm doing! I definitely get lots more out of volunteering than I put in, it's great to feel that I'm helping such a worthwhile cause.”

“My commitment has increased because of the enjoyment I get from meeting, talking, and listening to our service users and helping them.

Volunteering has given me training and I continue to extend my skills.

At the end of every shift I am tired, but very proud of the part I play.”

4,208

hours of regular
volunteering

↑ 28%

from 23/24



Crisis support



Donation
management



Community
kitchen



Driving



Residential
activities

“I was keen to do something I hadn't done before, have some structure in my week, and give something back to my home city. Volunteering is one of the best decisions I've made.

I love being part of a great team of like-minded people, and feel I make a small difference with each shift.”



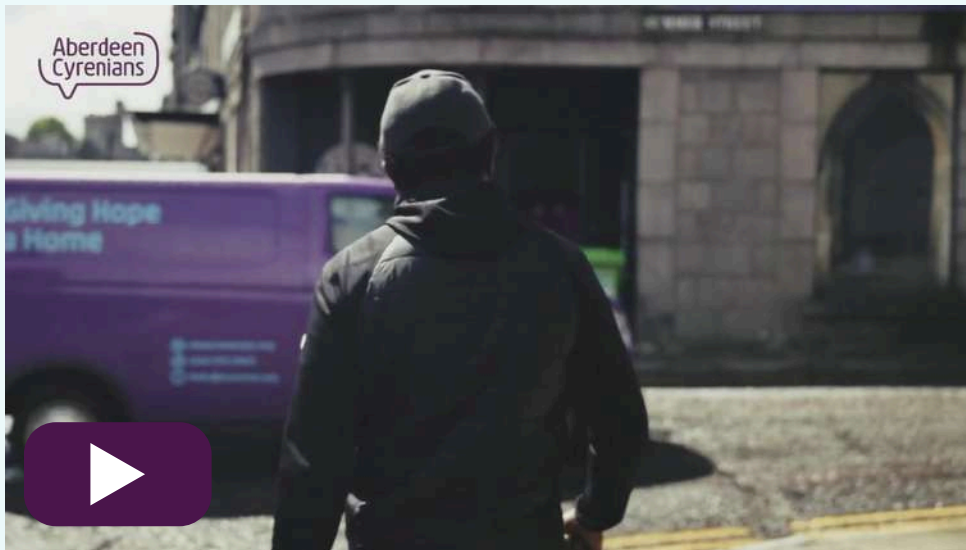
AWARENESS

Raising our profile, positioning us as a key partner in local communities

- **Campaigns**
- **Education Engagement**
- **Corporate Partnership**
- **Communities**

DON'T STRUGGLE ALONE

Thanks to support from the STV Growth Fund, TVP Film & Multimedia, and Academy of Expressive Arts we launched a series of adverts designed to show the many different ways people may need support or offer support.



100

new households
reaching out for
support via our
website



31%

increase in
engagement with
our Harvest
campaign



45%

increase in no. of
December public
donations in 2024

EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT

Youth Philanthropy Initiative - YPI



Each year we work with schools across the region taking part in YPI. Students are encouraged to learn about charities and need in their local area. They deliver presentations in a competition to win a donation for their chosen charity.

Many thanks to ISA, Lathallan, Robert Gordon College, Harlaw, Mintlaw, Meldrum, St Machar, Mackie and Oldmachar Academy schools for supporting us.



**£6,000
raised**

Congratulations to ISA and Oldmachar teams for their winning presentations. We're so proud of you!

Projects Week - Robert Gordons

 **Robert Gordon's College**
19 June 2024 · 🌐

This morning, some of our S3 Communities Week pupils prepared food for tomorrow's Cafe Chat, a lunch club open to the service users at Aberdeen Cyrenians.

The pupils busily crafted delicious dishes, including mushroom soup, lentil soup and chilli con carne. Adding to the day's warmth, lunch featured a spirited game of Uno - a perfect reminder that fun doesn't require phones!

#RGCSenior #RGCCCharity #RGCCCommunity #RobertGordonsCollege #HMCSSchool #SCISSchools
Scottish Council of Independent Schools HMC Aberdeen Cyrenians



STUDENT PLACEMENTS

We believe in the importance of giving back by supporting the next generation of compassionate carers through placement opportunities, subject talks, and flexible working that can fit around study.

“Our Occupational Therapy students and staff were deeply moved by Care Choices’ passion, insight, and commitment to humanity. Their willingness to share real-world experiences brought classroom theory to life and offered invaluable learning for all who attended. Those in attendance found what Care Choices’ does truly inspiring, and the department extend their thanks and appreciation for their time, generosity, and continued dedication.”

Robert Gordons University feedback

“I have had the opportunity to make an impact in the community. Every day, I see how my work contributes to something bigger, which is truly rewarding.”

Foundation apprenticeship student



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Spotlight: A year with Centurion

We were proud to be chosen as Centurion's Charity of the Year - a partnership that brought energy, compassion, and practical support to our mission of tackling homelessness and exclusion. Centurion's team threw themselves into fundraising, taking part in the Kiltwalk, golf day and abseil to raise vital funds that directly supported our frontline services. They also gave their time generously, volunteering in our busy warehouse and helping to run our pop-up charity shop, engaging with the public and spreading awareness of our work.

Beyond these hands-on efforts, Centurion continued to make a difference throughout the year by organising donation drives across their workplace. From collecting essential food items to gathering much-needed clothing, their team helped ensure we could meet the immediate needs of those we support. Their commitment has made a real and lasting impact, and we're incredibly grateful for their partnership.





**Golf Day
2024**

Sponsored by:

create.
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS


INTERMOOR



FIVE MILLION FUTURES

School pupils at St Machar Academy teamed up with Deloitte to host a lunch and learn session for Aberdeen Cyrenians as Deloitte's local charity partner.

As part of its 5 Million Futures programme, which focuses on helping people in the UK overcome barriers to education and employment by working with schools and charities, Deloitte invited the Events class of 24-25 to its offices to organise a lunch and learn session for Aberdeen Cyrenians. The students worked with Deloitte and Aberdeen Cyrenians to deliver the event, which focused on the work being done by the charity and the societal challenges currently being faced in the North-East.

The pupils were tasked with planning and booking the event, as well as coordinating with guests and speakers. They took a leading role in running the session, setting up the venue, welcoming guests and ensuring that the all-important catering kept everyone fuelled up.

"It has been brilliant to bring corporate events to life for the pupils and let them see the demands of a real-life event planner, instead of having them plan a paper-based event. Deloitte has been really supportive for the young people which has allowed them to gain so much confidence."

Mr Wright, Teacher
St Machar Academy

"The process was long but worth it at the end as we have never organised anything as professional as the lunch and learn. It was very exciting seeing it was all coming together and happening like we planned."

Shekhat, participating student
St Machar Academy



Deloitte.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT





SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

SUSTAINABLE FINANCES

Ensuring the continuity and sustainability of services for those in need of support is a crucial aspect of our strategy. We work to adapt to the constantly changing environment, putting service users at the forefront of decision making.

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2025. Extracted from our statutory accounts.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies	287,112	50,042	337,154
Charitable activities	-	2,281,944	2,281,944
Other trading activities	65,282	201,240	275,522
Investment income	70,497	-	70,497
Total income	422,891	2,542,226	2,965,117
Expenditure			
Expenditure on raising funds	78,645	-	78,645
Expenditure on charitable activities	116,575	-	-
Transfers between funds	287,542	2,549,954	2,837,496
Total expenditure	482,762	2,549,954	2,916,141



Statement of Financial Activities 2024/25

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Investment gains/(losses)	(9,165)	-	(9,165)
Net income/(expenditure)	(69,036)	(7,728)	(76,764)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	2,154,676	27,399	2,182,075
Total funds carried forward	2,085,639	19,671	2,105,310

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

As of 31 March 2025, total reserves are positive £2,105,310 (2024: reserves of £2,182,074). The total reserves are made up of unrestricted funds of £2,085,639 (2024: £2,154,675) and restricted funds of £19,671 (2024: £27,399). The level of free reserves not tied in tangible fixed asset amounts represent 61% of annual expenditure (2024: 67%).

**You can find our full statutory accounts on our website at:
www.weareac.org/about-us/governance**

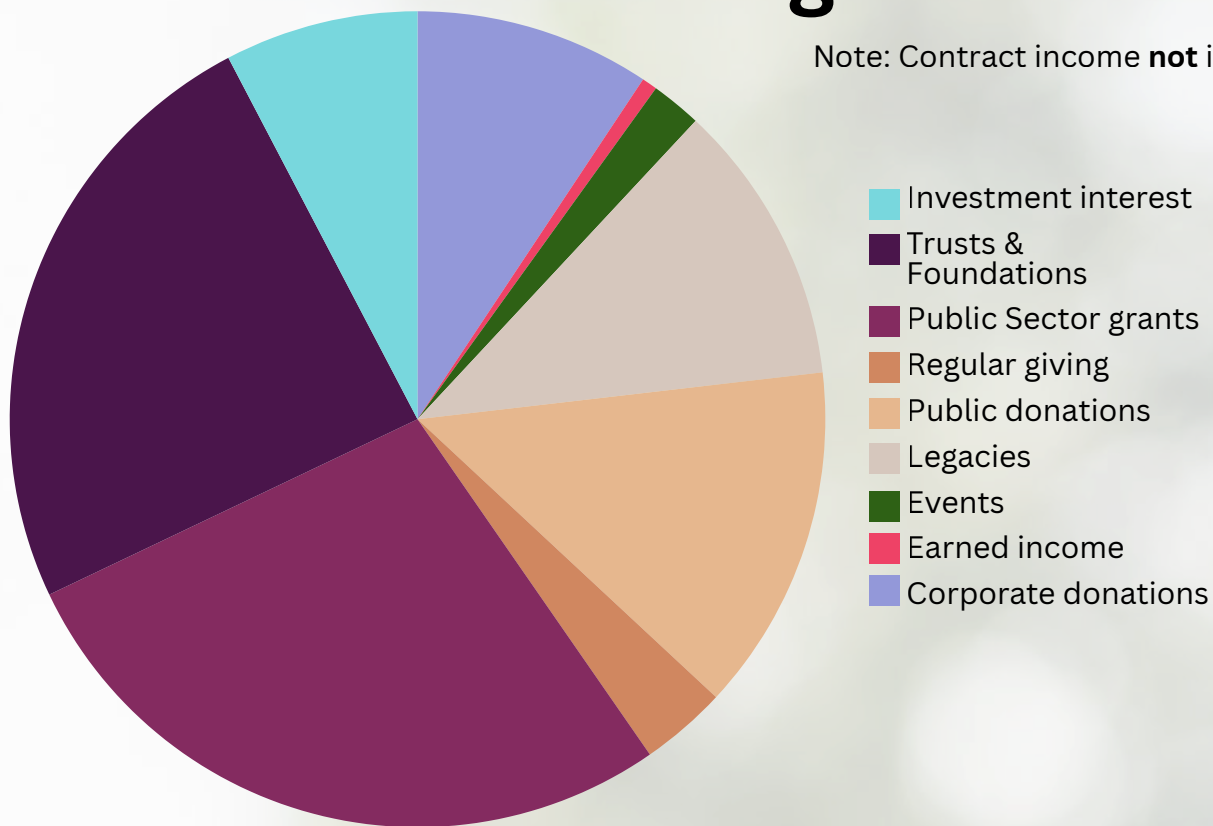
Balance sheet at 31 March 2025

	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets		70,766
Investments		612,899
		<u>683,665</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	184,278	
Cash at bank and in hand	1,569,780	
	<u>1,754,058</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(287,044)	
Net current assets		<u>1,467,014</u>
Net assets less current liabilities		2,150,679
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		(45,369)
Net assets		<u>2,105,310</u>
Funds of the charity		
Unrestricted funds: General funds		<u>2,105,310</u>



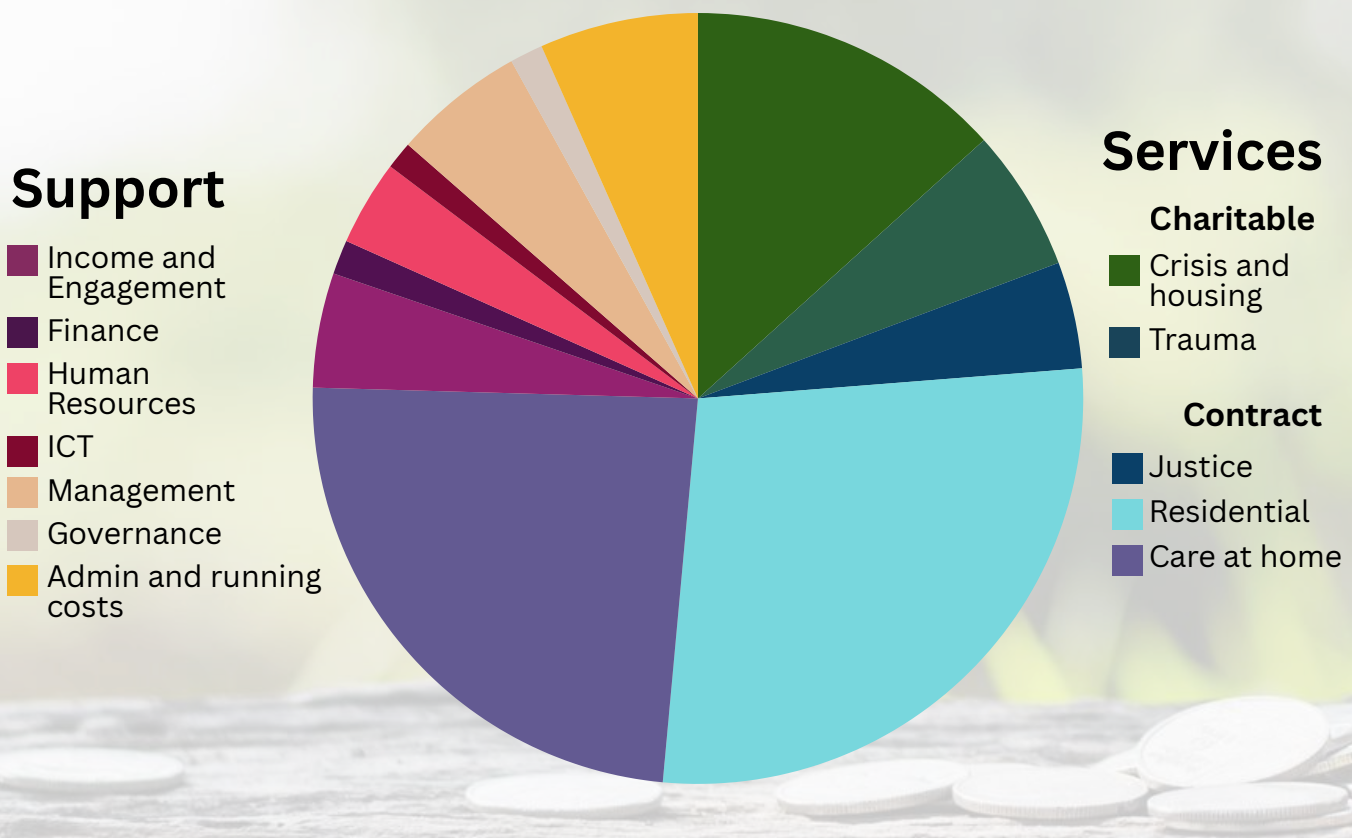
Where does our **charitable** funding come from?

Note: Contract income **not** included



What is our funding spent on?

Note: Contract expenditure **is** included



THANK YOU



From all of us at Aberdeen Cyrenians we offer a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this past year. To our partners, sponsors, donors, funders, fundraisers and volunteers your support is changing lives and making a positive impact.

Our Partners

- Deloitte
- Granite Care Consortium
- Centurion Group
- Prax Foundation Roots

Our Commissioners

- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership

Main Funders

- BP
- Cnooc Interntional
- Flexible Workforce Development Fund
- Harbour Energy
- Hugh Fraser Foundation
- Ina Scott Sutherland Foundation
- Inspiring Scotland
- Ithaca Energy
- John Gordon Charitable Trust
- Mrs Elizabeth S Wilson Trust
- Repsol Sinopec
- Santander
- Schnauzer Software
- The George Crombie Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Trades Widow Fund

Thank you as well to the hundreds of other individual supporters, schools, community groups, and corporate donors and volunteers.

Our Supporters & Networks

- Aberdeen Students Show
- ACVO
- ALDI
- AOC
- ASDA
- ASRA Reingold LLC
- CFINE/Fareshare
- Co-operative
- Deep Ocean Group
- Devana Parish Church
- Giving Force Foundation
- Ithaca Energy
- Lidl
- NHS Grampian Charity
- Paulo Coffee Ltd
- Police Scotland
- Port of Aberdeen
- Robert Gordon University
- Safe Lives
- Sainsburys
- Soroptimist International Aberdeen
- Sovereign
- Springfield Church
- Station House Media Unit
- STR-Subsea
- Tesco
- The Bread Guy
- The Meikle Foundation
- The Verden Sykes Trust
- The Wood Foundation

GET INVOLVED

weareac.org/how-you-can-help



Join our coffee club



Make lasting change with your small change

Become a corporate partner



Align your values with impact

Volunteer with us



From crisis support to community kitchens

Make a donation



Every contribution helps us reach more people



Davidson House, Campus 1,
Aberdeen Innovation Park, AB22 8GT



hello@weareac.org



www.weareac.org



0300 303 0903



Image credits: Centre for Homelessness Impact

